

The Cilappatikaram: Meaning of the Female Power

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Epics, literature and its characters are the mirror of ancient society and civilization to give lessons and visions to the modern world. These are the collection of issues, exercises and scenarios somewhere and somewhat happened in those ancient periods. These are directly or indirectly related to my political life. There is something important not only to help me to explore that ancient world, it also helps me to understand something from that civilization which is important to my personal life. Characteristics of these epics are very useful to use their scenarios in my coming political career selecting, modifying and optimizing the basic concept on my way of journey to achieve a successful political life. Kirke in *Odyssey* and Kannaki in *Cilappatikaram* have their own significant role to inspire my political life revealing me the meaning of the power.

My first and foremost thought is to consider women also as power not only as beauty. My world should appreciate women, as beautiful like our nature and men should be measured as dedicated to the country and faithfulness

to their wife and also being responsible to their families. As Kannaki in the Tamil epic *Cilappatikaram* and Kirke in the Homeric epic *Odyssey* both are women character and both are representing the vital role, as well. However, I feel the role of Kannaki in *Cilappatikaram* has more powerful role to inspire my future political life. Because in the epic *Odyssey* p. 322 line 143 refers mostly the divinity power of the women saying, "Our next Lang fall was on Aiaia, island of Kirke, dire beauty and divine, Ocean stream." Here, Kirke is considered mainly as power because the epic later does not significantly describe her beautifulness. And it also describes the heroism of the men related to the war and power. As I wanted to be a good civilized politician it helps me to select and decide the appropriate way, encouraging me to challenge the struggle relevant to my political life.

Is divine power possible and useful in my political career? After reading the epic *Odyssey*, I found one of the most interesting lines that is different than the epic *Cilappatikaram*. The line says, "I entered Kirke's flawless bed of love." (p. 327, line 379). Here I find

another important aspect of the character Kirke, where Kirke is accepted as women with full of divine power to control the men. Whereas, in the epic Cilappatikaram the Kannaki is also considered as caste women fully devoted to her husband sacrificing her anklet to her husband's welfare (p. 1255), as well as gorgeous personality. In this situation, I never forget the style of Kirke to control the people trapping in their so-called love, which is also possible in my coming political life, and it may cause several problems. Here I will expect me to be a loyal politician to run my country peacefully like a remarkable loyalty of Kannaki to her husband, rather than being divine power that is also less possible in my modern political life.

Kannaki's role relatively makes me more understood about political power than Kirke. As I see there are many different views towards women and their nature in respect to the political power versus social forces to influence these powers. I feel the character of Kannaki in the epic Cilappatikaram has some good examples to mention the power of a woman and Kirke in the epic Odyssey has good explanation about the utilization of these powers. In both of the epic I have

something inspirational feelings to me to improve my political personalities in future. Like in the epic Cilappatikaram p. 1265 line 1 Kannaki says, "You will see that whoever harms another in the morning will find himself harmed by the afternoon." and several lines in the epic Odyssey where Kirke tells about the problems that the men should fight; reveals the basic inspiration about the hardness in my political future. Even there are much different meanings of understanding in my generation and in that ancient generation of these epics. Here, I learned that my political life would be matured and peaceful if I have good understanding between the social forces to influence the political power and responsibilities being aware of all the events in my coming paths to develop my nation.

I feel one of the responsibility among these characteristics would help me to get political responsibilities. Below lines reflects how the irresponsible action can causes big deal to the citizen and the innocent people. I saw some of the sentences are appropriate to mention; such as p. 1259 at line 60 of Cilappatikaram says, "A raging fire will burn this city." and p. 319 from stanza 3

of Odyssey says, "Listen with care ... all that avails is flight." These two feelings are especially responsible to one of the major event of these epics. The first line from the Cilappatikaram, Kannaki's power is responsible to burn the entire city where as the second line from the Odyssey, Kirke's power is responsible to guide men to help in their journey. My personal feelings understand both of the events has their own political value in the distinct situation. It also helps me to give good judgment rather than making concept of destroying my world punishing innocent people who also share this land as Kannaki did in Cilappatikaram.

To survive in my successful political life, I need to use some valuable political aspect that is possible from these great epics. In my knowledge both of the characters in these epics have women power and voices but the degree of political pragmatic value related to one of these two characteristics may be different. Here, I like to mention that there is one important value in different way of role. The role of Kannaki in Cilappatikaram has less effective political values whereas the role of Kirke has more power to control and to guide the society

as she did to the group of Odyssey. Some of these important political pragmatic values are most likely to effect for my better future to accept the theme of the modern competitive political environment where the power is considered to be everything.

Kannaki's role also suggests me to select political values effectively. In most of the major women characters in various epics is directly or indirectly connected to the political values to show their power in their society. Inside of this kind of political pragmatic values, the epic Cilappatikaram reveals the idea about loyalty and faithfulness of the humankind that is directly related to my political career as a social worker essentially required in my modern nationalization or power distribution. "The violent disruption of Kannaki's career as a chaste wife (p. 1249)". On the other side, the epic Odyssey has the women character, only limited to the power that is not widely convincing easily in our modern so-called civilization. My political aim will be successful selecting the appropriateness of the political power from people representing both male and female group same like the role of Kannaki try to explore. Here I can also exercise these

aspects in the practical vision of my own life.

I also find some political justice that is very important to my personal political values. Such inspirational message is in line 68, p. 1261 at epic Cilappatikaram, which line asks question, "Are there women who would allow such vileness done to their won husband?"

The secret behind this message and the overall powers of Kirke in the Odyssey is functionally different. Power of Odyssey has some different motives to help the group of Odysseus that is less appropriate comparing to the motives of Kannaki in Cilappatikaram. However, I expect the helpful guidance from any women or any society to generate collective power in my future political life would be a great example to show the social justice. As I wanted to be a successful politician in my future through the political carrier, here I have learned that the injustice and the irresponsibility are very bad aspects of our modern world. Therefore, it helps me to voice for justice and socio-political justification for my nation from my personal political profession.

Both of these great epics and the main characteristics have important

issues related to the political values that is a very suitable guideline to determine the degree of success of my political life in a numerous ways. These are the very essential factors helping me to understand the meaning of political power required in my political future not only to be a successful politician, which is also essential to voice for human right and to select the appropriate civil action, as well. The utilizations of these political messages from these main characters are more or less hard but valuable and essential in my political aim.