

MURUGAN—THE TILLER

K. S. VENKATARAMANI

MURUGAN—THE TILLER

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Paper Boats.

(Sketches of Indian Village Life)

On the Sand-Dune.

(Musings on Life)

MURUGAN—THE TILLER

BY

K. S. VENKATARAMANI

(INDIAN EDITION)

SVETARANYA ASHRAMA.
BRINDABAN STREET, MYLAPORE
MADRAS
1927

BRITISH EDITION

Murugan—The Tiller. Cloth. 7s. 6d.

**SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON,
KENT & Co., LTD.**

STATIONERS' HALL COURT, LONDON, E.C. 4.

TO
DR. ANNIE BESANT
THE HUMANITARIAN

All rights reserved.

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. In the Light of Failure	1
II. Cross-Currents	8
III. Mixed Motives	14
IV. The Meeting of Friends	23
V. A Declamation	28
VI. Wiving goes by Destiny	31
VII. An Hour of Dreaming	36
VIII. The Dust of Life	41
IX. A River Scene at Alavanti	47
X. The Lucky Bag Again	54
XI. Success is Success	63
XII. The Influence of Monsoons	67
XIII. The Farewell	70
XIV. Ramachander—the Camp Clerk of Mr. Cadell	78
XV. The Evil is in the System	82
XVI. The Rose without the Thorn	88
XVII. Prestige is the Spark of Official Life	93
XVIII. A Curtain Lecture	99
XIX. The Worm in the Bud	104
XX. There is a Hidden Justice in the whole Affair	107
XXI. The River Scene at Alavanti	111
XXII. A Rebirth	116
XXIII. Kedari's First Brief	118

CHAP.	PAGE
XXIV. The Ways of Providence	127
XXV. A Rare Honour	130
XXVI. A Country Mouse Visits a Town Rat .	138
XXVII. The Blessings of Government	141
XXVIII. Friendship is an Even Plank	146
XXIX. A New Light	153
XXX. Conflicting Views about a Motor-Car .	162
XXXI. The Wheel of Fortune	167
XXXII. A Holiday Mood	173
XXXIII. The River Scene at Alavanti	178
XXXIV. The Trial Scene at Trichy	185
XXXV. Desperate Remedies	194
XXXVI. On the Crest of the Wave	202
XXXVII. The True Picture	208
XXXVIII. The Smile of the Farmer	212
XXXIX. Ramu's New Role	217
XL. A Little Bar of Sand	227
XLI. A Dream	237
XLII. The Last Flicker of the Flame	243
XLIII. Homely Talk	253
XLIV. The Moon-lit Night is a Philosopher .	257
XLV. Kedari's Neighbour	267
XLVI. The Mountain Grass was Rank and Luscious	271
XLVII. The Vision Splendid	277
XLVIII. The Red Letter Day	290
XLIX. The River Scene at Alavanti	296
L. Murugan—the God-anointed Tiller	301

Books by K. S. Venkataramani

Paper Boats. (Sketches of Indian Village Life.) Re. 1.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS OPINIONS

... They are drawn with a loving intimacy that distinguishes them from the analytical detachment of European writers . . . He has presented them in a peculiar atmosphere of his own . . . A corner of the veil which is always down is lifted and we catch a glimpse of the real household life. *Paper Boats* is a book wherewith to beguile an hour over the fire and if you are interested in India you may learn things that you did not know before.—*The Times Literary Supplement*.

In Mr. Venkataramani's work the English reader will find India presented in terms that he can understand. He is told about Hindu village life in the prose of Addison. It is like hearing the song of Deborah to a grand piano instead of a tumbrel.—*The Daily Herald*.

It will give the English reader a better insight into the Hindu mind and a better appreciation of the Indian social point of view than half a dozen of the many weighty treatises by the Pundits. Mr. Venkataramani's sketches are very real and very human.—*The Review of Reviews*.

This little book of tales and sketches resolves itself into a vivid, very attractive picture of life in an Indian Village . . . The book has atmosphere. Some of the studies of rural life are very charming. Mr. Venkataramani writes a sensitive, idiomatic English and the sympathy and intimate understanding with which he interprets his people should make the reading of his book a liberal education for Englishmen who would really know India by seeing something of it through the eyes of an Indian.—*The Bookman*.

It is marked by rare charm and delicate insight and is written in quaintly felicitous English . . . Floating on their native waters, they have absorbed the delicate odours of jasmine and lotus.—*The New Pearson's*, New York.

In *Paper Boats*, Mr. K. S. Venkataramani reveals himself as an essayist who should go far. He knows his India well. I was greatly charmed by "The Hindu Temple" and "The Hindu Pilgrim".—*The Birmingham Weekly Post*.

Books by K. S. Venkataramani

On the Sand-Dune. (Musings on Life.) Re. 1.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRESS OPINIONS

Mr. Venkataramani's *Paper Boats* (reviewed in these columns on March 9, last), attracted considerable attention on its appearance for the distinctive native atmosphere with which he had managed to envelop his slight sketches of Hindu life. The same atmosphere is felt in this new book but instead of objective studies, the author gives his subjective moralisings on the estate of modern men, as he sits on the sand-dunes of his native place, where the Kaveri joins the sea.—*The Times Literary Supplement*.

Mr. Venkataramani is a man of refinement of sentiment, of lofty ideals, and immensely sincere. He is an artist within his *genre*, the interpretation of his own people.—*The New Pearson's*, New York.

Steadily advancing to the front rank of his generation is Mr. Venkataramani. We first knew this author from *Paper Boats*, a fine performance which earned him just praise for his command of that almost lost art the Essay. Now comes *On the Sand-Dune*.—Mr. Venkataramani muses addressing to his listener, a series of philosophical reflections each one of which is distinguished by peculiarly musical, poetical prose.—*The Daily Herald*.

K. S. Venkataramani has made a name for himself with a previous book called *Paper Boats* . . . He is a very accomplished writer of English. *On the Sand-Dune* is a series of reflections on life, which in their hatred of industrialism as well as in the beauty of the style, recall Ruskin.—*The Glasgow Bulletin*.

Mr. K. S. Venkataramani wrote a charming book of intimate Indian essays entitled *Paper Boats*, not so very long ago. Now, *On the Sand-Dune* arrives from Madras by the same clever craftsman . . . His snatches of reflection, and aphorism and small word-pictures in poetic prose pleased me greatly.—*The Birmingham Weekly Post*.

"Modern life, its miseries and uncertainties."—*The New York Times*.