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But virali pattu were not only tied as head gear but as second waistcloths. Here is a lengthy description of how a hero gets ready for combat:

"Komannar, taking a bunch of keys, goes to the basement storeroom and opens the door. He opens (there) the treasure box, quickly taking out the chamayangal (decorative items), opens the pukacha marappu, (lower (designed) cloth bundle), removes the flower designed cloth from the kuzhal pipe, takes the sword and the shield with reverence, locks again the treasure room, comes out to the patakali muttam (the court yard). He begins to weat the anapartu, the textile for combat, in the norinhutuhu, folded way around the waist. He begins to trembel like the leaves of a banyan tree (iz, falls in trance). Then he takes a (second) kachha (waist cloth), rolling it like a ball, throws it up, aiming at the sky, and before it comes down to the height of five men, he adjusts this cloth around his waist. This kachha cloth is used to make several specific folds (which are now described with individual names)...»

This text indicates that the warrior may wear two virali pattu textiles, one around the head and another around the waist. The textile is so light that one can throw it high up, and it will balloon downwards. We can assume from this that the textile has no front and back, but is equally useable on both sides. Furthermore, it may be noted that one virali pattu was stored in a (bamboo) pipe, a practice known to general informants until today. This type of storage is referred to in another ballad. Here the hero prepares himself for the battle, taking out the virali pattu:

Otakkuchlil thirichuvecha pattu Kept as a roll in a bamboo pipe the pattu is valichangetuthitunnu drawn out.

When the heroine Mathilerikanni²⁰ goes to fight a battle disguised as a man, she too wears a virali pattu. This time, the exact measurement is given: 42 mulam, or «yards», the length between elbow and fingertips.

Nalpathirumulam pullikacha kachha harinhum unuhe Kanni folded and wore the kachha the red Chempatur viali patteuthu pattu having taken

18 Kappulli palatte kômannarute pattukkatha, p. 24-25.
19 Kunnikannan Nair, K. P. 1954, Korothu kotakkal Kunhikannan, (in Malayalam: Ballad of the Hero Kunhikannan), Eripuram: p. 29. (The following lines are confused; they may describe the designs of a virali pattu and the way the textile is used as a waist cloth.)
20 T. H. Kunhiraman Nambiar, p. 80.

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