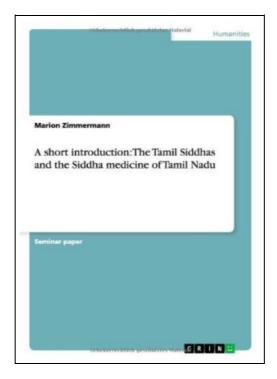
A Short Introduction: The Tamil Siddhas and the Siddha Medicine of Tamil Nadu



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(Dr. Kayden Gerlach)

A SHORT INTRODUCTION: THE TAMIL SIDDHAS AND THE SIDDHA MEDICINE OF TAMIL NADU



GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in.Seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject Ethnology Cultural Anthropology, grade: 2 (B), University of Heidelberg (South Asian Ethnology Institute), course: Medicine Ethnology II: Health in South Asian Culture, 10 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Medicine means the prevention of physical illness; medicine means the prevention of mental illness; prevention means to avert illness; medicine therefore is the prevention of death. This quotation is an interesting definition of medicine by Tirumular - one of the greatest and earliest Tamil Siddha. The Tamil Siddhas - so a lot of authors assume - have invented or developed the Tamil medical system named Siddha medicine. Till today this medical system exists totally unknown in India with a few geographical exceptions in the South - next to the popular Ayurveda medical system. The Siddha medicine is to find in the present time only in Tamilnadu and in a few parts of Kerala. There is a bulk of works on Siddha medicine exclusive in the Tamil language. A lot of these works are not yet studied, because of their secretive and symbolic language, their partially bad conditions and their difficult accessibility. Many questions about this system cannot be answered, yet. Till today it is not clear when and where the Siddha medicine exactly originated, why it was invented or developped, at all, and why it has not become as popular as Ayurveda. In this work I will explain in a very generalized form what the notion siddhameans and what person a Siddha is like. I will try to find out when the Siddha medicine was developped, and I will give a short introduction of the fundamental principles of the Siddha medicine. Then I will show some problems of the...



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