

## HISTORY OF KUNJALI MARAKKARS IN KERALA

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### ABSTRACT

The Marakkar family traveled to Cochin for trade from Konkan. Their ancestry is not supported by any evidence. According to tradition, they were descended from Arab Muslim traders who arrived in Cochin in the seventh century A.D. to trade with Malabar. Their task was to import rice from Kanara. The local Muslim communities' trading rights were endangered when Cochin Raja made friends with the Portuguese. Their leader, Ismail Marakkar, had been covertly assisting the Zamorin; during the fight between Cochin and Calicut, Marakkar's ships and warehouses were destroyed. They fled Cochin and made their home in Ponnani after becoming concerned about the Portuguese's perceived danger. Portuguese armies and ships assaulted Ponnani between 1507 and 1524, destroying both. The author of this paper, Kunjali Marakkars, is acknowledged.

**KEY WORDS** Muslim, Communities, Destroyed, Technological, Commercial

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

The Portuguese conquest of Malabar marked the start of political, religious, and naval colonialism in addition to their economic voyage. They monopolized maritime trade and ruined the free trading culture. Muslims were their principal religious and commercial adversaries. Portuguese navigational and scientific prowess gave them an advantage over indigenous people. Their vessels weren't used for commerce. These were enormous warships. Better cannons could be made by them. They made cannons with the assistance of German engineers. Because of their skills, they held the upper hand in the early stages of war history. However, it faces difficulties when Kunjalis enters the battlefield. Malayalis would be a hybrid species and Kerala would become another Goa if Kunjalis did not oppose them.

The rivalry between Portuguese and Muslims is not constant and widespread. The Portuguese and Kareemi Muslims were bitter enemies. However, there were arguments and compromises in the Marakkar-Portuguese relationship. The Portuguese and local traders got along well. They occasionally assisted the Portuguese in various capacities as renegades and spies. Koyapakki was a

prime illustration of it.

The entire landscape of warfare shifted with the return of the Portuguese to Malabar. Kerala was unfamiliar with the Big War. Local conflicts resembled sports. They only utilized fire torches in marine warfare. Canons took the role of torches after the arrival of the Portuguese. Portuguese pioneered a novel approach to full-time navigator-warrior scheduling. There were Germans leading their firing squad. These superior military tactics and technology led to the early defeat of both the local and Zamorin armies. These abilities were later acquired by Zamorin's army.

Because various parts of the Kunjali resistance to the Portuguese invasion could not have been explained by the nationalist paradigm or class struggle, rather than the productive force notions of Marxism, nationalist and Marxian historians gave little attention to this battle. The challenges faced by Kunchalis are local, religious, and commercial.

## **2. ORIGIN OF MARAKKARS FAMILY**

The Marakkar family traveled from Konkan to Cochin for trading. Their ancestry is not well represented. According to tradition, they were descended from Arab Muslim traders who arrived in Cochin in the seventh century A.D. to trade with Malabar. Their activity involved importing rice from Kanara.

The local Muslim groups' trade privileges were endangered when Cochin Raja made friends with the Portuguese. Ismail Marakkar, their leader, had surreptitiously aided the Zamorin; as a result, Marakkar's ships and warehouses were destroyed during the Cochin-Calicut War. They fled Cochin and made their home in Ponnani after becoming concerned about the Portuguese's perceived danger. Portuguese armies and ships assaulted Ponnani between 1507 and 1524, destroying both. Subsequently, they relocated to the southern bank of the Agala Puzha River, further north. Zamorin's revenue and maritime trade declined as a result of ongoing Portuguese attacks. After being subjected to Portuguese naval bombardment, two Ponnani merchants came to see Zamorin with their own agendas. Ali Ibrahim, Kutti Ali, and Kunchali made up the delegation. Zamorin made them admirals of the navy. They were titled Kunchali: Marakkar by him.

### **2.1 Etymology of the Name - Marakkar**

"Marakkar" is an acronym for "margakkaran," which means "law follower." From an alternative perspective, the name "Marakkar" means "boatman" and comes from the Arabic word "Markat" or the Tamil word "Marakkal-ryan." Dr. S.C. Hill claims that it comes from the Marathi word "Marakkar" (Demon), which is slang for "sailor" among those living along the Konkan coast. "Kunjali" is an affectionate title that meaning "dear Ali," and "Marakkar" is the honorific plural of the word "Marakkan" (mukkuvan).

## **2.2 Kunjali Marakkar -1 (1507- 1531)**

Kunjali Marakkar was named head admiral of the navy by Zamorin. He promised him services to fight the Portuguese, ships, and swords. Top sea men are appointed to the navy by Kunjali-1. The captain of Tanur Naval Barrack was named Kuttiali. He was wise and capable. Another captain was Pachachi Marakkar.

Kuttiali used technology and strategy to completely change the system. He came to see that the Portuguese vessels, which were well-equipped and fixed, were incomparable to the ships of Calicut. Large, heavy Portuguese ships need strong winds to move quickly since they were slow and required more room for maneuvering. Kuttiali produced a great deal of swift boats known as "paraos," which could be readily navigated and were rowed by 30 to 40 people. Due to their speed and small size, these paraos were challenging for adversaries to hit. His Menon hillocks monitored the waves and alerted him to any enemy ship movements. Portuguese was unable to create such a method of communication. Portuguese merchant voyages were compelled to adhere to the trade convoy system when Kuttiali revived his navy. As a result, they were no longer dominant in the Indian Ocean.

In 1523, in front of the Portuguese, Captain Kuttiali traveled to the Red Sea with eight ships stocked with pepper and an escort of forty warships. Junior Kuttiali, his brother, helped Kuttiali. The new Zamorin was even more antagonistic toward the Portuguese, and the old Zamorin had passed away. Despite the absence of an official conflict, Viceroy Vasco da Gama (1524) dispatched multiple voyages to Malabar, raising the possibility of an undeclared maritime conflict. Martin A. Fouso De Souza was dispatched by him to halt Kuttal Ali's naval operations. Kuttiali withdrew his sea men to Panthalayani Kollam after the battles at Kapad. They were pursued by De Souza up to Cannanore. Junior Kutiali was in a similar predicament when the Portuguese fleet engaged him in a pitched battle. The leaders of the Calicut guerilla group were Pattu Marakkar and Balia Hasan of Kannanore. With the help of the Porakkad ruler, Pattumarakkar captured and sank multiple Portuguese ships. Vasco da Gama's viceroy traveled to Cannore and requested that the monarch of Arakkal hand him over. The king of Arakkal gave Balia Hassan up. He was held captive at the Fort Saint Angelo in Cannore. Henriques de Menezes, the Portuguese governor, and Lopo Vaaz de Sampayo made every effort to eradicate the Malabar sea men. Bala Hassan was hanged by Menezes. Kolathiri and the Arakkal King made excessive attempts to save him. As a result, Portuguese and Muslim rivalry grew more intense.

Declaring war on the Portuguese in 1525, the new Zamorin attacked the Portuguese fort at Calicut. On 26.2.1525, Menezes attacked them at Ponnani and destroyed the ships. In retaliation, Kutti Ali set fire to every Portuguese ship in Cochin. Menezes invaded Panthalayini Kollam and its thriving trading center in June of 1525. Forty vessels were taken prisoner and brought to Cannanore. They agitated Zamorin, assaulted the Portuguese fort in Kozhikode, and stopped supplies from coming in from Cochin and Goa. The group led by Kutti Ali attacked the

fort from the water. Kutti ali used the concepts of flexibility, economy of effort, aggressive action, and force conciliation.

Governor Menezes arrived with twenty ships on October 15, 1526, to reconstitute the garrison. It fell to Kuttiali to lift the siege. The fort was destroyed by the Portuguese themselves. Lopo Vaz Sampayo, the new governor, attacked and destroyed Kutti Ali's navy. The strike did not reach Kuttiali. The captain had defeated Kuttiali's Calicut fleet in March of 1528. Only after swearing in the name of the Quran that he would never again engage in combat with the Portuguese was he freed.

In an attempt to stifle multiple Malabar ships, the Portuguese assaulted the port of Zamorin in September 1528 and closed the river mouth. However, Malabar sea sailors resisted, killing a Portuguese crew and destroying multiple Portuguese ships. It was possible for Kunjali-I and his group to shut off Goa and Cochin's maritime communication. As a result, trade declined. Malabar sea sailors had complete control over the west coast's maritime trade.

### **2.3 Kunjali Marakkar – II (1531-1571)**

The Zamorin fleet commanded by Kunjali Marakkar II, son of Kuttiali, who had been captain of Kunjali I's fleet, in 1531. He was a naval warfare expert. There were tales of the Portuguese conquering Persian lands such as Ormuz, Lakshadweep, and Sri Lanka. At the Sri Lankan coast, Kunchali-1 attacked a Portuguese crew. By establishing a naval command in Sri Lanka, the Portuguese were able to obstruct Zamorin's ships as they approached the Red Sea. To oppose the Portuguese, Zamorin and the Kozhikode sea men attempted to form a transnational coalition. Zamorine attempted to contact Gujarat Sulthan for military support. However, Sultan was slain after being summoned to a treaty by Portuguese captain Manuel de Souze.

Sultans of Egypt attempted to form a global Muslim coalition to oppose the Portuguese. However, they started to pose a threat to the Portuguese there. Other allies in the Malabar Egyptian alliance included the sulthan of Camps, the associates of Adil Shah, and those from the Konkan and Karnataka. However, a solid partnership was lacking. It lacked strength. Despite this, Malabar seafarers did not receive military support in a timely manner. It had no effect on their energy or vibrations.

While traveling to Gujarat in 1531, the Portuguese seized several Zamorin ships into custody, capturing Ali Ibrahim, Maarkkar, and Kutti Ibrahim among others. Due to this setback, Zamorin became compromised and the Portuguese were granted permission to build a fort at Chaliyam. Chaliyam was within the Tanur king's domain. Construction was finished in March of 1532. The Chaliyam Fort was situated strategically.

Portuguese settlements in Ceylon and the Coromandal coast were attacked by Kunjali II. They provided support and created a space at Kotta. Kunjali-II employed the strategy of

assaulting the adversary from two distinct angles. This battle went on until the Portuguese were compelled to confront Sulaiman Pasha's approaching fleet.

Kunjali II launched an attack on the east coast Portuguese colony of Naya Pattanm in 1533. However, Kunjali was unprepared for when a Portuguese fleet led by Antony Desilva attacked and routed them. In some way Kunjali got away. Kunjali organized another fleet and vanquished them in 1534. At Kodungallur, the Portuguese were attacked by Zamorin in 1537. They then advanced on Cochin in a march.

Zamorin and Sulthan of Gujarath asked Sulaiman in Turkey for assistance in February of 1538. Sulaiman attempted, but was unable, to besiege the fort at Diu. Following his death, the new Zamorin was forced to sign a pact with the Portuguese. Portuguese ships were attacked by Kunjali-II. The Portuguese town at Punnakayal on the Coromandel Coast was invaded in 1533 by Kunjali-II, who was welcomed and asked by Viswanath Nayak, the Vijayanagar governor of Madurai from 1555 to 1559. The Portuguese slaughtered every crew member and destroyed a great number of native ships. Battles in Kunjali-II are pitched.

Native ships were lost in a battle between the Portuguese and Kunjali II in 1588. The Portuguese navy, led by Gon alo Marmanaque, blocked the Malabar Coast in 1599 and inflicted excessive damage. Kolathiri attacked the fort of St. Angelo in Cannore after declaring war on the Portuguese. The crew of Kunjali's prevented the Goan aid. The trade in north Malabar was halted by these events. Portuguese destroyed possessions that came to Calicut as payback.

The political climate in south India supported the Zamorin people's struggles. The Portuguese trade was severely damaged by Vijay Nagar's defeat in the battle of Talikotta in 1565. Muslims from Panthalayini Kollam and Ponnani assaulted Portuguese rice-laden ships in 1566. Portuguese had to demolish and pillage Muslim towns on the Malabar Coast in order to exact revenge. To drive the Portuguese out of the Indian Ocean, Zamorine formed an alliance in 1570 with Adil Shah of Bijapur and Nizam Shah of Ahmed Nagar.

They came to an arrangement and signed it. An attack on Malacca was requested of the king of Achen. Zamorine dispatched Kutti Pokker along with 21 paraos to support the Chaul siege. A Portuguese fleet was defending Chaul's harbor. At night, Kutty Poker sailed into the harbor and made landfall. Even though they could have caused significant damage to Portuguese commerce and bases, the Malabar fleet fought for days in Chaul and suffered numerous losses. One night, Kutti Poker managed to get away from Chaul. They engaged the forty-ship Menezes navy while traveling. Except for two ships, his whole fleet was obliterated.

### **2.3.1 Siege of Chaliyam Fort**

Kozhikode soldiers started besieging the Portuguese stronghold of Chaliyam in July 1571. A large number of Muslims from the surrounding districts gathered and fully supported

Zamorine. The native troop, known as Pattu Marakkar, cut all the supplies to the besieged fort; forced dogs and animals emerged from the fort, along with the servants and a woman. Later, Portuguese captain Decastro was put to death in Goa. The Malabar sea men's success and the Portuguese's reputation in the east were severely damaged by the Chaliyam Fort's capitulation.

#### **2.4 Kunjali Marakkar – III (1571 – 1595)**

Zamorin was pleased with his victory over Chaliyan fort, and he allowed pattu Marakkar to construct a fort and dockyard at Pudukattanam, close to Vadakara, at the mouth of the Aklapuzha River. He erected it in less than two years. The name of it was Marakkaarkotta. The title Kunjali Marakkar-III was bestowed upon Pattu Marakkar.

The Kunjali-III conflict saw advancements in ammunition and technology. Turkish and Egyptian architects assisted Kunjali-III in constructing the fort. The Mughal ruler dispatched his artist. Following the construction of the fort, Pattu Marakkar had multiple encounters with Portuguese. Iringal para and Velliyamkallu were effective signal centers. It is known as "Sacrifice Rock" because Muslims massacred a large number of Portuguese people at Velliyamkallu. Portuguese could not be driven out of Goa by Kunjali-III. However, he could stop them from going to the Malabar Coast. However, the Portuguese persisted in their assaults on the Malabar Coast. Kunjali continued to strike back with his fleet.

Under the command of Portuguese Joao Dacosta, two galleys and twenty-four additional vessels raided the Malabar Coast in 1575. They took control of other Malabar vessels and established settlements in Nileswaram, Parapangadi, and Kappad. Rui Goncalo de Cammara was dispatched by the Portuguese in 1578 to seek permission from the Zamorin to construct a fort at Ponnani. Zamorin refuted it. Portuguese shelled neighboring communities along the coast. Kunjali III and the Portuguese got into a fight. The Portuguese took 50 rice-laden Calicut ships that were sailing the Kanara coast in 1582–1583. This resulted in a famine. At this point, Captain Kutti Moosa had total control over the Coromandel Coast. In the meantime, Kunjali III battled Cameron on the west coast and Portuguese vessels from Dabul.

Zamorin was weakened by constant fighting. Zamorin signed a peace pact with the Portuguese in 1528. He gave them permission to erect a fort at Ponnani. It was political suicide as well as a mistake in history. Considering how crucial Ponnani's strategic location was. Kunjali expressed his disapproval of this choice. The Muslim sea sailors were deeply wounded by this incident. It marked the start of tense relations between Muslim seafarers and Zamorine people.

Kunjali-III possessed excellent leadership skills and cunning military tactics. In his navy, kutty pokker and kutti moosa worked. Kutty Poker worked with Kumarchi II and had the experience to prove it. His home was at Ponnani. In order to protect the native ship from a Portuguese attack, he was fueling the sea. He was assigned to Nizam's attack on the Portuguese at Chaul Port. The Arabian Sea's eastern coast was Kutty Moosa's domain. Portuguese was unable to

defeat his troops. They thus retreated to the eastern coast. He arrived there as well in order to pursue the Portuguese.

With the help of foreign specialists, Kunjali-III designed and built new ships based on European models and trained his navy in cutting-edge naval warfare techniques. They started constructing additional warships, ammo, and weaponry. The construction of new heavy weapons was aided by German engineers. A new Malabar Coast, constructed by Kunjali, allows native ships to navigate without fear of Portuguese ships. Only envoys were permitted to travel with the Portuguese ships. Foreign kings such as the sultans of north India and Egypt offered them no assistance. They so created a self-sufficient technique for self-defense.

The Portuguese king corresponded with the viceroy to devise strategies for demolishing Kunjali III fort and partitioning Zamorine and Kunjali 3. Several Portuguese vessels were destroyed at that time by Kutti Moosa. His fleet arrived in Sri Lanka and formed a coalition with Jaffna's Pattanam, the monarch. A base of operations against the Portuguese was approved by the King. In 1859, Captain Andre Furtad Mendonca defeated the fleet of Kutty Moosa. Kutty Moosa and his guys took off.

Zamorine once more signed a peace deal. It was brief, though. Terms were not respected by the Portuguese. Portuguese and Malabar sea sailors engaged in combat in April 1594 close to Goa. The Portuguese crew perished all of them. August 1594 saw the deaths of 200 Malabar seafarers by Andre Furtado's company, along with the taking of substantial loot. After fighting the Portuguese at Panthalayini in 1594, Kunjali slipped and collapsed on his way back. He suffered a shattered thigh bone. His health was never able to return.

## **2.5 Kunjali Marakkar - IV**

Kunjali III died in 1595. His nephew was named Kozhikode's admiral. Muhammad Kunjali was his true name. He fortified the fort after assuming Kunjali Marakkar's position. Portuguese were terrified of these procedures.

In order to prevail, the Portuguese devised Machiavellian plans. They set up a few persons to propagate gossip about Kunjali to others. To propagate lies, they brought in a few clergymen. Varakkal Adiyodi, a local assistant, was working for him. They created a great deal of fear in Zamorin by spreading false information that Kunjali was going to establish an empire of Muslims and that he had vowed to defend Islam. As Kunjali-IV gained notoriety, he was well-known from China to the Cape of Good Hope. He had taken numerous Portuguese ships into captivity and had supported the Portuguese opponents, such as Rani of Ulla, in her battles against the Portuguese. Earlier in 1570, at the siege of Chaul, he aided Sulthan of Bijapur.

### **2.5.1 The Conspiracy**

Zamorine and Kunjali's relationship deteriorated day by day beginning in 1586. Kunjali's sea power increased. Zamorine started to sense more danger. The Portuguese took

advantage of this and tried their hardest to increase the difference. It was rumored that he even ventured to chop off the elephant's tail of the zamorin. Zamorine had surreptitiously asked for Portuguese assistance in an attempt to subdue Kunjali. Historians disagreed on the motivations for Zamorine and Kunjali IV's animosity. MGS Narayanan and Prof. OK Nambiar attributed these occurrences to Kunjali. However, there was no mention of Kunjali being accused in the local mythology. Zamorine was a young, unsophisticated woman during the Kunjali era.

### **2.5.2 The Beginning of siege**

To negotiate a peace treaty, the Portuguese dispatched Captain Alvaro de Abraham to Calicut in 1597. It was decided that the recently arrived Portuguese in Zamorin should attack Marakkar Kota in a group. Kunjali Fort was under assault by Francisco de Gama, the newly appointed Viceroy. He coordinated government assistance. He established a fleet for the north and a fleet for the south.

Under Captain Luis Gama's command was a fleet made up of ten ships, two large vessels, four galleys, and thirty small vessels. Zamorin faced a conundrum. It would be suicide if he allied with Portuguese forces against his admiral. Kunjali was respected by his Nair army. Therefore, Zamorin made his demand for improved terms prior to Captain Luis de Gama's reportedly growing demand. December 1598 saw Luis de Gama return to Malabar once more. Alexio de Menezes, the Goan archbishop, was summoned to Kottakkal and offered his support to the scheme. The captains' council chose to launch an assault.

On 15.3.1599, the joint operation got underway. At sea, the army of Calicut assaulted the Portuguese. The ship of Kunjali was unable to get close to the fort. Every option to use force was stopped. The coordinated assault was scheduled to begin as soon as a fire signal appeared, burning by coalition just before sunrise. With 500 Nairs and 600 Portuguese, Belchoir Ferreira became disoriented. They advanced, and Kunjali's forces slaughtered 28 men. Another group assaulted and destroyed numerous others, continuing to face the siege's failure. In September 1599, Captain Luis de Gama made his way back to Cochin. 500 Portuguese men or so perished.

People in Goa crowded to the viceroy's residence to learn about the passing of their loved ones. When the viceroy convened the council, it was resolved to keep up the naval blockade. Andre Furtado Mendoca was in control of the new conflict, while Luis de Gama was dispatched to Ormuz.

According to certain historians, Kunjali was glad of the victory over the unified force. This is a rather speculative statement. Had Kunjali been self-centered, he would not have attempted to negotiate a peace agreement with Zamorine via Thacholi and Meppayil Kurup. Kunjali anticipated assistance from the Egyptian kings of Beejapur. The Ullal queen alone dispatched three thousand rice sacks. However, the Portuguese fleet stopped it. Madhura Naik



pledged to provide political asylum in Kunjlali. Thus, he fortified the defense.

Zamorin and Furtado met on December 16, 1559, and came to an agreement. For the siege of Kaottkkal Fort, Zamorin had promised to supply a force of one thousand laborers, fifteen elephants, an army of carpenters, and five thousand Nairs with spades, baskets, and other necessities. In addition, he consented to supply thirty rafts, sailors, sea men, and lascars for maintaining watch on the Kota River.

At Calicut, Zamorine gave the Portuguese permission to build churches. Following the fight, it was agreed that the cannon, treasury, and ships' contents would be distributed equally. The Portuguese were to have care of the Kunjali. For two months, Zamorine was away for the mamankam celebration. Furtado had no way to strike. Furtado launched the attack cautiously, first directing Kunjali's focus in several directions for a brief period of time. After getting off the ship, the Portuguese occupied the first bunker. With 600 troops, Captain Andre Rodrigue Palhota attacked the fort from the riverbank. From the land, Captain Belchior Ferrira and his soldiers launched an assault on the fort. The besieged lost a considerable deal of ground. Over 79 Portuguese people were injured, and 10 of them died.

Furtado estimated that if winter arrived, they would have to go back to Goa, giving Kunjali time to heal and build up enough power to block Portuguese navigation. Zamorine returned from the Mamakam celebration in March of 1600. Kunjali dispatched a messenger to ask for protection and brought a large quantity of money. Soon after, 700 women and children and 250 to 300 Muslims emerged from the stronghold.

## **2.6 The ambiguity of Zamorin**

Portuguese officials had suspicions that Zamorin might assist Kunjali in escaping if the final attack was delayed. Francisco D'souza attacked the fort from the east with 400 troops. Furtado assaulted the bulwark from the side of the fort with 1200 soldiers. The village of Kottakkal was where the Portuguese canons were discovered. Kunjali personally stepped forward to provide more support. There was fierce battle, and Portuguese captains were defeated. Furtado didn't back down. He rallied his men for one last assault. He scaled the fort's wall, entered its perimeter, and promptly assembled 300 soldiers to garrison it. He then remained there, fending off Kunjali's attempts to drive them out. Furtado continued to pound Kottakkal for five days, destroying the town.

Furtado and Zamorin met once more. Furtado threatened Zamorin, saying he would march to Calicut City and set the city on fire, causing slaughter, looting, and plunder if Kunjalii was able to escape the castle with his assistance. The words made Zamorin nervous. Furtado entered the fort aboard a big barca around 1600 on March 10 and started to assault it. Zamorin realized that the onslaught could not be stopped or halted. The lack of food was causing agony for the men of Kunjali. Sending emissaries to his lord Zamorin, Kunjali begged for forgiveness,

offered to deliver the castle, and asked him to guarantee his own and his allies' safety.

Kunjali received Zamorin's terms via mail. Kunjali consented, and they decided to hold the surrender ceremony on March 16. Their state was pitiful. They suffered injuries, burns, illnesses, and in some cases, the surviving soldiers even pursued them. Kunjali wore a thick gold bracelet, a belt, a knife in a gold sheath, and an opulent gold gown with gold buttons. His head was covered with a black kerchief. He handed Zamorin his sword. Minister Zamorin assumed control of it. Furtado grabbed Kunjali by the hands and dragged him away after placing his hands on his shoulders. Nairs and Muslims were unprepared for it. They started falling on the Portuguese. They were disarmed by the Portuguese troops. They were taken into custody. Furtado took his portion of the loot and fled the fort. The fortress was completely destroyed. Zamorin gave Furtado forty Muslim disciples of Kunjali. Kunjali and his soldiers arrived in Goa thanks to Furtado. Kunjali was executed by hanging, and his body was dismembered. On the beaches, there were body parts on display. Slated head was dispatched to Kannur.

## **2.7 Kottupally mala**

After a century of conflict on the Malabar Coast, the Mappila rural people still recount these valiant battles in their memories. A few of the myths and festivals have ties to the conflicts of the sixteenth century. Here are the stories of two of these cases for analysis. The martyr Manath Parambil Kunhi Marakkar perished while attempting to save a girl from the Portuguese.

Though in the process he became a martyr, he saved her. Folk songs referred to as Kottupalli Mala contain several stories about this hero. Kottupalli, a village close to Ponnani, hosts yearly celebrations in his honor. The festival attracts thousands of Mappila's rural residents. In this way, his memory is passed down through the generations.

Three warriors who lost their lives in a battle against the Portuguese are also linked to the martyrdom of Mahim Pokker, Zirajuddin, and Abdulla at the Mamba Makham near Kannur. The Makham is located not far from the site of the Portuguese onslaught. A few of these cemeteries and memorials preserve the history and remembrance of the Malabar Coast's anti-Portuguese uprisings. The memories are treasured by the Mappila community as a part of their collective identity. Even though they had taken part in these conflicts, other coastal towns did not exhibit similar tendencies.

Sacrifice Rock, a peninsula in the Arabian Sea near Vatakara that has multiple stories to tell, was the site of multiple Portuguese and Mappila encounters and sacrifices. The Mappila tribe's small-town merchants and petty traders were forced to relocate to the hinterlands because Portuguese actions prevented them from engaging in peaceful spice trade. The Mappila group had previously lived in peace in a tiny coastal town.

## 2.8 Revenge of cosmic justice

The cousin of Kunjali-IV presented Portuguese authorities with a new issue even if the pandemonium had subsided. At the age of 13, Kunjali's cousin Ali Marakkar was taken to Goa by Furtado during the Battle of Cordiva. He received a Portuguese Christian name after being baptized. At sixteen years old, Kunjali was put to death by the Portuguese. He managed to get out of Goa one night and make it to Malabar. He outfitted five paratroopers and reorganized the followers of Kunjali. He took on Portuguese ships and plundered them.

He traveled to the province of Ceylon's North West and then to the island of Tanadiva. He entered St. Joao's beach there. After receiving his baptism from the Franciscan priests, he exacted retribution on them. After that, he traveled to the island of Focodos and seized a sizable herd of cattle. Pedro got along well with the Dutch. Portuguese ships were plundered by Ali Marakkar's team and the Dutch. Taking supplies, weapons, and ammo. He pillaged Portuguese ships in Ceylon in 1619. Along with two galliotes and Portuguese boats commanded by Vitoreo Abreau, Constaution Desa had despatched them. Pedro overcame them. Pedro made multiple attacks on Portuguese ships.

Zamorin was completely cut off from Muslims. The Portuguese bastion in Kerala was taken by the Dutch in 1663, and the Zamorins were unable to regain their lost influence in both trade and warfare. In addition to fighting for Malabar's independence, Kunjlai's resistance to Portuguese colonization was a process of decolonization for the Muslim community as a whole. The Muslims of Kerala enjoyed greater social mobility and cultural and social capital as a result of their past fights with the Portuguese. They gained political and cultural strength as a result of these anticolonial movements. Numerous texts have emerged as a result of their cultural resistance. The texts on decolonization include Fathul Mubeen and Tuhfat al Mujahideen. In addition, a great deal of folk music and dancing took place.

By the early 17th century, Calicut's naval dominance had all but vanished. In actuality, the lengthy and drawn-out battles waged against the Portuguese for more than a century undermined this kingdom's ability to govern and maintain its economic stability. It lost permanently the wealth and excess that came from the maritime trade. Due to the Portuguese entrance and their interactions with other trading nations, Calicut, a foreign port throughout the mediaeval age, lost its reputation and status.

As previously said, these fights lasted for a century, during which time the House of Kunjali Marakkars rose to prominence as an admiral's family in the sixteenth century. With time, this trading business evolved into the Arabian Sea's protector of freedom. It played a commendable role in both offensive and defensive capacities, instilling a spirit of independence on land and at sea. The driving reason for European growth was the growing trend of nationalism, especially in Western European nations like Portugal. A similar tendency was progressively emerging among Kerala's political factions as well. This new, much-ahead-of-its-time trend was

embodied by the Kunjali mansion. The Zamorins and the Kingdom of Calicut developed a strong defense against the political and commercial invaders on the western coast, displaying characteristics of the nationalism trends that were just beginning to emerge. There were always conflicts with the Portuguese and their allies, despite the Zamorin's political and military strategy of making concessions to them. In actuality, the Kunjalis family was always responsible for preserving the resistance spirit. For this, the house had given up both its men and its money. Furthermore, it was admirable how this family led the coastal Mappilas based on an anti-Portuguese philosophy. The Muslim populations were protected from all Portuguese exploitation.

As a result, the House of Kunjalis flying the Zamorin flag became the embodiment of maritime resistance against the Portuguese. The natives' offensive and defensive engagements with the Portuguese had a significant impact on Malabar's maritime history. The Kunjalis made good use of these connections while devising their military strategy, building ships, and developing novel tactics including maritime blockade, convoying trade vessels accompanied by armed troops, among other things. Such a convoy concept was used to counter submarine threats during World War II. Under the capable guidance of the Kunjalis, the Malabar sailors commanded a convoy of cargo ships that made their way to the Red Sea. As a matter of surprise, they also implemented sector attack, charging in different groups from the sides. The Malabar sailors employed hit-and-run tactics in place of direct assault and confrontation. The flexibility concept has always been upheld to fend off attacks by vessels with large tonnage. These tactics eventually led to the deployment of naval forces to keep the interest area under control. In the contemporary era, the Indian navy has used a number of these tactics as necessary.

The importance of the Arabian Sea's independence in the Middle East's economic relations was recognized by the Malabar sailors. This concept of marine independence was far ahead of its time; even the great Mughals were unable to use it as a tactic in their quest for political dominance. More facilities were established with the collapse of the House of Kunjalis and the entry of the Dutch and English over the Malabar Coast. Zamorin's supremacy was frequently associated with the Kunjalis' maritime might. The political and economic foundation of the Zamorin kingdom has also collapsed as a result of their downfall. As a result, the kingdom of Calicut was exposed to greater European exploits and empire-building throughout the 17th century. This marked the beginning of the colonization of Malabar and other parts of South India.

The Kunjali Marakkar saga imparts a crucial historical lesson: the sea's independence, which fundamentally upholds the land's independence. Thus, this 413th anniversary of Kunjali Marakkar IV's martyrdom holds great significance for this nation. "A nation's total freedom lies in its freedom of the sea."

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