

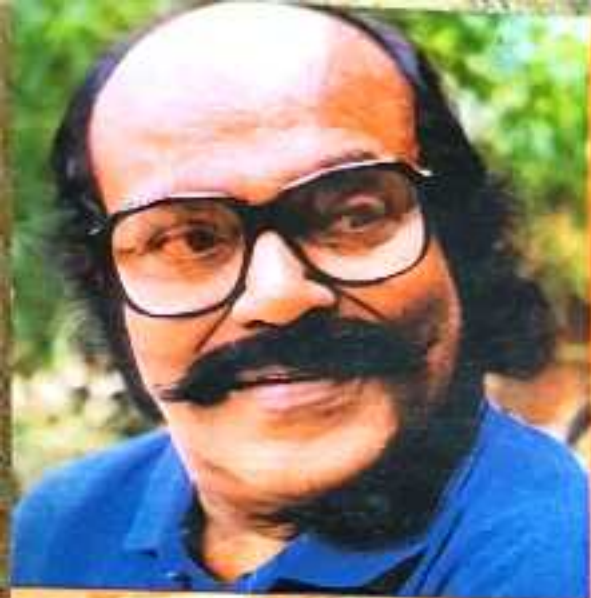
JAYAKANTHAN

**TRIAL BY FIRE**  
AND OTHER STORIES



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*Trial by Fire* is a short story collection written by Dhandapani Jayakanthan, a foremost architect of modern Indian literature. The original stories appeared in Tamil, a regional language in India. In these stories, Jayakanthan provides a kaleidoscopic view of life as it exists in various sections of Indian society. Reading Jayakanthan is a true experience, an experience US readers ought not to miss. Cindhanaï Vallam is happy to introduce writer Jayakanthan to US readers. The English translation has been skillfully done by Andy Sundaresan and a succinct introduction to Tamil literature is given by Prof. George L. Hart of University of California, Berkeley. An interview with Jayakanthan by Ranavir Rangra is also included.

Jayakanthan is a thoroughly modern writer. His stories are realistic, his dialogues reproduce with uncanny accuracy the myriad dialects of modern Tamil, his sensibility is grounded in the moral ambivalence of the twentieth century. Yet, for all that, he is a product of two thousand years of Tamil literature and history. .... A writer who is fully aware of all the traditions, devices, and history of modern writing in the West and India, Jayakanthan nonetheless exploits fully the extraordinary heritage of Tamil literature in his writing.

Prof. G.L. Hart, University of California, Berkeley