

**GENEALOGY OF THE SOUTH-
INDIAN GODS: A MANUAL OF
THE
MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION OF
THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN INDIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649591848

Genealogy of the South-Indian Gods: A Manual of the Mythology and Religion of the People of Southern India by Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg & W. Germann & G. J. Metzger

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BARTHOLOMAEUS ZIEGENBALG & W. GERMANN & G. J. METZGER

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Genealogy
OF THE
SOUTH-INDIAN GODS,
A MANUAL OF THE
MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION OF THE
PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

INCLUDING
A DESCRIPTION OF POPULAR HINDUISM,
BY
BARTHOLOMAEUS ZIEGENBALG,
First Protestant Missionary in India.

PUBLISHED IN THE ORIGINAL GERMAN TEXT,
WITH NOTES AND ADDITIONS.

BY THE
Rev. W. Hermann, Ph. D.,
Late of the Leipzig Missionary Society.

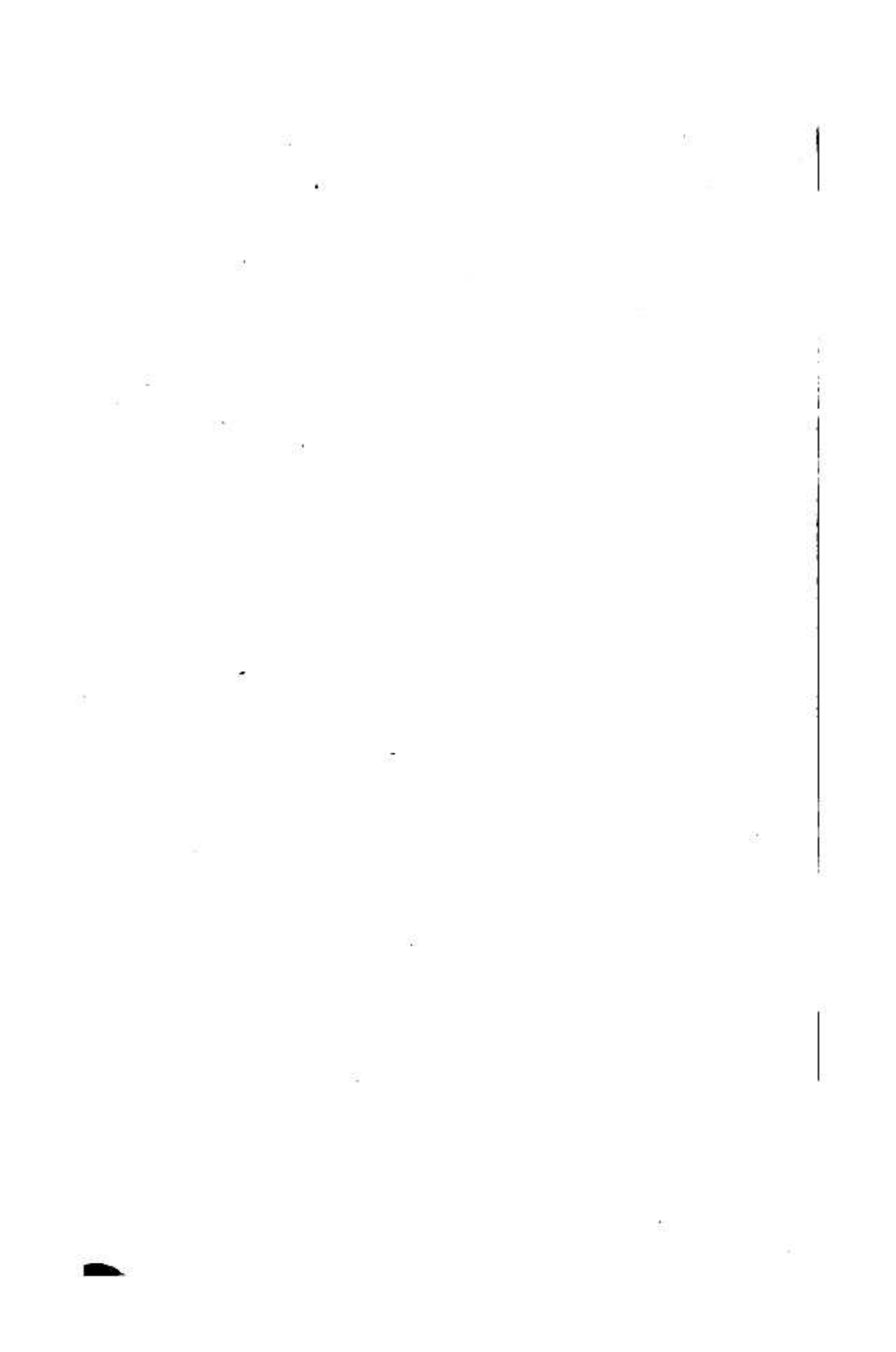
FREELY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH,
AND ENRICHED WITH VARIOUS NEW ADDITIONS AND AN INDEX.

BY THE
REV. G. J. METZGER,
A Missionary in connection with the Madras Free Church of Scotland Mission.

Madras:
HIGGINBOTHAM AND CO.
BOOKSELLERS AND PUBLISHERS.
1869.

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The Translator's Preface.

Soon after the publication of Ziegenbalg's *Genealogy of the South-Indian Gods in German*, the Rev. Dr. Caldwell, well known both as a Missionary and a scholar, reviewed the work in an article which appeared in the "Madras Times"; and as he may be regarded as a competent judge of such matters, I quote here a few passages from it, to show the merits of the work of which herewith a free Translation is presented to the Public.

"The *Genealogy of the Malabar (South-Indian) Gods*, by the celebrated Ziegenbalg, is a remarkable book, with a remarkable history. It is not a little remarkable that a book on a subject intimately connected with Indian interests should have been published in Madras, the Southern capital of British India, not in English, but in German; and it is still more remarkable that the book which has now seen the light, though an interesting and valuable work, and one which is fitted to be of great service to Europeans residing in Southern India by helping them to a better understanding of the mythology and religion of the people amongst whom they live, should have been doomed to lie on the shelf unheeded for 154 years before it found an editor and publisher [in the person of Dr. Germann.] * * *

"Dr. Germann's acquirements and habits of thought rendered him quite capable of doing justice to the work. The task he thus imposed upon himself turned out to be far from being an easy one. He had to be transcriber, reviser and corrector, editor and publisher, all in one, and in addition to this, in order to adapt the book to the present state of Oriental knowledge and render it more perfect, he was under the necessity of making additions to it to the extent apparently of about a third of its entire contents; but all this he has done, in the midst of bad health and other troubles alluded to in the preface, with a patience, thoroughness and love of his subject which cannot be praised more highly than by calling them "German."

"Ziegenbalg's work exhibits in a clear and connected form not only the "Genealogy of the Gods", though this holds the leading place in the title-page, but also all the information he could obtain from books and written communications respecting the names and titles, the attributes and offices of each divinity, the manner in which they are represented by images and pictures, the legends current respecting them, the temples built to their honor, the worship offered to them, the days sacred to them as fast or festival days, and the poems and other books written about them;

* In the German Original the term "Malabar" is used for "South-Indian," as was the custom in Ziegenbalg's time.