

TRIPUDI ART CENTRE'S

CILAPPATIKARAM

The Anklet's Verdict - In Kūṭiyāṭṭam

The Tradition of Kūṭiyāṭṭam

Kūṭiyāṭṭam, the world's oldest surviving theatre tradition, is a form of embodied ritual theatre that has evolved within the temples of Kerala over centuries. With its intricate acting grounded in the Natyasastra and Sanskrit literature, its stylised movement vocabulary, and its deep attention to breath and gaze, Kūṭiyāṭṭam offers a rare, meditative encounter with performance — a moment of reflection, transformation, and a return to a more elemental form of expression.

Historically, innumerable efforts have been made to preserve Kūṭiyāṭṭam in its authentic form across generations. This relentless dedication toward conservation is the main reason why Kūṭiyāṭṭam has survived for so long, despite the numerous challenges faced by Sanskrit theatre in the subcontinent.

As time progressed, a more structured layout was introduced, with sophisticated techniques and histrionics designed in a way that eventually earned Kūṭiyāṭṭam its classical branding.

