

A Cross-Cultural Exploration of 'Magicae' in Imperial Rome and 'Hooniyam' in Ancient Sri Lanka

Jayawardena, S.G.

Dept. Western Classical Culture, Faculty of Humanities,
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
shannonjayawardena@gmail.com

Abstract

This comparative research delves into the intricate world of dark art practices by examining the phenomena of 'Magicae' in Imperial Rome and 'Hooniyam' in Ancient Sri Lanka. Through a meticulous cross-cultural analysis, this study unveils the fascinating parallels and disparities between these distinct manifestations of occultism. Contextualized within the historical, cultural, and societal backdrops of Imperial Rome and Ancient Sri Lanka, the study explores the nuanced rituals, spells, and beliefs associated with 'Magicae' and 'Hooniyam'. By scrutinizing historical documentation, folklore, oral traditions, as well as literary and archaeological evidence, the research illuminates the integral role these practices played in shaping the spiritual and social landscapes of their respective civilizations. The research unearths the profound influence of cultural beliefs, religious outlooks, and societal norms on the development and reception of these dark art practices. By juxtaposing the cultural frameworks that birthed 'Magicae' and 'Hooniyam', the study uncovers the multifaceted nature of human spirituality and the diverse avenues through which individuals sought to navigate the mysterious forces surrounding them. Through an examination of modern interpretations, differing viewpoints, and scholarly debates, the research underscores the enduring relevance of these practices in contemporary discourse. Furthermore, the study contemplates how the remnants of 'Magicae' and 'Hooniyam' practices

have permeated modern belief systems and worldviews, reinforcing their enduring significance. In essence, this research transcends the confines of time and geography to weave a comprehensive tapestry of the human propensity for exploring the arcane. By meticulously comparing 'Magicae' in Imperial Rome and 'Hooniyam' in Ancient Sri Lanka, this study not only enriches our understanding of these ancient civilizations but also provides a profound insight into the profound intricacies of the human quest for the mystical and enigmatic.

Keywords: *Cross Cultural Exploration, Cultural Beliefs, Hooniyam, Magicae, Dark Arts*