Mythological Origin of Mannankoothu

According to the beliefs of the Mannan community, Mannan-Koothu was founded by two ancestral brothers, Panchampoolan and Periyanankan. Guided by Poolappan Poolan Kaani, the brothers approached two sisters, Valuvakotha and Valuvachakki, who were known for their mastery of the art of Koothu. Many had tried to learn from the sisters before but had failed. The sisters agreed to teach the brothers, but with a condition — only one could be taught the art directly. As a result, the elder brother, Panchampoolan, learned within the gurukulam, while Periyanankan learned the craft from outside.

After the training, the sisters gave the brothers a test. They were asked to demonstrate their learning by causing a tree to wilt and burn. Panchampoolan could wilt the tree, but Periyanankan, with his focused gaze, set it ablaze. Impressed by their devotion and skill, the sisters blessed them both.

The brothers later returned to their hamlets and shared their knowledge with their people. It is believed that they formed the rhythm, structure, and style of Mannan-Koothu, passing it down through generations of the Mannan community.

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