***Ponniyin Selvan*** (transl. *The Son of*[*Ponni*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaveri)) is a [Tamil language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language) [historical fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_fiction) novel by Indian author [Kalki Krishnamurthy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalki_Krishnamurthy). It was first serialised in the weekly editions of [*Kalki*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalki_(Tamil_magazine)), a Tamil magazine, from 29 October 1950 to 16 May 1954 and later integrated into five volumes in 1955. In about 2,210 pages, it tells the story of early days of [Chola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_dynasty) prince [Arulmozhivarman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajaraja_I). Kalki visited [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) three times to gather information and for inspiration.

*Ponniyin Selvan* is regarded as one of the greatest novels of [Tamil literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_literature).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponniyin_Selvan#cite_note-1) The fan-following for the series, which was published weekly in *Kalki*, was such that it elevated the magazine circulation to a figure of 75,000 copies – a vast readership in a newly independent India.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponniyin_Selvan#cite_note-2) The book continued to be admired in the modern era, developing a [cult following](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_following) and fanbase among people of all generations. *Ponniyin Selvan* has garnered critical acclaim for its tightly woven plot, vivid narration, witty dialogue, and portrayal of the intrigues and power struggle of the Chola empire in the 10th-century.

The novels were [adapted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_adaptation) into two films by [Mani Ratnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mani_Ratnam) by condensing the first two volumes into [*Ponniyin Selvan: I*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponniyin_Selvan:_I), and volumes 3 to 5 into [*Ponniyin Selvan: II*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponniyin_Selvan:_II), which were released on 30 September 2022 and 28 April 2023 respectively.

The first publication of the *Ponniyin Selvan* series outside of Tamil Nadu was released in 2022, published in Malaysia by Jaya Bakti.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponniyin_Selvan#cite_note-3)

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