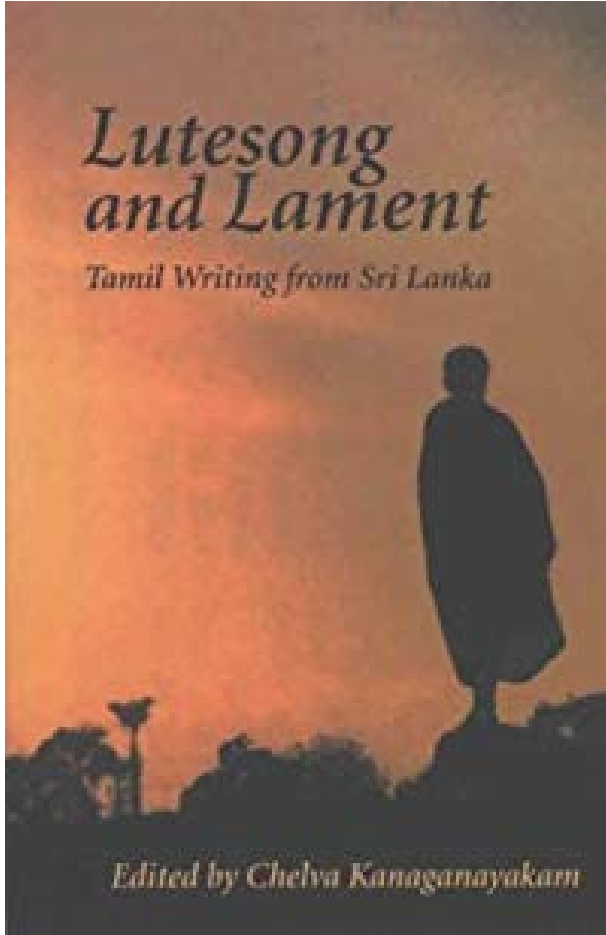


# Lutesong and Lament



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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
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The translations in this book bring together, for the first time ever, a comprehensive selection of modern, post-independence Tamil creative writing from Sri Lanka. More than thirty authors, living now in Sri Lanka, Britain, Canada, France, and Norway are represented. They include traditionalists such as Mahakavi, Ilangayarkone, and Ragunathan; modernists such as Nuhman and Ponnuthirai; and diasporic writers such as Cheran and Jayapalan. Their work reflects a tumultuous reality gripped by ethnic, religious, and linguistic strifes that have almost torn the island nation apart. The short stories and poems in this collection are unique in their imaginative power, their control of form, and their depth of experience. They capture for us a colourful, exotic and yet troubled world within our midst. The critical introduction discusses the cultural and political background to these stories and poems; a glossary provides access to terms that do not survive translation; and biographical notes sketch the profiles of the authors.