

### 1.36 The Sun Concept Depicted through the Gods in *Kohombayak Kankariya*

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#### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to examine the socio- ritualistic purposes and the symbolism of the *kohombayak kankariya*, which is considered as the most central ritualistic dance tradition of the kandyan or the up -country region of Sri Lanka. This particular ritual, that incorporates dance, music and song, is performed in honour and praise of a trinity of gods namely " *aluth kohomba*", "*parana kohomba*"and *Maha* who are in-charge of rice cultivation. In this study, the subtle symbolic meanings of the liturgical hymns known as *kolmura-kavi* and other ritualistic objects including dance costumes and props were carefully examined in this paper. The author demonstrates that the trinity of *kohomba* gods symbolizes the sun- god and the ritualistic purpose of *kohomba kankariya* is to honour him for his support to have a good rice harvest.