

## Kamala Sampalli (1934-2002)



Smt. Kamala Sampalli was a nationally renowned award-winning writer, orator and teacher, who captured the literary world with her lucid and in-depth narrations of Indian historical figures through her writings and speeches. She was born to the Jaggu family of literary scholars – her father Shri Jaggu Shingra Iyengar was a well-known Sanskrit scholar and poet from Melkote.

Smt. Kamala was an academic super-achiever right from her childhood, attaining top positions in her class, securing second rank for the State of Mysore in Standard 10, first rank in Pre-University, and Gold medalist in B.A., M.A. and B.Ed. degrees. She became a teacher in history and principal of Malleswaram 13<sup>th</sup> Cross Women's College and Vani Vilas College and served the cause of education for nearly thirty-six years.

Smt. Kamala was an amazingly dedicated, caring and fantastic teacher. It is no wonder that she won the State award for teaching excellence and numerous other recognitions for distinguished teaching. One of her citations reads: "Kamala Sampalli has the magic of enthralling and captivating a class of any size with her clear and lucid explanations, and a loving and caring attitude towards her students. Without a doubt, she shines among students as one of the best teachers."

Smt. Kamala was not only a great teacher but also a superb writer, terrific orator and a passionate social worker. She published numerous books and articles and gave media interviews in both English and Kannada on history, education, religion and architecture. Her book "Namma Veera Vanitheyyaru" has been selected in libraries and educational institutions across India. She received the International Lions Club Award and the State Literary Association Award, and honorary memberships and citations by the International Who's Who of Business and Professional Women, Historical Research Institute of Calcutta and the Karnataka State History Academy. Shri Tiru, now Sri Yadugiri Yatiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamin, wrote the following about her in 2002: "Smt. Kamala Sampalli was a very renowned figure, always smiling and doing good for our society. She was a live wire in our society, involved in many projects and programs. Her commitment to social causes is very praiseworthy." Despite her very busy work schedule, she was a loving mother to her son Srinivas Sampalli and daughter Anuradha Mandayam, and a most caring wife to her husband, Shri Sampalli Narayana Iyengar, who was a source of support for her throughout her literary career.

Smt. Kamala Sampalli was a true embodiment of dedication and commitment to scholarship, and a golden thread in the fabric of tradition, learning and knowledge.