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HYMNS HERITAGE OF  
INDIA SERIES, SAINTS  
OF TI-IE, TAMIL  
SAIVITE SAINTS

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by  
F. Kingsbury

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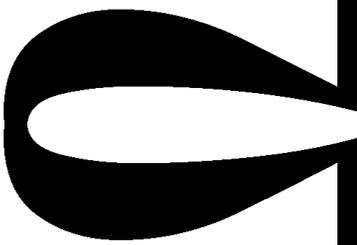
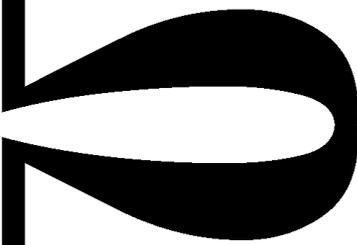


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# Forgotten Books

Hymns Heritage of India Series, Saints of Ti-Ie, Tamil Saivite Saints

By

F. Kingsbury

Published by Forgotten Books 2012

Originally Published 1921

PIBN 100014176

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THE HERITAGE OF INDIA SERIES

HYMNS OF THE  
TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

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ASSOCIATION PRESS  
5, RUSSELL STREET, CALCUTTA

LONDON: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
NEW YORK, TORONTO, MELBOURNE,  
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

1921

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To

C. M. P.

## AUTHORS' NOTE

THIS book has gone through the Press under unusually difficult circumstances. During most of the time one of the authors has been in Mesopotamia, the other in India. Partly from this cause, and partly through practical difficulties of printing, there are a few minor inconsistencies in the application of the system of transliteration.

The authors would have wished, had it been possible, to alter the note on stanza 17 (p. 27), which is there treated as a case of intercession for others. Fuller comparison of this hymn with other similar ones in Tamil religious poetry convinces them that the "she" in the hymn is none other than the devotee, who compares himself to a love-sick woman, as in stanza 19.

They would also like to acknowledge their indebtedness to Dr. Farquhar, General Editor of the Series, for much hard work done in the interests of this book; also to Mrs. Phillips, Mr. G. S. Duraiswamy, B.A., and the F. Goodwill, for valuable help given with proof-reading.

The Wesleyan Mission Press, Mysore, which does not usually print Tamil, has been good enough for the sake of this book to undertake an unfamiliar task, which it has carried through with unwearied patience.

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*NOTE.—The bronze statuettes of the poets reproduced in this volume are not historical portraits but imaginative figures, created in accordance with popular traditions and used in the worship of the temple and the home.*

# INTRODUCTION

## (A)—The Hymns and their Significance

THE voice of chanting and song, to the accompaniment of unfamiliar instruments, floats out over the high wall of the temple in the coolness of the evening or the dawn, making the Western passer-by wonder what it is that is being chanted and sung. If only he had a Hindu hymn-book he thinks he could learn from it the spirit of Hinduism as well as a non-Christian could learn Christianity from Christian hymns. For the Tamil country at any rate there *is* such a hymn-book, and our present aim is to give enough specimens from it for readers to know what the hymns are like. Englishmen are wanting to understand India more than they ever wanted before, for their debt to India is heavy. Indians are wanting more than ever before to know the wonderful past of their own country, and the wonder of it is all bound up with its religion. At such a time these hymns are worth looking into, for they are being sung in temples and homes throughout the Tamil country, and Tamil is the mother-tongue of more than eighteen millions of people. For pious Śaivites they equal in authority the Sanskrit Vedas; the mere learning of them by rote is held to be a virtue, and devout Tamil parents compel their children to memorize them in much the same way as Christian parents make their children learn the Psalms.

## 2 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

The hymns here given are specimens from the Devaram and the Tiruvachakam. The Devaram is the first of the collections of works held as canonical by Tamil Śaivites. Its hymns were composed between six and eight hundred A.D. by the three authors of whom this book gives some account, and the whole was put together in one collection of 797 stanzas by Nambi Āṇḍar Nambi about 1000 A.D. The Tiruvachakam, or Sacred Utterance, was written by one author, Manikya Vachaka (Tamilized as Manikka Vasahar) at a date so far unsettled that scholars are still divided on the question whether it preceded or followed the Devaram, though most scholars place it in the ninth, or early in the tenth, century. Whenever it was written, it stands even higher than the Devaram in the affections of Tamil people. ‘

Out of an immense number of hymns we have tried to select those which are most representative, those which are favourites, and those which contain the most striking thoughts. But it is amazingly difficult to give a fair or adequate idea of them in an English rendering. They are essentially songs, intended to be sung to Indian tunes, in metres which no English metre can represent. Much of their charm depends upon assonance, upon plays upon words, upon close knitting of word with word, upon intricacy of metre and rhyme, almost as much as upon the substance. We can only claim a fair degree of accuracy in our renderings, apologizing to the lovers of Tamil poetry for the plainness and poverty of our representation of so rich and varied an original. All our translations are new, and nearly all of those from the Devaram represent verses which have never before been done

into English. One of the translators of this book learned as a Śaivite child to love these hymns, and therefore is the authority in matters of interpretation, the Englishman being responsible for the form. We shall be quite satisfied if our translations serve to call attention to the poems, and are some day replaced by worthier renderings.

We have tried to reduce introductory matter to a minimum, only giving such information as is necessary to enable readers to understand the hymns and the allusions in them. But it is entirely necessary to say something about the worship of Śiva, and to give a few words of biography of each of the four authors from whose work this book contains extracts.

»

### (B)—The Worship of Śiva

#### 1. *Its history previous to these poems.*

The word Śiva occurs even in the Rig Veda, but there it is only in conjunction with Rudra. The joining together of these names provokes conjectures as to whether we have here an amalgamation of two earlier deities, an Aryan and a Dravidian, but these need not detain us here, since clearly even at this early date Śiva was an Aryan deity, identical with Rudra the storm-god, and father of the Maruts, storm-gods themselves. Rudra is a handsome god: he uses his thunderbolts chiefly for punishing evil-doers, and is on the whole a kindly being. The name Śiva means 'auspicious,' and must not be confused with the Tamil word for 'red,' although as it happens Rudra Śiva was

## 4 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

In the period of the Puranas, we find that Śiva, instead of being one of a multitude of nature-deities, has risen to be one of the great triad, Brahma, Vishnu, and Śiva, who are far above all gods. How the change has come about we have not yet the means of discovering. The function has changed as much as the person, Śiva being now the destroyer as Brahma is the creator and Vishnu the preserver. The process of reduction in the number of the superior deities goes further, and Brahma falls practically into the background, leaving only Vishnu and Śiva as supreme beings for the worship of the people of India. By the time Hinduism penetrated southwards into the Tamil country, probably somewhere about 500 B.C., it had two main forms, the worship of Vishnu and the worship of Śiva, the two being not too sharply disconnected. The Tamil Hindu believed in the existence of both, but held his own god, whether Śiva or Vishnu, to be supreme. Hinduism seemed to be firmly established, but was dangerously shaken when the Jains and Buddhists spread over South India. Then came for the Vaishnavites the teachers known as the Āḷvars, while Śaivism was defended by the poets of whose work this book gives specimens. Hinduism was saved, but it existed henceforth in two distinct forms, Vaishnavism and Śaivism, separated by a wider gulf than in earlier days.

### *2. The portrait of Śiva and its interpretation.*

Śiva as imagined by his worshippers has a human form, usually with one but occasionally with five or six heads. He has three eyes, the right one being really the sun, the left eye the moon, and the one in the middle of his forehead fire. His reddish hair is

matted in the ascetic way, and on it is the crescent moon, the Ganges, and one or more cobras, while wreathed about it is a garland of konḍai (Cassia) flowers. He has four arms, though occasional representations show eight, but one body and two legs. Commonly he is seated on a grey-coloured bull. In colour he is reddish, but his body is smeared over with white sacred ash. He holds in his hands various things such as a battle-axe, a deer, fire, a trident, a bow. Round his neck, which is dark, hangs a long necklace, the beads of which are skulls. At his waist he wears sometimes an elephant's hide, sometimes a tiger-skin, sometimes only a very scanty loin-cloth. Generally his consort, Uma, is at his left side, but sometimes he is pictured as half man and half woman, the right half (Śiva) being pink-coloured, and the left half (Uma) green or black. Śiva's abode is said to be on Mount Kailasa in the Himalayas, but among his special haunts is the burning-ground, where bodies are cremated. One of the favourite manifestations of Śiva is that as Natarāja, the dancer in the great hall at Chidambaram, of which we give a picture (see frontispiece). Here Śiva has one face, four arms, and two legs, performing a spirited dance. His right foot rests on a demon named Muyalahan. He is sometimes represented as dancing along with Kālī, not the Kālī who in North India is identified with Uma, but a she-devil feared in the South.

Doubtless each of these features in the manifestation of Śiva has its history, but that is unknown at present. The legends give fanciful explanations of most of them. The tiger's skin and the elephant's hide, for instance, are those which Śiva stripped from the wild animals sent against him by the magic of his

enemies the rishis of Darukavana. But it is of more interest to find the religious ideas which these things suggest to a thoughtful Śaivite devotee to-day. The hides remind him that Śiva has all power, and all opposition to him is vain. That right foot of Nataraja set on Muyalahan means that God crushes down all evil. Those skulls in his necklace are the skulls of successive Brahmas, each of whom died after a life lasting many ages. This is a way of saying that while other gods at last come to their end, Śiva is eternal and unchanging. Śiva's dance suggests how easily, and how rhythmically, he performs his five functions of making, preserving, destroying, judging and purifying. And his dance in the burning-ground may sometimes carry the message that God becomes most real to men in the solemn hour when they part from their dead.

### 3. *Four common legends and their meaning.*

Of the many legends concerning Śiva four are so frequently alluded to in our poems that they should be told here, to avoid repeated explanatory notes.

1. Brahma and Vishnu once saw a pillar of fire that seemed to grow from the depths of the earth and to pierce beyond the highest heavens. They longed to learn its depth and height, and agreed that Brahma should become a swan to fly to the pillar's top, and Vishnu a boar to dig to its root. The swan flew up to the sky, but never reached the pillar's summit. The boar dug through the earth with his tusk, but never found where the pillar began. Brahma and Vishnu perforce acknowledged their limitations and prayed to the pillar, whereupon Śiva revealed himself, for the pillar was a form he had assumed. Not even the greatest and

wisest of creatures can by their searching find out God. But to the humble-hearted He reveals Himself.

Ravana, the ten-headed giant king of Ceylon, while on his conquering progress through many realms, came to the North of India and saw Kailasa the silver mountain. Coveting its beauty he determined to uproot and transplant it to his own island. With his ten heads and twenty arms he tried to lift it from the earth, and Kailasa shook. All the hosts of heaven, and even Uma, were terrified by what seemed to them an awful earthquake. But Śiva simply set his big toe upon the mountain, and lo, Ravana found himself being crushed to death. Repenting of his folly, Ravana prayed for mercy, and Śiva not only forgave him but even gave him fresh boons. For God pardons sinners who repent, and gives them blessings which before they did not know.

3. Three Asuras, or supernatural beings, once by doing penance obtained from Śiva three castles, one of gold, one of silver, and one of iron. These castles could fly at the owners' desire, and settle down on towns and villages, destroying many lives. In course of time the Asuras became very proud and ignored Śiva. Determining to punish them, Śiva mounted a chariot whose wheels were the sun and moon and whose seat was the earth. Brahma was his charioteer, the four Vedas the horses, Mount Meru his bow, the ancient serpent Ādisesha his bow-string, and Vishnu his arrow. At sight of these preparations the gods became conceited, thinking that Śiva could not destroy his enemies without them. Śiva knowing their thoughts simply laughed, and at that laugh the three castles were on the instant reduced to

Those who forget God in their pride must be punished. When those whom God uses as his instruments begin to think themselves indispensable to him, he shews that his purposes can be fulfilled without them.

4. The gods once began to churn the ocean in the hope of obtaining divine nectar. The mountain Mandara was their churning-stick, the primeval tortoise the pivot on which the stick rested and turned, and the serpent Vasuki was the churning-rope. As they churned, at first great and splendid things came up. But suddenly something black rose up and darkened the whole universe. It was a mass of poison, deadly alike to gods and men. In terror of destruction, the gods and demons called on Śiva. He came, drank the poison, and saved them all. That which was enough to destroy the universe could only stain his throat with a bluish colour. That is why Śiva is often called the "poison-necked" or "blue-throated" god. There is a link here, small but real, with the Christian teaching of God as ready to suffer for the sake of humbler beings..





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**SAMBANDAR**

SAMBANDAR

AND HIS

HYMNS

.

## SAMBANDAR

(Tamil: TIRU JNANA SAMBANDAMURTI SWĀMI)

IN the first half of the seventh century A.D. the worship of Śiva was at its lowest ebb, overpowered by the Jainism and Buddhism which prevailed throughout the Tamil country. But a few pious Śaivites remained faithful. One of them, whose name means that his heart was laid at Śiva's foot, and who lived in the town in the Tanjore District now known as Shiyali, prayed to the Śiva worshipped in the Shiyali temple that he might be given a son who would dispel the godless dark and win men to Lord Śiva again. Sambandar's birth was the answer to that prayer. At the tender age of three, so orthodox Śaivites believe, this child was fed by Śiva's spouse with milk from her divine breast, mingled with divine wisdom, whence he is called in his full name, "The man connected with wisdom divine," Tiru Jñāna Sambandar.

He grew up to be a pilgrim poet, who visited most of the Śaivite shrines with which South India abounds, in each place singing the praise of the Śiva whom there he worshipped. The cause he loved suffered a severe blow when the great king of Madura, with many of his subjects, went over to the Jain religion. The queen-consort and her prime minister (see stanzas 20 and 21) remained faithful to Śaivism, and sent for Sambandar.

The lonely saint faced a vast multitude of Jains in the royal presence, conquered them in argument, and reconverted the king. Eight thousand of the stubborn Jains, with Sambandar's consent, were impaled alive. Later on, after a similar adventure in another of the three great kingdoms of the Tamil country of his time, Sambandar converted to Śaivism a crowd of Buddhist opponents.

This is about all that is known of a man who helped driving Buddhism right out of Southern India, and who did the collection of hymns which stands first among the canonical works of Śaivites. Legends make him a wonder-worker, but we must draw our knowledge of the man from his poems themselves. He certainly was skilful in the handling of the many metres in which Tamil poetry is written, and it is not impossible that his productions were as effortless as the stories of him tell. That is their weakness, for there is not very much of heart religion in them. But they seem to have powerfully helped in that process of eliminating Jainism and Buddhism from India of which we know so little, though it was complete enough to be one of the marvels of history. Their author holds the foremost place among the four great 'Śaivite Preceptors' (Śivacharyar), and some call him the incarnation of one of the sons of Śiva.

His date seems to be one of the few clearly established dates in the history of the religion of the country. Stanza 19 shows that he was a contemporary of another great early Śaivite whose name means "Little Servant of God," and who is known to have fought in a battle which took place in 612 A. D.

1. தோடுடையசெவியன் விடையேறியோர் தூடு  
மதிசூழிக்  
காடுடையசுடலைப்பொடிபூசியென் னுள்ளங்க  
கள்வ  
னேடுடையமலரான்முனநாள் பணிந்தேத்தவ  
செய்த  
பீடுடையபிரமாபுரமேவியபெம்மானிவனன்

2. உண்ணாமலையமையாளாடுமடகையவொரு

We begin with the first verse which the author composed. According to the legends he uttered it at the age of three, on the banks of the temple tank at Shiyali (once Bramapuram), after Śiva's consort had fed him with milk from her own breast. The stanza itself of course contains no allusion to the story, but it is one of the best known verses in the Śaivite hymn-book.

1. His ears are beringed, He rideth the bull ;  
 His head is adorned with the crescent moon's ray ;  
 White is He with ash from the burning-ground swept ;  
 And He is the thief who my heart steals away. '   
 Great Brahma enthroned on the lotus' full bloom  
 Erstwhile bowed him down and His glory extolled,  
 And singing received he the grace of our lord  
 Who dwelleth in famed Bramapuram old.
- 

No pilgrimage in South India is more popular than that to Tiruvannamalai in North Arcot, the temple by a hill celebrated in many poems. Śaivism has tried to express the existence of the 'eternal feminine' in deity by giving Śiva a lady who not only is His consort, but is actually a part of Him, and is so represented in many images, which show Śiva as masculine on one side and feminine on the other.

2. He is our only Lord, conjoined still  
 To her whose breast no sucking lips have known.  
 They who in Anṇāmalai's holy hill,  
 Where falling waters noisy chatter down,  
 And the hill glistens gem-like, bow before  
 Our great one who is lord and lady too,  
 Unfailingly for them shall be no more  
 Dread fruit of good and bad deeds they may do.

3. பறையும்பழிபாவம்படுதூயரம்பலதீரும்  
 பிறையும்புனலரவும்படுசடையெம்பெருமாஜ  
 ரறையும்புனல்வருகாவிரியலைசேர்வடகரைடே  
 நிறையும்புனைமடவார்பயில்நெய்த்தானமென்

One of the first puzzles to a student of Śaivism is the way in which each of the numerous shrines seems to be spoken of as if it were Śiva's exclusive abode. The broad river marked on English maps as the Cauvery, but in Tamil called the Kaviri, which brings so much blessing to a large part of South India that the respect in which it is held is not difficult to understand, is fringed throughout its length with shrines which are believed to confer the blessings of Śiva on all who visit them. One of these is 'Neyttanam,' 'Place of Ghee.'

3. So ye but say Neyttanam is the home  
 Of our great Lord who wears in His long hair,  
 The crescent moon, the river, and the snake,  
 Neyttanam where chaste maidens gather fair,  
 On the north bank of Kaviri's loud stream,  
 Your vileness, guiltiness, the sin you dread,  
 Your sorrows many, shall be banished.

---

This specimen of a hymn connected with Palny in Madura District alludes (in stanza 5) to the well-known legend which says in the Śaivite way that those who love God need not fear death. Markandeya was a boy devoted to Śiva, but over his life hung a terrible cloud, for the fates had decreed that he would not live beyond his sixteenth year. As the appointed time drew near his father lived in an agony of dread, but Mārkaṇḍeya free from fear, spent all his time in the worship of Śiva. The god of Death came at last. Regardless of the fact that the boy was at worship he threw over him that noose which pulls human life from the body. The boy clung to Śiva's lingam with both his hands. From within the lingam Śiva burst forth, kicked the terrible death-god and pierced him with his trident. So Markandeya was saved. The scene is sculptured on many temples,

4. வேதமோதிவெண் ணூல்பூண்டு வெள்ளையெரு  
 தேறிப்  
 பூதஞ்சூழப்பொலியவருவார்புலியி னூரிதோலார்  
 நாதாவென வுநக்காவென வுநம்பாவென நின் று  
 பாதந்தொழுவார்பாவந்தீர்ப்பார்பழன நகராரே.

5. கண்மேற்கண் ணுஞ்சடைமேற்பிறையுமுடையா  
 ர்காலனைப்  
 புண்ணுறு திரமெதிராரோடப்பொன்றப்புறந்  
 தாளா  
 வெண்ணைதுதை ததவெநதைபெருமானிமவான  
 மகளோடும்  
 பண்ணூர்களிவண்டறைபூஞ்சோலைப்பழன நக  
 ராரே.

6. கற்றாங்கெரியோம்பிக்கலியைவாராமே  
 செற்றார்வா ம்தில்லைச்சிற்றம்பலமேய  
 முற்றுவெணடி நகணமுதல்வன பாதமே

4. Holy Vedas chanting,  
 Sacred thread He wears ;  
 All His hosts surround Him  
 Whom the white bull bears.  
 Cometh He in splendour,  
 Tiger-skin attired.  
 ' Lord, our naked beggar  
 Above all desired,'  
 Cry ye in your worship,  
 At His feet appeal.  
 He who dwells in Palny  
 All your sin will heal.
5. Three eyes hath His forehead,  
 Fair moon crowns His hair ;  
 When Death sought a victim,  
 Śiva's foot crashed there ;  
 Gory streams of blood flowed,  
 Death it was that died,  
 Such is He, our Father,  
 Uma at His side ;  
 Dwells He aye in Palny,  
 Where bees hum around  
 Drunk with honeyed sweetness,  
 Till its groves resound.

---

A multitude of hymns chant the glory of Chidambaram, ancient Tillai, holiest of all the Śaivite shrines. Śaivites have for it a feeling not unlike the Jews' feeling for Jerusalem. The tending of the sacrificial fire comes down from pre-historic times, being firmly established when the earliest hymns of the Rig Veda were composed.

6. Tending as taught of old the sacrificial fire,  
 At Tillai Brahmans pure drive out misfortune dire.  
 There dwells the First of all, moon-crowned, and  
 those who cleave  
 For ever to His foot, no cleaving sin will grieve.

7. மறையாணை மாசிலா ப்புன்சடை மல்குவெண்  
 பிறையாணைப் பெண்ணொடாணாகியபெம்மாணை  
 யிறையாணை யேர்கொள்கச்சித்திருவேகம்பத்  
 துறைவாணையல்லதுள்காடுதனதுள்ளமே.

8. நன்றுடையாணைத்தீயதில்லாணைநரைவெள்ளே  
 றென்றுடையாணையுமையொருபாகமுடையாணை  
 சென்றடையாததிருவுடையாணைச்சிராப்பள்ளிக்  
 குன்றுடையாணைக்கூறவென்னுள்ளங்குளிநாமமே

9. குற்றநீகுணங்கண்கூடலாலவாயிலாய்  
 சுற்றநீபிராணைக்கொடர்ந்கிலங்கசோகிரீ

Conjeeveram, the ancient Tamil name of which is given in this stanza, though more famous as a Vaishnavite than as a Śaivite shrine, offers in its temples a remarkable compendium of the religious history of South India. See the article 'Kanchipuram' in Dr. Hastings' 'Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics.'

7. He is the pith of holy writ ;  
 And in the tangle of His hair  
 The spotless crescent's ray is lit ;  
 He is both Lord and Lady fair.  
 He our great sovereign doth abide  
 In Kachchi Ehambam's fair town.  
 My mind can think of naught beside,  
 Naught beside Him, and Him alone.

The next two stanzas, taken from two separate hymns associated with the great cities of Trichinopoly and Madura, both sacred places of Śaivism, are set side by side in order to bring out a point which even the most sympathetic student may not ignore. Śiva is commonly spoken of as all good, as in stanza 8, and yet not infrequently He includes, as in stanza 9, both good and its opposite. The pantheistic tendency even in these hymns causes God to be sometimes depicted as so all-embracing as to include evil as well as good.

8. All goodness hath He and no shadow of ill.  
 Grey-white is His bull, fair Uma shares His form.  
 His wealth is past searching. Chirapalli's hill  
 Is His, whom to praise keeps my heart ever warm.
9. Thou art right and Thou art wrong,  
 Lord of holy Alavay ;  
 Kinsman, I to Thee belong ;  
 Never fades Thy light away.  
 Thou the sense of books divine,  
 Thou my wealth, my bliss art Thou,  
 Thou my all, and in Thy shrine  
 With what praises can I bow ?

10. ஆதியாயநான் முகனுமா லாமறிவரிய  
சோதியானே நீதியில்லேன் சொல்லுவதுன்  
றிறமே  
ஓதிநாளுமுன்னையே த்துமென்னையினையவலப்  
வாதியாமே வந்துநல்காய் வலிவலமேயவனே

No one can know Śiva unless He chooses to reveal Himself. This thought constantly recurs with great emphasis. Its favourite expression is in the first legend of the four told in our introduction. Hymn singers are fond of contrasting with the vain search of Brahma and Vishnu the revelation of Himself which Śiva has graciously granted to them. Compare stanzas 25 and 48.

10. Thou Light whom Brahma, being's fount, and  
 Vishnu could not see,  
 No righteousness have I, I only speak in praise of  
 Thee.  
 Come, Valivalam's Lord, let no dark fruit of deeds,  
 I pray,  
 Torment Thy slave who with his song extols Thee  
 day by day.
- 

Astrology plays a large part in popular Hinduism, and the influence of baleful or auspicious stars must be reckoned with in daily life. Most baleful of all is the influence of the eclipse, which is caused by two dragons Rahu and Ketu which swallow the moon or the sun. This stanza enumerates the nine planets, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu, and says that to the singer, who has Śiva in his heart, all of them, even the dragons of eclipse, are auspicious. It is a powerful and characteristically Hindu way of saying that all things work together for good to those who love God.

The reference to the bamboo constantly recurs in descriptions of ladies' beauty. Everyone who has seen a feather-clump of bamboo trees waving in the breeze will understand it as a symbol of delicate grace.

The vīṇa is the most delicate and beautiful instrument played in South India.

11. வேயுறுதோளிபங்கள் விடமுண்டகண்டன் மி  
 நல்லவிணை தடவி  
 மாசறுதிங்கள் கங்கைமுடிமேலணிந்தெனுள  
 மேபுகுநதவதன  
 னாயிறுதிங்கள் செவவாய்புதனவியாழம் வென  
 சனிபாமபிரண்டுமுடனே  
 யாசறுநல்லநல்லவவைநல்லநல்லவடியாரவர்க்  
 மிகவே.

12. மங்கிரமாவதநீறுவானவர்மேலதநீறு

11. She shares His form whose shoulders' curve vies  
 with the bamboo's grace.  
 His throat the poison drank, He touched the vina  
 into tune.  
 The lustrous moon and Ganges crown His hair, and  
 He a place  
 Hath made Himself within my heart. Where-  
 fore let shine the moon  
 Or sun or any star of good or ill, or serpents twain.  
 For Śiva's slave all are benign, all work for him  
 great gain.
- 

White ash from burnt cow-dung must be worn by all true Śaivites. Every day the worshipper, facing north-east and crying 'Śiva, Śiva,' must dip in the ash the fingers of his right hand and draw the three middle fingers from left to right along his forehead, so leaving three horizontal white lines. The ceremonial side of Śaivism is so prominent that this one stanza must be given, a specimen of many extolling the virtues and potencies of the ash.

The Tantras are works inculcating ceremonies, also magic performances and mystic rites. Some of these are of an immoral nature.

12. The sacred ash has mystic power,  
 'Tis worn by dwellers in the sl.y.  
 The ash bestows true loveliness.  
 Praise of the ash ascends on high.  
 The ash shows what the Tantras mean,  
 And true religion's essence tells,  
 The ash of Him of Ālavay,  
 In whom red-lipped Uma dwells.

13. காதலாகிக்கசிந்துகண்ணீர்மல்கி  
யோதுவாதமைநனெறிகருயப்பது  
வேதநான்கினுமெய்ப்பொருளாவது  
நாதனாம நமச்சிவாயவே.

14. சித்தந்தெளிவீர்கா, ளத்தனாரைப்  
பத்திமலர் தூவ, முத்தியாகுமே.

15. பிறவியறுப்பீர்கா, ளறவனாரை  
மறவாதேத்துமின், றுறவியாகுமே.

16. துன்பநதுடைப்பீர்கா, ளன்பனணியாள

Equally important with the wearing of the sacred ash is the constant repetition of the five syllables, or panchakshara, 'Namasivaya.' This, which means literally 'a bow to Śiva,' is the chief mantra or mystic utterance of Śaivism. In Śaivite catechisms a whole chapter is devoted to its uses.

13. Those who repeat it while love's tears outpour,  
 It gives them life, and guides them in the way.  
 'Tis the true substance of the Vedas four,  
 The Lord's great name, wherefore 'Hail Śiva,'  
 say.
- 

The next three stanzas are from a hymn written in a very attractive short-lined metre, and promise light, freedom from rebirth, and bliss, through devotion to Śiva at Ārur (now Tiruvallur in the Tanjore District).

14. For the Father in Ārur  
 Sprinkle ye the blooms of love ;  
 In your heart will dawn true light,  
 Every bondage will remove.
15. Him the holy in Arur  
 Ne'er forget to laud and praise ;  
 Bonds of birth will severed be,  
 Left behind all worldly ways.
16. In Arur, our loved one's gem,  
 Scatter golden blossoms fair.  
 Sorrow ye shall wipe away,  
 Yours be bliss beyond compare.

17. சடையாயெனுமால்சரணீயெனுமால்  
 விடையாயெனுமால்வெருவாவிழுமால்  
 மடையார்சுவனீம்மலரும்மருக  
 லுடையாய்தகுமோவிவளுண்மெலிவே.

18. புத்தரோடுபொறியில்சமணும்புறங்கூறநெறிநி  
 வெத்தசொல்லவுலகம்பலிதேர்ந்தெனதுள்ள  
 ங்கவர்கள்வன்  
 மத்தயானைமறுகவ்வுரிபோர்த்ததேதார்மாயம்மி  
 துவென்னப்  
 பித்தர்போலும்பிரமாபுரமேவியபெம்மானிவ

Associated with the hymn from which our next verse is taken is a story of the author, Sambandar, helping a sorrowing woman by raising to life the man she loved, who had been killed by snake-bite. The hymn makes no allusion to such a miracle, but it does give an example of intercession on behalf of another, an element which is somewhat rare in these devotional books.

17. Prostrate with fear at Thy feet she cries ' Lord with matted hair, my Refuge, Rider of the bull ! ' Lord of Maruhal where fresh water-lilies bloom, is it right to leave her in this anguish of heart ?

---

Our present writer's poems contain such frequent denunciations of Buddhism or Jainism that it is clear that they were written at a time when the struggle between Hinduism and these other religions was at its height. Buddhism and Jainism are scarcely known in South India to-day, though at one time they were supreme. It is probable that these songs helped not a little to drive them out of the country.

18. Those Buddhists and mad Jains may slander speak.  
Such speech befits the wand'ers from the way.  
But He who came to earth and begged for alms,  
He is the thief who stole my heart away.  
The raging elephant charged down at Him ;  
O marvel ! He but took and wore its hide ;  
Madman men think Him, but He is the Lord  
Who in great Bramapuram doth abide.

19. பைங்கோட்டுமலர்ப்புண்ணைப்பறவைகாள்பய  
ப்பூரச்ச  
சங்காட்டந்தவிர்த்தென்னைத்தவிரானோய்  
தந்தானே  
செங்காட்டங்குடிமேயசிறுத்தொண்டன்பணி  
செய்ய  
வெங்காட்டுளனலெநதிவினையாடுமபெருமானே .

The "Little Servant of God" mentioned in the next verse is one of the 63 canonized saints of Śaivism. According to the collection of legends known as the Periya Puranam, which is a Tamil Śaivite classic, he fought at the battle of Vadapi, the modern Badami, which took place in 642 A.D. There are other indications which strengthen the view that these hymns date from the seventh century A.D.

In the first three lines of the verse Śiva is conceived as a lover, and the devotee as the woman whom He loves. In India the pain of absence from a lover is supposed to cause spots to appear on the skin of the woman who loves.

19. Birds in the flowering green-branched punnai tree,  
 Love writeth clear its marks on me, for He  
 Who cured my grief, yet left unending pain.  
 Senkattankuḍi is His holy, fane,  
 And there His "Little Servant" dwells, who now  
 And ever doth before Lord Śiva bow.  
 There in the burning-ground, with fire in hand,  
 Sporteth unceasingly our Master grand.

---

Another possible indication of date occurs in the next two verses, given in English prose because the Tamil names will not fit into English metres. The Mangaiyarkkarasi here mentioned was the wife of a king of Madura, Kun Pandiyan, known to history. According to the above-mentioned collection of stories, this king became a Jain. Then the queen and the prime minister named in our poem sent for Sambandar, our author, through whose efforts the king was reconverted, and all Jain teachers were executed by impaling. Unfortunately the date of Kun Pandiyan cannot at present be accurately determined. An able discussion of it can be seen in "The Tamilian Antiquary,

20. மங்கையர்க்கரசிவளவர்கோன்பாவைவரிவளை  
 கைமடமானி  
 பங்கயச்செல்விபாண்டிமாதேவிபணிசெய்து  
 டொறும்பரவப்  
 பொங்கழலுருவன்பூதநாயகனாலவேதமும்பெ  
 ருள்களுமருளி  
 யங்கயற்கண்ணிதன்னொடுமமர்ந்தவாலவாயா  
 வதுமிதுவே.

21. வெறறவேயடியாரடிமிசைவீழும்விருப்பினன்  
 வெள்ளைநறணியுங்  
 கொற்றவனறனகருமநதிரியாயகுலச்சிறைகு

The explanation of the term 'Fish-eyed maid,' which sounds curiously in English ears, is that in Madura Siva's consort is called Minakshi, i.e. fish-eyed. The suggestion of the epithet, frequently applied to beautiful women, is that the motion of their eyes resembles the beautiful motion of a fish in water.

20. This is Ālavay, where dwells the flame-formed lord of hosts, giver of the four Vedas and their meaning, with the fair fish-eyed maid. Here, reigning like the goddess of good fortune, Mangaiyarkkarasi the Chola king's daughter, braceletted chaste Pandiyan queen, daily serves and praises God.

---

The poem from which 20 and 21 are taken consists of stanzas like these alternately praising the queen and the king's minister, the last verse praising them both together.

21. This is Ālavay, Śiva's abode. To those who forsake the world He reveals Himself as world-forsaking too. Head of the heavenly ones, He rides the one white bull. Praised is He by Kulachchirai, minister of that monarch who wears white ash, and loves to lay himself bare at the feet of Śiva's slaves.

---

Once, says a story, when Sambandar was about to contend with the Jains, the queen feared the consequences which might befall him, but he assured her in this verse that he could dare all when his God of Madura was on his side.

32 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

22. மானினேர்விழிமாதராய்வழுதிக்குமாபெருந்  
தேவிகேள்  
பானல்வாயொருபாலனீங்கிவனென்றுநீபரிடு  
திடே  
லானைமாமலையாதியாயவிடங்களிற்பலவல்லல்  
ரீனர்கட்கெளியேனலேன்றிருவாலவாயரனிற்

23. செய்யனே திருவாலவாய்மேய்ய  
வையனேயஞ்சுலென்றருள்செய்யெனை  
பொய்யராமமணர்கொளுவுஞ்சுடர்  
பையவேசென்றுபாண்டியற்காகவே.

24. வாங்க வங்கணர் வானவ ரானினம்

22. O fair one with the deer's glance meek,  
 Pandya's great queen, think not of me  
 As of some sucking infant weak,  
 Because such wicked foes there be.  
 If only Hara by me stand,  
 Stronger am I than all their band.
- 

The story here is that the Jains had set fire to Sambandar's house. He prayed in this stanza that the fire, transformed into a fever, might go to the Pandyan king, then a Jain. It did so, and the king was converted.

23. O Thou whose form is fiery red,  
 In holy Alavay, our Sire,  
 In grace deliver me from dread.  
 False Jains have lit for me a fire :  
 O, let it to the Pandyan ruler go,  
 That he the torture of slow flame may know.
- 

Our specimens of Sambandar's poetry may end with a verse which is a kind of benediction, often set as an auspicious word on the front page of a book.

24. Blest be the Brahmans pure, the heavenly ones,  
 and kine.  
 Cool rain fall on the earth ! May the king's glory  
 shine !  
 Perish all forms of ill ! Let Hara's name resound !  
 May sorrow pass away, from earth's remotest  
 bound.

The poems of Sambandar are truly the poems of a Seer. But one thing is wanting, not so much in the realm of the poet's poesy, but in the arena of Critic's introduction. The intro-ducer himself is not well introduced in himself with the grand verses and therein the proper base of the grand Vairāt.

However and whatever may be the container, it is with the Indian outlook you to understand the content. Siva and Vhakti and therein the places and time are all conglomerated and the forth coming thing emanates flood of light. In one word social precondition developed in an clear form. That form shows that Tamil Countries were dominated by the landed aristocracy. Of whose symbol was Siva. There was contradiction in between Buddhism and Jainism and Hinduism. Buddhism was upper hand. Jainism crawled in the form of Siva cult. One culture was decaying. That culture was gentileist of whose exponent was Buddhism.

On the ash of that culture this utterance shows the way to where the people to go. Siva the vedic cult. His form and mobility lies not in Him but upon the Bull. And this bull was also





*(By permission of the Director, Colombo Museum)*

APPARSWĀMĪ

APPARSWAMI  
AND HIS  
HYMNS

## II.

### TIRUNĀVUKKARASU SWĀMI

(More commonly referred to as APPARSWAMI)

SAMBANDAR, whose works we have been studying, had a friend older than himself, named Appar, or Tirunavukkarasu, belonging to that Vellala caste which to this day makes a very solid element in the population of the Tamil country. Left an orphan at an early age, Appar was brought up by a loving elder sister as a pious devotee of Śiva. Great was the sister's grief when Appar forsook the faith of his fathers and became a religious teacher among the Jains. But her earnest prayers at last prevailed, and Appar not only came back to Śaivism himself, but was the means of reconverting to Śaivism the king of his country. His full name was Tirunavukkarasu, or 'King of the Tongue', but his young friend Sambandar called him Appar, or Father, and the name stuck to him. He too wandered throughout the Tamil country, sometimes alone, sometimes in company with Sambandar, singing his way from shrine to shrine. Pictures show him holding in his hand a little tool for scraping grass, with which he used to scrape the stones of the temple courts. The Jains persecuted him, and many stories tell of his miraculous escapes from their hands.

His hymns show a truly religious nature, with a deep-rooted sense of sin and need, and an exalted joy in God. There is real critical acumen in the old epigram which represents Śiva as appraising the three great writers of the Devaram, or Śaivite hymn-book:—  
"Sambandar praised himself; Sundarar praised Me for pelf; My Appar praised Me Myself."

,

---

25. திருவினாள் கொழுநனாருந் திசை முகமுடைய  
கோவும்  
இருவருமெழுந் தும்வீழ்ந் துமிணையடி காணம  
ட்டார்  
ஒருவனேயெம்பிரானேயுந் திருப்பாதங்காண்  
அருவனேயருளவேண்டுமதிசைவீரட்டனே!

o

26. கடவுந் திகிரிகடவா தொழியக்கயிலையுற்றான்  
படவுந் திருவிரொன்றுவைத்தாய்பனிமால்  
வரைபோல்  
இடபம்பொறித்தென்னையென்றுகொள்ளா  
யிருஞ்சொல்திங்கள்  
தடவுங்கடந்தையுட்டுங்காணைமாடத்தெந்தத்

God, the essentially unsearchable, in His grace will reveal Himself to men. (See the first of the legends told in the Introduction.) Athihai Viraṭṭanam, in the South Arcot District, is the shrine here commemorated.

25. Vishnu, spouse of Lakshmi, and four-ways-facing  
 Brahm,  
 Searched the heights and depths, but Thy feet  
 could never see.  
 Yet, O only Lord, who in Athihai dost dwell,  
 Formless, in Thy grace, grant the sight of them  
 to me.

---

The notable thing about our next verse is not so much the legend of the crushing of Ravana, who tried to storm the mountain Kailasa, where Śiva had His heaven, but rather the thought of the devotee being stamped as the property of his god, a thought which recurs in other hymns. According to tradition Appar-swami did receive the Hindu equivalent of St. Francis' stigmata, the mark of Śiva's bull as if branded on his body. We cannot help recalling St. Paul's expression in Galatians vi. 17.

26. All other worlds his sceptre swayed,  
 But when Kailasa he would rule  
 Thy crushing foot presumption paid.  
 O stamp me with Thy sacred bull,  
 White as Hināl'ya's snowy hill.  
 Accept me, O our truth divine,  
 There where the moon outsoareth still  
 Groves of Tuṅgānaimāṭṭam's shrine.

27. வடிவேறு திரிசூலந் தொன்றுநதேதானறும்  
 வளர்சடைமேலிளமதியந் தொன்றுந்தேதானறும்  
 கடியேறுகமழ் கொன்றைக்கண்ணி தேன்றுங்  
 காதில்வெண்குழைதோடுகலந்துதேன்றும்  
 இடியேறுகளிற்றுரிவைப் போர்வைதேன்றும்  
 எழிறிகழுந்திருமுடியுமிலங்கித்தேன்றும்  
 பொடியேறுதிருமேனி பொலிந்துதேன்றும்  
 பொழிறிகழும் பூவணத்தெம் புனிதனூர்க்கே.

28. ஒருவனாயுலகேத்த நின்றநாளோ  
 வோருருவேமுவுருவமானநாளோ  
 கருவனாய்க்காமனைமுன் காய்ந்தநாளோ  
 காமனையுங்கண்ணழலால்விழித்தநாளோ

Here is the divine vision as the enraptured Śaivite sees it.

27. See, there His bright trident appears to me ;  
 See, there is the moon in His tangled hair ;  
 His garland of flowers from the kondai tree,  
 And the ear-ring white in His either ear,  
 The cloak that He tore from the elephant wild.  
 His glittering crown and His body's sheen.  
 Ash-smeared, He is ever the undefiled,  
 In Puvanam circled by groves all green.
- 

The singer, standing at the shrine of Tiruvalur (Ārur) in the Tanjore district, muses over the ancient connection of his lord with the holy place, suggesting that it began before the creation, before Śiva wrought his greatest marvels, perhaps even before the one Supreme, Īsvara, expanded into the triad Brahma, Vishnu and Rudra.

28. When was that ancient day our Lord  
 Chose Ārur should His temple be ?  
 Was't when He stood 'mid praising worlds  
 Alone, or when the One grew three ?  
 Was't when in wrath He burned up Death,  
 Or turned on Lust His flaming eye ?  
 Or when creative, immanent,  
 He called to being earth and sky ?  
 Was't when, his young deer in his hand,  
 He came, with Umā as His part ?  
 Or ere He joined that lady fair  
 Took He our Ārur to His heart ?

29. நீதியால்வாழமாட்டேனித்தலுந்தூயேனல்லே  
 ஒதியுமுணரமாட்டேனுன்னையுள்வைக்கமாட்டு  
 சோதியேசுடரேயுன்றன்நாமலர்ப்பாதங்காண்  
 ஆதியேயலைதுபொன்னகிகைவீரட்டனாரே.
30. தெருளுமாதெருளமாட்டேன்நீவினைச்சுற்ற  
 மென்னும்  
 பொருளுளையமுநதிநாளுமபோவதாரநெறி  
 யுங்காணேன்  
 இருளுமாமணிகண்டாரின்னிணையடியிரண்டு  
 காண்பான்  
 ஆருளுமாறருளவெணடுமகிகைவீரட்டனாரே.
31. உறுகயிறாசல்போலவொன்றுவிட்டொன்றுப  
 மறுகயிறாசல்போலவந்துவந்துலவுநெஞ்சம்

It is often said, not without truth, that Hinduism fails to create a strong sense of sin. But there are great exceptions : witness the following verses, samples of many, taken from a hymn which trembles with feeling. The author is sunk in sin. Or he has been like a swing, flying first toward evil and then towards God ; but now, joy ! the cord has snapped, and he lies fixed at his Lord's feet. Yet the old mood returns ; his soul is bound and drugged with sleep, and life has no joys to offer unless God will save.

### THE SOUL'S BITTER CRY

29. In right I have no power to live,  
 Day after day I'm stained with sin ;  
 I read, but do not understand ;  
 I hold Thee not my heart within.  
 O light, O flame, O first of all,  
 I wandered far that I might see,  
 Athihai Virattanam's Lord,  
 Thy flower-like feet of purity.
30. Daily I'm sunk in worldly sin ;  
 Naught know I as I ought to know ;  
 Absorbed in vice as 'twere my kin,  
 I see no path in which to go.  
 O Thou withthroat one darkling gem,  
 Gracious, such grace to me accord,  
 That I may see Thy beauteous feet,  
 Athihai Virattanam's Lord.
31. My fickle heart one love forsakes,  
 And forthwith to some other clings ;  
 Swiftly to some one thing it sways,  
 And e'en as swiftly backward swings.  
 O Thou with crescent in Thy hair,  
 Athihai Virattanam's Lord,  
 Fixed at Thy feet henceforth I lie,  
 For Thou hast broken my soul's cord.

44 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

32. கழித்திலேன் காமவெந்நோய்கா தன்மையென்  
னும்பாசம்  
ஒழித்திலே னான்கேணைக்கியுணர்வெனுமிமைதி,  
ந்து  
விழித்திலேன்வெளி றுதோன்றவினையெனுஞ்சர  
க்குக்கொண்டேன்  
அழித்திலேனயர்த்துப்போனேன திகைகவீர  
ட்டனரே.

33. ஒம்பினேன்கூட்டைவாளாவுள்ளத்தோர்கொடு  
மைவைத்துக்  
காமபிலாமமைபொலககருதுறமுக்ககமா  
டென  
பாம்பின்வாய்த்தேரைபோலப்பலபலநினைக்கின்  
றேனை  
யோம்பிநீயுயகொள்ளாயொற்றியூருடைய  
கோவே.

34. மனமெனுந்தோணிபற்றிமதியெனுங்கோலையுன்  
சினமெனுஞ்சரக்கையேற்றிச்செறிகடலோடும்  
போது  
மதென னும்பாறைதாக்கிமறியும்போதறிய

32. The bond of lust I cannot break ;  
 Desire's fierce torture will not die ;  
 My soul I cannot stab awake  
 To scan my flesh with seeing eye.  
 I bear upon me load of deeds,  
 Load such as I can ne'er lay down.  
 Athihai Vīratṭanam's Lord,  
 Weary of joyless life I've grown.
- 

Fresh pictures in another hymn set forth his sad condition. God's vessels are full of the sweetness of grace, but his spoon has no handle. He feels himself in the deadly grasp of fate, like the frog in the cruel mouth of the snake which is slowly swallowing it down. Or he is on a raft on the sea of life, wrecked on the rock of lust.

33. While violence is in my heart,  
 Care of my body cage is vain.  
 My spoon no handle hath when I  
 Thy honey's grace to drink am fain.  
 As in the serpent's mouth the frog,  
 Caught in life's terrors, wild I rave.  
 Thou, King of holy Ottiyur,  
 Wilt Thou not care for me and save ?
34. When on life's angry waves I launch,  
 My heart's the raft I take to me,  
 My mind's the pole I lean upon,  
 Vexation's freight I bear to sea.  
 I strike upon the rock of lust !  
 O then, though witless quite I be,  
 Grant, King of holy Ottiyūr,  
 Such wisdom that I think of Thee.

35. குலம்பொல்லேன சுணம்பொல்லேன் குறியும்பெ  
ல்லேன்

குற்றமேபெரி துடையனகோலமாய  
நலம்பொல்லேனான்பொல்லேன ஞானியலலே  
னலலாரோடிசைநதிடெனடுவனிநற  
விலங்கலேன்விலங்கலாதொழிந்தேனல்லேன்  
வெறுப்பனவுமிகப் பெரிதும்பேசவல்லேன்  
இலம்பொல்லேனிரப்பதல்லால் ஈயமாட்டே  
னெனசெய்வானேரூன்றினே நேழையேனே

,

36. நில்லாதநீர்சடைமேனிற் பித்தானை  
நினையாவென்னெஞ்சைநினைவித்தானைக்  
கல்லாதனவெல்லாங்கற்பித்தானைக்  
காணாதனவெல்லாங் காட்டினானைச்  
சொல்லாதனவெல்லாஞ் சொல்லியென்னைத்  
தொடாநதிங் கடியேனையாளாக்கொண்டு

It would be hard to find a more comprehensive confession of sin than our next stanza from another hymn.

35. Evil, all evil, my race, evil my qualities all,  
 Great am I only in sin, evil is even my good.  
 Evil my innermost self, foolish, avoiding the pure,  
 Beast am I not, yet the ways of the beast I can  
 never forsake.  
 I can exhort with strong words, telling men what  
 they should hate,  
 Yet can I never give gifts, only to beg them I know.  
 Ah ! wretched man that I am, whereunto came I to  
 birth ?
- 

We give next a series of stanzas in various metres from different hymns, in which the saint utters in song some of the joy which his religion has brought him. God has revealed mysteries to him which tongue cannot tell, and dwells in his life's innermost places. God is to him the fabled katpaha tree, supplying his every need. God is his all in all, and His presence is sweeter than melody or evening moonlight.

36. The moving water He made stand unmoving in  
 His hair ;  
 And He my thoughtless heart hath fixed in  
 thought of Him alone ;  
 He taught me that which none can learn, what  
 none can see laid bare ;  
 What tongue tells not He told ; me He pursued  
 and made His own.  
 The spotless pure, the holy One, my fell  
 disease He healed,  
 And in Pūnturutti to me, e'en me, Himself  
 revealed.

37. திருவேயென் செல்வமேதேனேவாரோர்  
 செழுஞ்சுடரே செழுஞ்சுடர்நற்சோதிப  
 உருவேயென் னுறவே யென் னானேயுனி  
 னுள்ளமேயுள்ளத்தினுள்ளேநின்ற  
 கருவேயென் கற்பகமே கண்ணைகண்ணிற்  
 கருமணியே மணியாடுபாவாய்காவாய்  
 அருவாயவல்வினைநோயடையாவண்ண  
 மாவடுதண்டுறையுறையுமமரரேறே

38. அபபன் யமமைந் யையனூநீ  
 யனபுடைய மாமனுமாயியுநீ  
 ஓபபுடையமாதருமொண்பொருளூநீ  
 யொருகுலமுஞ்சுற்றமுமோருருநீ  
 துய்ப்பனவுமுய்ப்பனவுந்தோற்றுவாய்நீ  
 துணையாயென்னெஞ்சந்துறப்பிப்பா  
 இப்பொன்னீ யிம்மணிநீ யிம்முத்துநீ  
 யிறைவனீயே றூர்ந்தசெல்வனீயே.

39. டாசில் வீணையு மாலை மதியமும்  
 வீசு தென்றலும் வீங்கிளவேனிலு  
 மூசு வண்டறை பொய்கையும போன்றே

37. O wealth, my treasure, sweetness, lustre fair of  
 heavenly hosts,  
 Of lustre glory that excels, embodied One, my  
 kin,  
 My flesh, yea heart within my flesh, image within  
 my heart,  
 My all-bestowing tree, my eye, pupil my eye  
 within,  
 Picture seen in that pupil, lord of Āḍuturai cool,  
 Immortals' king, keep far from me strong pain  
 of fruits of sin.

38. Thou to me art parents, Lord,  
 Thou all kinsmen that I need,  
 Thou to me art loved ones fair,  
 Thou art treasure rich indeed.  
 Family, friends, home art Thou,  
 Life and joy I draw from Thee,  
 False world's good by Thee I leave,  
 Gold, pearl, wealth art Thou to me.

39. As the vina's pure sound, as the moonlight at  
 even,  
 As the south wind's soft breath, as the spring's  
 growing heat,  
 As the pool hovered over by whispering bees,  
 So sweet is the shade at our Father-Lord's feet.

40. நாமாக்ருங் குடியல்லிலாநமேர யஞ்சோ  
 நரகத்திலிடாப்படோ நடலையிலலோ  
 மேமாப்போம்பிணியறியோம் பணீவோமல்லே  
 மின்பமே யெந்நாளுந்துன்பமில்லை  
 தாமார்க்குங் குடியல்லாத் தன்மையான  
 சங்கரனற் சங்கவெண்குழையோ காதிற்  
 கோமாற்கே நாமென்று மீளாவாளாய்க்  
 கொய்ம்மலர்ச்சேவடியிணையே குறுகினே

41. சங்கநிதிபதுமநிதி யிரண்டுந்தந்து  
 தரணியொடுவாளுளத்தருவரேனு  
 மங்குவாரவர்செல்வமதிப்போமல்லோ  
 மாடுதவர்க்ககாநதரலலராக்  
 அங்கமெலாங்குறைநதமுதொழுநாயரா  
 யாவுரித்துத்தினறுழலும்புலையரேனுங்  
 கங்கைவார்சடைககரநதாரக கன்பராக்  
 லவா கண்டாநாமவணங்குங்கடவுளரே.

40. No man holds sway o'er us,  
 Nor death nor hell fear we ;  
 No tremblings, griefs of mind,  
 No pains nor cringings see.  
 Joy, day by day, unchanged  
 Is ours, for we are His,  
 His ever, who doth reign,  
 Our Śankara, in bliss.  
 Here to His feet we've come,  
 As plucked flow'rets fair ;  
 See how His ears divine  
 Ring and white couch-shell wear.

41. Though they give me the jewels from Indra's  
 abode,  
 Though they grant me dominion o'er earth, yea  
 o'er heaven,  
 If they be not the friends of our lord Mahadev,  
 What care I for wealth by such ruined hands  
 giv'n?  
 But if they love Śiva, who hides in His hair  
 The river of Ganga, then whoe'er they be,  
 Foul lepers, or outcastes, yea slayers of kine,  
 To them is my homage, gods are they to me.

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Often the Hindu devotee asks and re-asks the fundamental question 'Who am I?', coming to the saddest of conclusions, but setting against the background of his delusive life of self the great reality of God, to

42. தந்தையார்தாயாருடன் பிறந்தார்  
 தாரமார் புத்திரரார்தாந்தாமாரே  
 வந்தவாறெங்ஙனேபோமாறேதோ  
 மாயமாமிதற்கேது மகிழவேண்டா  
 சிந்தையீருமக்கொன்று சொல்லக்கேண்மின்  
 றிகழ்மதியும்வாளரவுந்தினைக்ஞஞ்சென்னி  
 எந்தையார் திருநாமநமச்சிவாய  
 வென்றெழுவார்க்கிருவிசும்பிளி ருக்கலாபே

43. தலையேநீவணங்காய்—தலை—மலை தலைக்கணிந்த  
 தலையாலேபலிதே தருந்தலைவனைத் தலையேநீணங்  
 காய்.

44. கணகாள காண்மின்களோ-கட-னஞ்சுண்டக  
 ண்டன்றன்னை  
 யெண்டோள வீசிநினறடும பிரானறனைக்-க  
 ண்காள் காண்மின்களோ.

42. Thy father, mother, brethren, wife,  
 Ask thyself who are they?  
 Thy children; yea, thy very self,  
 Who art thou, canst thou say?  
 How cam'st thou here, how wilt depart?  
 Love not this world unreal.  
 Ye anxious souls, this lesson learn,  
 To one pure name appeal.  
 Our father He, crowned with the moon  
 And snake. Who Him adore,  
 Prone lying, with "Hail Śiva, hail,"  
 In heav'n live evermore.



Our next hymn with the short-lined verses (nos. 43 to 48) is a kind of Śaivite consecration hymn, mentioning successively various parts of the body—head, eyes, ears—to be given to the worship of Śiva. Verse 46 must sound sadly to a Śaivite, for it is frequently sung in the ears of the dying, as a plaintive appeal to think of God. Verse 47 rises far above the usual ideas of future absorption to the thought of a blissful state of communion with and praise of God.

43. Head of mine,           to Him,  
 True Head, skull garlanded,  
 A skull was His strange begging-bowl,  
 Bow low to Him, my head.
44. Eyes of mine, gaze on Him  
 Who drank the dark sea's bane.  
 Eight arms He brandishes in dance,  
 At Him agaze remain.

54 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

45. செவிகாள் கேண்மின்களோ-சிவ-னெம்மிறை  
ம்பவள  
மெரிபோன் மேனிப்பிரான் றிறமெப்போது  
செவிகாள் கேண்மின்களோ.
46. உற்றாராருளரோ-உயிர்-கொண்டுபோம்பொரு  
குற்றாலத்துறை கூத்தனல்லானமக் குற்றாரா  
ளரோ.
47. இறுமாந்திருப்பன்கொலோ ஈசன்-பல்கண்  
ண்ணப்பட்டுச்  
சிறுமானேந்திதன்சேவடிக்கீழ்ச்சென்றங்  
மாந்திருப்பன்கொலோ
48. தேடிக்கண்டுகொண்டேன்-றிரு-மாலொடுநா  
முகனுந்  
தேடித்தேடொணுத்தேவனையென்னுள்ளோ  
டிக்கண்டுகொண்டேன்.

45. Ears of mine, hear His praise,  
 Śiva, our flaming king.  
 Flaming as coral red His form :  
 Ears, hear men praises sing.
46. What kinsmen in that hour  
 When life departs, have we ?  
 Who but Kuttalam's dancing lord  
 Can then our kinsman be ?
47. How proud shall I be there,  
 One of His heavenly host,  
 At His fair feet who holds the deer,  
 How proud will be my boast !
48. I sought Him and I found.  
 Brahm sought in vain on high.  
 Vishnu delved vainly underground.  
 Him in my soul found I.

---

The mystic can never be a satisfied ceremonialist. These Śaivite devotees commonly praise the god of a particular shrine in language which might suggest that Śiva is only to be found there. And everyone who . . . India remembers the ceaseless streams of pilgrims journeying to the Ganges or the Cauvery (Tamil Kāviri), to Rameśwaram or Cape Comorin or a hundred of . . . holy places. But with a fine inconsistency these . . . singer . . . times point men away from externalities to a worship inward and spiritual; witness the following hymn. As to the term . . . used in v. 50, Vedas are the religious works of the highest authority, Śāstras are philosophical and practical works based on them, while Vēdāngas are sciences subordinate to the Vedas, and there are six of them.

56 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

49. கங்கையாடிவென் காவிரியாடிவென்  
கொங்குதண்குமரித் துறையாடிவெ  
னெங்குமாகடலோ தரீராடிவெ  
னெங்குமீசனெனாதவர்க்கில்லையே.

50. வேதமோதிவென் சாத்திரங்கேட்கிவெ  
னீதிநூலபலநிததலபயிறறிலெ  
னெதியநகமொராறுமுணரிலெ  
னீசனையுள்சுவார்க்கன் றியில்லையே.

51. கானநாகலந் துதிரியிலெ  
னீனமின்றியிருந்தவஞ்செய்யிலெ  
னூனையுண்டலொழிந்துவானேக்கிலெ  
னானென்பவர்க்கன் றிநன்கில்லையே.

52. நனறுநொற்கிலென்பட்டினியாகிலென்  
குன்றமேறியிருந்தவஞ்செய்யிலென்  
கென்மநீரிந்கனிக்குகிரியிலெ

49. Why bathe in Ganga's stream, or Kaviri?  
 Why go to Comorin in Kongu's land?  
 Why seek the waters of the sounding sea?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who call  
 In every place upon the Lord of all.
50. Why chant the Vedas, hear the Śastras' lore?  
 Why daily teach the books of righteousness?  
 Why the Vedangas six say o'er and o'er?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, whose heart  
 From thinking of its Lord shall ne'er depart.
51. Why roam the jungle, wander cities through?  
 Why plague life with unstinting penance hard?  
 Why eat no flesh, and gaze into the blue?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who cry  
 Unceasing to the Lord of wisdom high.
52. Why fast and starve, why suffer pains austere?  
 Why climb the mountains, doing penance harsh?  
 Why go to bathe in waters far and near?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who call  
 At every time upon the Lord of all.

---

It looks like a sudden drop when the same writer in our next hymn seems to say that everything depends upon the pronunciation of the five sacred syllables which can be translated 'Hail, Śiva!' In the later development of Śaivism the pronunciation of these syllables was exalted into a primary religious duty. But in the creative period in which these hymns were written the name probably stood for the person, so

53 சொற்றுணைவேதியன்சோதிவானவன்  
 பொற்றுணை திருந்தடிபொருந்தக்கைதொ  
 கற்றுணைப்பூட்டியொராகடலிறபாயசசினுட  
 நற்றுணையாவதுநமச்சிவாயவே.

54 பூவினுக்கருங்கலம்பொங்குதாமரை  
 யாவினுக்கருங்கலம் ஆரனஞ்சாடுதல்  
 கோவினுக்கருங்கலம்கோட்டமில்லது  
 நாவினுக்கருங்கலநமச்சிவாயவே.

55 வெந நீ னகலமவிர ிகட்கெலா

the Lord' in the devotion of worship. In the first stanza there is a remarkable use of the term 'Word.' Modern Śaivites identify this 'Word' with Uma, Siva's consort. We can compare the Sanskrit Vak (Word) in the Rig Vēda.

The last lines of verse 53 are connected in the minds of Śaivites with a story that Apparswami was actually sunk in the sea by Jain persecutors, with two great stones tied to him, but on crying 'Hail, Śiva!' he floated to the surface.

The five products of the cow referred to in verse 54 are all used together in ceremonial purification—milk, curds, ghee, urine, and dung.

53. O Lord of Scripture, whom the Word doth help,  
Celestial light of heaven, so I but praise,  
With hands meetly upraised, Thy golden feet,  
Then though men tie on me two weighty stones,  
And sink me in the ocean's depth, e'en then  
The cry 'Hail, Śiva,' would salvation be.

54. The lotus is the glory of all flowers ;  
The glory of all kine is Hara's use  
O' that which they put forth. Glory of kings  
Is the unswerving straightness of their deeds.  
But if we ask the glory of the tongue,  
'Tis to cry out aloud, 'Hail, Śiva, hail.'

55. For men who all renounce, 'tis glory true  
To wear the sacred ash. For Brāhmins pure  
The Vēdas and Vēdaṅgas are their pride.  
The white moon's glory is to shine serene  
On the long locks of Śiva, while for us  
True glory is to cry 'Hail, Śiva, hail.'

56 கூர்றாயினவாறுவிலக்ககிலீர் கொடுமைபலசெய்  
 தனநானறியே  
 னேற்றாயடிக்கேயிரவும்பகலும பிரியாதுவணங்கு  
 வனென்பொழுதுந  
 தோற்றாடுதன்வயிற்றினகம்படியே குடரோடுதொ  
 டக்கிமுடக்கியிட  
 ஆற்றேனடியேனதிகைக்கெகடில வீரட்டானத்து  
 றையமமானே.

57 மாதர்ப்பிறைக்கண்ணியானைமலையான்மகளொடும்  
 பாடிப்  
 போதொடுநீர்சுமந்தேத்திப்புருவாரவர்பின்புகு  
 வேன்  
 யாதுஞ்சவடுபடாமலையாறடைகின்றபோது  
 காதனமடபபிடியொடுங்களிறுவருவனகண்டன  
 கண்டேனவாதிருப்பாதங்கண்டறியாதனகண

Tradition connects our next stanza with a story of Apparswami being smitten with an inward disease when he forsook Śaivism and became a Jain. The pain proved, says the legend, a convincing argument which reconverted him, whereupon he was promptly cured. But internal evidence proves this hymn to have been composed long after his return to Śaivism. Nandi is the name of Śiva's bull.

56. Thou takest not my deadly pain away,  
 My torments, Nandi-rider, never cease;  
 At Thy feet would I worship night and day,  
 But since my bowels writhe, and ne'er find peace,  
 I can no more! O Sire, to Thee I cry,  
 Who dwell'st by Keḍila, in Athihai.
- 

ture sometimes spoke to our author of God. The union of sexes even in animals one day spoke to him as a revelation of divine things.

57. I'll follow those who going to the shrine their  
 praises sound,  
 With blooms and water for the god who wears  
 the moon so mild  
 All lovely in His locks, a garland wreathed His  
 neck around,  
 And with Him sing they Parvati, the mountain  
 god's fair child.  
 Once as I went to Aiyaru, with light and  
 reverent tread,  
 I saw come two young elephants, male by  
 loved female led,  
 And in that sight I saw God's foot, saw  
 secret things unsaid.

58 நமபனே யெங்கக் கோவேநாதனையா திமுர்த்தி  
பங்கனே பரமயாகியென நெனறே பரவிநாளு  
செம்பொனே பவளக்குன்றே திகழ்மலர்ப்பாத  
காண்பா  
னன்பனே யலைந் துபோனே னதிசைவீரட்டன

59 பண்ணினேர் மொழியாளுமைபங்கரோ  
மண்ணினார் வலஞ்செய்மறைக்காடரோ  
கண்ணினா லுமைக்காணக்க தவினைத்  
சிண்ணமாகக் கிறந் கருள் செய்ம்மினே.

God is the great yogi, the wielder of mystic powers.

58. "O greatly loved, our King, our Lord, from all eternity,  
 Our portion, our true mystic," thus from day to day I sing.  
 O golden one, O hill of coral, I in love of Thee  
 Have wandered far and wide, Athihai Virattanam's king,  
 Have wandered far the shining blossom of Thy foot to see.



One whole hymn, from which our next verse is taken, is a prayer for the opening of a door. Tradition has it that the great locked temple door at Vedaranyam swung open in answer to this song.

59. Uma is Thy portion whose words are like song.  
 In fair Maraikkāḍu men circle round Thee  
 In worship. O gracious open this door  
 That we Thy true servants Thy glory may see.

Here is a very popular stanza. There used to be a beggar in Madras who recited it, all alone, all day long.

64 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

60 அரியானே யந்தணர்தஞ் சிந்தையானே  
யருமறையி னகத்தானே யணுவையார்க்கு  
தெரியாத தத்துவனைத் தேனைப்பாலேத்  
திகழொளியைத்தேவர்கடங்கோனை மற்ற  
கரியானே நான் முகனைக்கனலை க்காற்றைக்  
கனைகடலைக் குலவரையைக்கலந்துநின்ற  
பெரியானேப்பெரும்பற்றப்புலியூரானேப்  
பேசாதநாளெல்லாம் பிறவானாளே.

61 உழையுரித்த மாணுரிதோலாடையானே  
யுமையவடம்பெருமானே யிமையோரேறே  
கழையி றுத்தகருங்கடனஞ்சுண்டகண்டா  
கயிலாயமலையானே யுன்பாலன்பர்

60. He is ever hard to find, but He lives in the thought  
of the good ;  
He is the innermost secret of Scripture, inscrutable,  
unknowable ;  
He is honey and milk and the shining light. He  
is the king of the Devas,  
Immanent in Vishnu, in Brahma, in flame and in  
wind,  
Yea in the mighty sounding sea and in the moun-  
tains.  
He is the great One who chooses Perumpattapuli-  
yur for His own.  
If there be days when my tongue is dumb and  
speaks not of Him,  
Let no such days be counted in the record of my  
life.
- 

Whatever karma may teach of the inevitable conse-  
quence of evil, devotees hold that they may count on  
receiving divine forgiveness, for which the gracious  
nature of God is a sufficient pledge and guarantee.

61. Thy throat the black sea's poison drank, as 'twere  
ambrosia sweet,  
O deer-skin wearer, Uma's lord, king of the gods  
on high ;  
Kailasa's hill is Thine abode, and when Thy  
lovers cry  
"Forgive our sin," great One, forgiveness is Thy  
duty meet ;  
For with Thee is great grace, lord of celestial  
beings all,  
Who dwell st in Āvaḍuturai, where peacocks  
dance and call.

62 திருக்கோயிலில்லாத திருவி லூருந்  
 திருவெண்ணீ றணியாத திருவி லூரும்  
 பருக்கோடிப்பத்திமையாற் பாடா ஆரும்  
 பாங்கினொடுபலதளிகளில்லா ஆரும்  
 விருப்பாடுவெணசங்கமுதா ஆரும்  
 விதானமும் வெண்கொடியுயில்லா ஆரு  
 அருப்போடு மலர்பறித்திட்டுண்ணா ஆரும்  
 ஆவையெல்லாமுரலவடவிகாடே.

63 திருநாமமஞ்செழுததுஞ் செப்பாராகிற்  
 றீவணணா திறமொருகாற்பேசாராகில  
 ஒருகா லுந்திருக்கோயில் சூழாராகில்  
 உண்பதன்முன் மலர்பறித்திட்டுண்ணாரா  
 அருநோய்கள்கெடவெண்ணீ றணியாராகி  
 லளியற்றார் பிறந்தவாறேதோவென்னிற்  
 பெருநோய்கண்மிகநலியப் பெயர்த்துஞ்செ  
 பிறப்பதற்கே தொழிலாகியிறக்கின்றாரே

64 மககளேமணந்த தாரமவ்வயிற்றவரை யோம்பு  
 சிக்குளையழுந்தியீசன்றிறம்படேன்றவமதோ  
 கொப்புளேபோலகடுகானறி யதனுளேம

The dreadful fate in store for irreligious men that is of being slowly killed by sore sickness, then being born again to a joyless life that circles round once more to death in unending cycles of dreariness.

The 'letters five' in no. 63 refer to the five-syllabled phrase na-mah-Śi-va-ya, whose praise is chanted in vv. 53-55.

62. The ill-starred town without a house of God,  
 Wherein white ash on no man's brow doth glow,  
 The town where pious praises are unsung,  
 Where are no wayside shrines men's faith to show,  
 Where none blow joyfully the conch-shell white,  
 Where spread no canopies, no flags appear,  
 Where none make flowery offerings ere they eat,  
 Call it no town, 'tis but a jungle drear.
63. If men speak not His name in letters five,  
 Nor e'er the fire-formed Śiva's praise repeat,  
 And never walk in reverence round His shrine,  
 And pluck no flowers for offering ere they eat,  
 If they for healing wear no sacred ash,  
 I'll tell you whereunto such men were born,  
 'Twas that foul plagues might torture them to death,  
 Then death bring rebirths endlessly forlorn.
- 

Our last fragment from Apparswami is in the minor key, in which so many of his refrains are pitched. It seems to prove, contrary to tradition, that Appar was once a married man.

64. Immersed in painful cherishing  
 Of child and wedded wife,  
 No room is there in me to feel  
 Thy power, Lord of my life.  
 O whereunto came I to birth?  
 To cherish this false world?  
 Or watch it, bubble-like, appear,  
 Then be to nothing hur'ed?

Ure was under the Jonaiah  
Padhaka, has become out in this  
Sec. Social life has been personified  
in him. What is going and what  
is coming. He is tossing. Siva is  
coming, Jainism decaying. Society was  
A ... in the very root.  
A set of Brahmin gamunda who were  
once ... began ...  
Vambata King. Hence Jainism.

What was Jainism and what  
was its role in the Society that must  
be considered. That was Siva came  
from ... He was no man but  
... of Linga, it was like  
pillar of whose beginning or end could  
not be found out by richun &  
Brahma. And they could not succeed.  
But, how? Linga in the form of  
Siva brought the Brahmin class  
predominant in the Society.

The ideals that has been  
enacted was to create  
...  
... but bondage in  
world and the affluence of the world.





*(By permission of the Director, Colombo Museum)*

**SUNDARAMŪRTI**

SUNDARAMŪRTI SWĀMI  
AND HIS  
HYMNS



### III.

## SUNDARAMŪRTI SWĀMI

(Abbreviated as SUNDARAR)

THE third of these hymn-writers, named in full Sundaramurti Swami, was, like Sambandar, a Brahman. He was born in the South Arcot District, and is generally believed to have flourished in the first quarter of the ninth century A.D. He evidently sat loose to caste scruples, for neither of his two wives was a Brahman. One was a dancing-girl in the Śaivite temple at Tiruvarur, the modern Tiruvalur in the Tanjore District, while the other was a Velala woman of Tiruvottiyur, now a suburb of Madras. His life seems to have been no happier than life in polygamy usually is, and to add to his difficulties he sometimes found himself without food for his ladies to eat. He frankly praised God for what he could get, and on the whole his hymns are on a lower spiritual plane than those of the first two writers, though there are some which bear the marks of real spiritual experience. Of the sixty-three saints whom Śaivites hold in special honour, Sundarar seems to have been the last, for he sang the praises of the other sixty-two.

65 நற்றமிழ்வல்ல ஞானசம்பந்த  
 ஞவினுக்கரையனோப் போவா னுங்  
 கற்றசூதனற்சாக்கியன்சிலந்தி  
 கண்ணப்பன் கணம்புல்லனென்றிவர்கள்  
 குற்றஞ்செய்யி னுங்குணமெனக்கருதுங்  
 கொள்கை கண்டுநிங்குரைகழலடைந்தே  
 பொற்றிரண்மணிக்கமலங்கள்மலரும்  
 பொய்கைசூழ்திருப்புன்கூருளானே.

66 பொன்னூர்மேனியனேபுலித்தேதாலையரைக்கசை

Sundarar, as our first sample of him shews, was not only later than the two authors whom we have been studying; he was the last of the sixty-three canonized saints of Śaivism. A serious weakness of the religion here shews its head. Śiva has his favourites, who can do no wrong. The stanza is given in prose, for these names cannot fit into any English metrical line. The first two will be recognised as names of the poets whose work we have been considering. Nalaippovan is Nandan, the pariah saint. Silandi (= spider) is Kochchengat Chola, who figures largely in early Tamil history.

65. Nānasambandar and Tirunavukkarasar, skilled in the Tamil tongue, Nalaippovan, learned Sudan, Sakkiyan, Silandi, Kannappan, Kanampullan, these may do wrong, but yet Thou count'st it right. Hence have I come to the sounding anklets of Thy feet, O lord of Tiruppungur with its pools where blossoms many a golden lotus gem.
- 

To English ears the metre of the next two verses, which are common favourites, has a curious sound. It is a close reproduction of the Tamil, so close that the tune of the Tamil hymn could be sung to the English words.

66. Golden art Thou in Thy form, girt around with the  
 fierce tiger's skin,  
 Fair shines Thy tangle of hair, crowned with blooms  
 from the kondai's bright tree,  
 Sov'reign. great jewel art Thou, the red ruby of  
 Maḷapāḍi,  
 Mother, on Thee, none but Thee, can my heart  
 evermore fixed be.



67. Clad in the little loin-cloth, my body with holy ash  
white,  
Lo I have come to Thy foot ; O my head, I beseech  
Thee, take me.  
Portion of sword-eyed Umā, Thou red ruby of  
Maḷapāḍi,  
Friend, 'tis on Thee, none but Thee, can my heart  
evermore fixèd be.
- 

Is the Śiva manifested at one shrine so distinct from the Śiva manifested at another as to endanger the unity of God? If tradition is right, the danger is very real, for Sundarar was already worshipping at one shrine, Tiruvottiyur, when he remembered the lord of Arur, and deciding to go to him like a returning prodigal, sang this stanza.

68. Ah sinful, I have left the path of love and service  
pure !  
Now know I well the meaning of my sickness  
and my pain.  
I will go worship. Fool ! how long can I so far  
remain  
From Him, my pearl, my diamond rare, the king  
of great Ārur.
- 

The joy in God which shines in our next hymn evidently rests on some experience of divine grace which we should have liked to hear more definitely described.

69. O madman with the moon-crowned hair,  
Thou lord of men, thou fount of grace,  
How to forget Thee could I bear ?  
My soul hath aye for Thee a place.  
Venney-nallur, in " Grace's shrine "  
South of the stream of Permai, there  
My father, I became all thine ;  
How could I now myself forswear ?

76 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

70 நாயேனபலநான நினைப்பின் நிமன க் துன்னைப்  
பேயாய்த்திரிந்தெய்த்தேன்பெறலாகாவருள்பெற்  
றேன்  
வேயார்பெண்ணைத்தென்பால்வெண்ணெய்நல்லூ  
ருட்டுறையு  
ளாயாவுனக்காளாயினியல்லேனெனலாமே.

71 முடியேனினிப்பிறவேன்பெறின்முவேன்பெற்ற  
மூர்தீ  
கொடியேனபலபாயமேயுரைப்பேனைக்குறிக்  
கொண்ணீ  
செடியார்பெண்ணைத்தென்பாலவெண்ணெய்நல  
லூரருட்டுறையு  
ளடிகேளுனக்காளாயினியல்லேனெனலாமே.

72 மற்றுப்பற்றெனக்கின்றிநின்றிருப்பாதமேமனம்  
பாவித்தேன்  
பெற்றலும்பிறந்தேனினிப்பிறவாததன்மைவந்தெ  
ய்தினேன்  
கற்றவர்தொழுதேத்துஞ்சீர்க்கறையூரிற்பாண்டிக்  
கொடுமுடி  
நற்றவாவுனைநான்மறக்கினுஞ்சொல்லுநாநமச்சி

70. I roamed, a cur, for many days  
 Without a single thought of Thee,  
 Roamed and grew weary, then such grace  
 As none could win Thou gavest me.  
 Venney-nallur, in "Grace's shrine"  
 Where bamboos fringe the Pennai, there  
 My Shepherd, I became all thine ;  
 How could I now myself forswear ?

71. Henceforth for me no birth, no death,  
 No creeping age, bull-rider mine.  
 Sinful and full of lying breath  
 Am I, but do Thou mark me Thine.  
 Venney-nallur, in "Grace's shrine"  
 South of the wooded Pennai, there  
 My Master, I became all thine ;  
 How could I now myself forswear :

---

The varying mood of the saint, now joyous and triumphant, now plaintively looking for death, is reflected in the next two verses from one hymn.

72. Linked to naught else in life, my mind thinks only  
 of Thy holy feet.  
 I'm born anew, from this time forth I pass the  
 way of birth no more.  
 In Koḍumuḍi, lord austere, where wise men Thee  
 with praises greet,  
 Should I forget Thee, my own tongue 'Hail,  
 Si'a' ! crying, would adore.

78 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

73 ஓவுநாளுணர்வழியுநாளுயிர்போகுநாளுயர்பாபை  
மேற்  
காவுநாளிவையென்றலாற்கருதேன்கிளர்புனற்க  
விரிப்  
பாவுதண்புனல்வந்திழிபரஞ்சோதிபாண்டிக்கெ  
டுமுடி  
நாவலாவுணைநான்மறக்கினுஞ்சொல்லுநாநமச்சி  
வாயவே.

74 அந்தணாளனுன் னடைக்கலம்புகுத  
வவனைக் காப்பது காரணமாக  
வந்தகாலன் றனாருயிரதனை  
வவ்வினாய்க்குன்றன் வன்மைகண்டடி  
எந்தைநீயெனைநமன்றமர்நலியி  
லிவன்மற்றென்னடியானெனவிலக்குஞ்  
சிந்தையாலவநதுநறிருவடியடைந்தேன  
செழும்பொழிற்றிறுப்புன்கூருளானே.

73. When will the end draw nigh, sense fade, life  
close, and I the bier ascend?  
This, naught but this, is all my thought. But,  
lord of speech, Thou light on high,  
Where the bright streams of Kaviri to Koḍumuḍi  
coolness lend,  
Should I forget Thee, my own tongue to Thee  
would loud 'Hail, Śiva' cry.
- 

God should deliver His own from death. The appeal here is to the familiar story of Markandeya (see No. 3). Yama is the god of death who gathers in the souls of men.

74. The young saint refuge sought from Death;  
To save him, Thou grim Death did'st slay,  
Such deeds Thy might accomplisheth,  
And I who have beheld them pray  
"O Father, should dread Yama press  
On me, forbid him. 'Tis my slave';  
Do Thou in green Pungur confess.  
I've reached Thy foot, and Thou can'st save."
- 

Sundarar is sure that Śiva will understand his perplexities in supplying the needs of his fair ladies. For does not Śiva Himself bear the burden of two ladies, Pārvatī his consort, and Ganga (lady Ganges) in his hair? Sundarar, in the legend with which these verses are connected, when one of his wives was suffering hunger, miraculously received some uncooked rice from Śiva. This was not enough; to complete the miracle Śiva must remove the rice for him to Arūr the abode of his fair one. This too was done in answer to the hymn of which the next two stanzas are a sample.

80 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

75 நீளநினைநதடியேனுமைநிததலுங்கைகதொழுவேன்  
வாளனகணமடவாளவளவாடிவநநதாமே  
கோளிவியெம்பெருமான்சூண்டையூர்ச்சிலநெல்லு  
ப்பெற்றே  
னாளியெம்பெருமானவையட்டித்தரப்பணியே.

76 பாதியோர்பெண்ணைவைத்தாய்படருஞ்சடைக்கங்  
கைவைத்தாய்  
மாதர்நல்லார்வருத்தமதுநீயுமறிதியன்றே  
கோதில்பொழில்புடைசூழ்குண்டையூர்ச்சிலநெல்  
லுப்பெற்றே  
னாதியேயற்புதனையவையட்டித்தரப்பணியே.

77 தம்மையேபுகழ்ந்திச்சைபேசினுஞ்சார்விலுந்  
தொண்டர்தருகிலாப்  
பொய்ம்மையாளரைப்பாடாதேயெந்தைபுகலூர்பா  
டுமின்புலவீர்கா  
ளிம்மையேதருஞ்சோறுங்கூறையுமேத்தலாமிடர்  
கெடலுமாம்  
அம்மையேசிவலோகமாள்வதற்கியாதுமையுற

75. Ever I think but of Thee ;  
 Daily in worship I bow ;  
 She of the sword-piercing eyes,  
 Leave her not suffering now.  
 Koḷili's lord, Thou didst give  
 Rice in Kuṇḍaiyur this day.  
 No man to bring it have I,  
 Bid it be sent me, I pray.
76. Thou art half woman Thyself ;  
 Ganga is in Thy long hair.  
 Full well canst Thou comprehend  
 Burden of women so fair.  
 Kuṇḍaiyur circled with gems,  
 There didst Thou give rice to-day.  
 Source of all, wonderful one,  
 Bid it be sent me, I pray.
- 

The saint advises his fellow-poets to sing the praises of Śiva rather than the praises of men because they seldom reward the poets. Śiva rewards them here and hereafter. The Pari mentioned in 78 was a chieftain in the Tamil country in the early centuries of our era, famed for his liberality.

77. Though ye fawn on men of lies,  
 They to saints will nothing give ;  
 Sing not them, O poets wise,  
 But if ye would wealth receive  
 Sing the Sire of Puhalur ;  
 Here your wants will be supplied,  
 Pain will flee ; there evermore  
 Ye will kings in heav'n abide.

## 82 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

78 மிடுக்கிலாதானீமனேவி றல்விசயனே வில்லுக்கி  
வனென்று  
கொடுக்கிலாதானீப்பாரியேயென்று கூறினுகொ  
டுப்பாரிலை  
பொடிக்கொள்மேனியெம்புண்ணியன்புகலூரைப்  
பாடுமின்புலவீர்கா  
அடுக்குமேலமருலகமாள்வதற்கியா துமையுற  
வில்லையே.

79 வாழ்வாவது மாயமமிது மண்ணாவது திண்ணம்  
பாழ்போவது பிறவிக்கடல்'பசினோய்செய்தபறிதான்  
றாழாதறஞ் செய்ம்மின்றடங்கண்ணான்மல ரோனுங்  
கீழ்மேலுற நின்றூன்றிருக்கேதாரமெனீரே.

78. Call the weak by Bhīma's name,  
Style him Arjun with his bow,  
Give the mean man Pari's fame,  
Not a gift will he bestow.  
Sing, O bards, our holy God,  
White with ash, in Puhalur.  
In the deathless one's abode  
Ye shall reign for evermore.
- 

Life and experience have no value, no reality. God alone is real, the refuge from the unreal.

79. Our life is all unreal,  
Its end is only dust,  
Out of the sea of birth  
Come ruin, pain and lust.  
Delay not to do good  
But praise Ketaram's king,  
Whom Vishnu and great Brahm  
Vainly sought sorrowing.







*By permission of the Director, Colombo Museum)*

**MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR**

MĀṆIKKA VĀSAHAR

AND HIS

HYMNS

## IV.

### MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR

(Sanskrit form MANIKYA VACHAKA)

IN the days when the powerful Pandyan Kings flourished in Madura, there was once a prime minister who early became convinced of the transitoriness of this world's life and its riches. When on a visit to Perundurai, now Āvudaiyarkoil in the Tanjore District, he suddenly and completely came under the influence of a Brahman religious teacher, who for him was the manifestation of the very God Himself. Then and there he began to sing the "Sacred Utterance" (Tiruvasaham), and was named by his preceptor "Utterer of Jewels" (Manikka Vasahar). Returning to Madura, he forsook his high office with all its rewards, to become a religious poet wandering without earthly attachments from shrine to shrine. The stories clustering around his religious experience can be read by English readers in Dr. Pope's great edition of his work. We find him practising austerities at Chidambaram, or miraculously giving the gift of speech to the dumb daughter of the Chola king, or defeating in disputation a band of Buddhists from Ceylon, but of certain historical information about him we have practically none. Even the question of the century in which he lived is a battleground of the antiquarians. Tradition places him in the fifth century, earlier than the writers of the Devaram ;

but the opinion of scholars seems to be converging on the view that he lived in the latter half of the ninth, or the first half of the tenth century of our era. Another of his works is the Tirukkovaiyar, an erotic poem of four hundred stanzas. Among Tamil Śaivite writers none makes a stronger devotional appeal than Manikka Vasahar. There is a common Tamil saying that nothing can melt the heart of the man who is not melted by the Tiruvāsaham.

80 மெய்தா னரும்பி விதிர்விதிர்த் துன்விரா யார்க  
 ழற்கென்  
 கைதான் றலைவைத்துக் கண்ணீர் ததும்பி வெதும்  
 பியுள்ளம்  
 பொய்தான் றவிர்ந்துன்னைப் போற்றி சயசய போற்  
 றியென்னுங்  
 கைதா னெகிழ விடேனுடை யாயென்னைக் கண்டு  
 கொள்ளே.

81 கொள்ளேன் புரந்தரன் மாலயன் வாழ்வு குடி  
 கெடினு  
 நள்ளே னினதடி யாரொடல் லானர கம்புகினு  
 மெள்ளேன் றிருவரு ளாலே யிருக்கப் பெறி  
 னிறைவா  
 வுள்ளேன் பிறதெய்வ முன்னையல் லாதெங்க ளுத்  
 தமனே.

82 நாடத்தா லுன்னடியார் போனடித்து நானடுவே  
 வீடகத்தே புகுந்திடுவான் மிகப்பெரிதும் விரை  
 கின்றே  
 னூடகச்சீர் மணிசூனற யிடையற வனபுனககென  
 னூடகத்தே நின்றருகத் தந்தருளெம முடை

Stanzas 80-92 are samples from an opening poem of one hundred stanzas, each ten of which has its own metre and is fairly complete in itself. They fairly reflect the saint's varying moods. Notice the importance he attaches to emotion; his worst self-reproach is for feeling no frenzy. As to his conception of God, see how the word 'grace' recurs in nearly every stanza. And yet that God of grace is called (in No. 84) both being and non-existence.

### THE HUNDRED VERSES

80. Thrills and trembles my frame ;  
 Hands are lifted on high ;  
 Here at Thy fragrant feet,  
 Sobbing and weeping I cry ;  
 Falsehood forsaking, I shout,  
 "Victory, victory, praise!"  
 Lord of my life, these clasped hands  
 Worship shall bring Thee always.

81. Indra or Vishnu or Brahm,  
 Their divine bliss crave not I ;  
 I seek the love of Thy saints,  
 Though my house perish thereby.  
 To the worst hell I will go,  
 So but Thy grace be with me.  
 Best of all, how could my heart  
 Think of a god beside Thee ?

---

82. Though like Thy saints I seem, 'tis but the acting  
 of a part.  
 Yet wondrous swift I run to reach the heaven  
 where Thou art.  
 O hill of gold and precious gems, grant in Thy  
 grace to me  
 A heart to melt, lord of my life, in ceaseless  
 love to Thee.

90 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

83 யானே தும் பிறப்பஞ்சேனிற் ப்பதனுக் கென்  
கடவேன்

வானேயும் பெறில்வேண்டேன் மண்ணாள்வான்  
மதித்துமிரேன்

றேனேயு மலர்க்கொன்றைச் சிவனேயெம் பெரு  
மானெம்

மானேயுன் னருள்பெறுநா ளென்றென்றே  
வருந்துவனே .

84 வானாகி மண்ணாகி வளியாகி யொளியாகி  
யூனாகி யுயிராகி யுண்மையுமா யின்மையுமாய்க்  
கோனாகி யானெனதென் றவரவரைக் கூத்தாட்டு  
வானாகி நின்றாயை யென்சொல்லி வாழ்த்துவனே .

85 வெள்ளநகாழ விரிசடையாய் விடையாய் விண்  
னோர்

பெருமானெயெனகடெகட்டுவெட்டநெஞ்சாயப  
பள்ளந்தா மூறுபுனலிற் கீழ்மே லாகப்

பதைத்துருகு மவர்நிற்க வென்னை யாண்டாய்க்  
குள்ளந்தா ணின்றுச்சி யளவு நெஞ்சா

யுருகாதா லுடம்பெல்லாங் கண்ணா யண்ணா  
வெள்ளந்தான் பாயாதா னெஞ்சங் கல்லாங்

கண்ணாணய மரமாநத் னணையி னெறமக .

83. I have no fear of births, but quake at thought that  
 I must die.  
 E'en heav'n to me were naught ; for earth's whole  
 empire what care I ?  
 O Śiva wreathed with honeyed blossoms, " When  
 shall come the morn  
 When Thou wilt grant Thy grace to me ? " I cry  
 with anguish torn.

84. The sky, earth, wind, the light, our very flesh and  
 life art Thou,  
 Being art Thou, non-being too, Thou king, who  
 see'st how  
 Men dance like puppets with their foolish thoughts  
 of ' I ' and ' Mine,'  
 While Thou the cords dost pull. What words can  
 tell Thy praise divine ?

---

85. At sound of cries like this, " O Bull-rider whose  
 spreading hair  
 The falling stream receives ! Heaven's Lord," true  
 devotees there were,  
 Whose love-thrilled heart broke forth, like stopped-  
 up rivers rushing down.  
 Yet Thou didst choose no one of them, but me to  
 be Thine own.  
 And yet my body will not turn from heel to head  
 one heart  
 To melt in love for Thee, one eye to shed the tears  
 that smart  
 In swelling floods. Ah ! wretched that I am, who  
 only moan !  
 My two eyes are unfeeling wood, my heart a great  
 dead stone !

86 வினையிலே கிடந்தேனைப் புசுந்து நின்று  
 போதுநான வினைககெட நெனபாய பே.  
 வினையனா நென்றுன்னை யறிவித் தென்னை  
 யாட்கொண்டெம் பிரானாய்க் கிரும்ப  
 பாவை  
 யனையநான் பாடேனின் றுடே னந்தோ  
 வலறிடே னுலறிடே னாவி சோரேன்  
 முனைவனே முறையோநா னான வாறு  
 முடிவறியேன் முதலந்த மாயினானே .

87 கேடடாரு மறியாதான கேடொன றில்லா  
 களையிலான் கௌடே யெல்லாங் கேட்ட  
 னாட்டார்கள் விழித்திருப்ப னாலத் துள்ளே  
 நாயினுக்குத் தவிசிட்டு நாயி னேற்கே  
 காட்டா தனவெல்லாங் காட்டிப் பின்னிங்  
 கௌா தனவெல்லாங் கேட்பித் தென்னை  
 மீட்டேயும் பிறவாமற் காத்தாட்கொண்டா  
 நெம்பெருமான் செயதிட்ட விச்சை தா

88 தேவர்கோ வறியாத தேவ தேவன்  
 செழும்பொழில்கள் பயந்துகாக் தழிக்கு ம  
 மூவர்கோ னாய்நின்ற முதல்வன் மூர்த்தி  
 மூதாதை மாதாளும் பாகத் தெந்தை

86. Amid the fruits of deeds I lay. Thou didst thyself reveal  
 With words of comfort saying "Come, I will destruction deal  
 To evil fruit of deeds," and thus thou mad'st me all Thy slave.  
 And yet I stand as if a statue made of steel, nor rave,  
 Nor sing, nor cry, nor wail—woe's me—nor in my spirit faint  
 With deep desire, so dull am I. O being ancient, Thou art beginning, Thou art end: tell me, how can I be  
 So dead at heart? The end of this I do not dare to see.

---

87. Him though men seek, none fully know; in Him no evil is.  
 None are His kindred; knowledge perfect, effortless is His.  
 A cur am I, yet He hath giv'n to me in sight of men  
 A place on earth, and shewed me things far beyond mortal ken.  
 He told me what no ears can hear; from future births He sav'd.  
 Such magic wrought my Lord who me hath lovingly enslaved.

88. Our God of gods, whom e'en the devas' king knows but in part,  
 Ruleth the three who in the fair world-gardens life impart,  
 And life maintain, and life destroy; our First, Reality,  
 Father of old, whose consort Uma is, our sovereign, He

யாவாகோ னென்னையும்வந் தாண்டு கொண்டான  
யாமார்களுகு குடியல்லோம் யாது ம சோ  
மேன்னோ மவனடியா ரடியா ரோடு  
மேன்மேலுங் குடைநதாடி யாடு வோமே.

89 செய்வ தறியாச் சிறுநாயேன் செம்பொற் பாத  
மலர்காண்ப்  
பொயயா பெறும்பே றத்தனையும் பெறுதற் குரி  
யேன பொயயிலா  
மெய்யர் வெறியார் மலர்ப்பாத மேவக் கண்டுங்  
கெட்டிருநதும்  
பொயய னேனா னுண்டுத்திங் கிருப்ப தானேன்  
போரேறே.

90 இழித்தன னென்னை யானே யெமபிரான போற்றி  
போற்றி  
பழித்திலே னுன்னை யென்னை யாளுடைப்பாதம்  
போற்றி  
பிழைத்தவை பொறுக்கை யெல்லாம் பெரியவர்  
கடமை போற்றி  
யொழித்திடிவ் வாழ்வு போற்றி யும்பர்நாட் டெம்

Came down in grace and made e'en me to be His  
very own.

Henceforth before no man I bow ; I fear but Him  
alone.

Now of His servants' servants I have joined the  
sacred throng,

And ever more and more I'll bathe in bliss, with  
dance and song.

89. The meanest cur am I ; I know not how to do the  
right ;

'Twere but what I deserve, should'st Thou my  
wickedness requite

With the dread fate of those who never saw Thy  
flowery feet ;

For though mine eyes have seen, my ears have  
heard saints guileless, meet,

Who reached Thy fragrant presence, yet I stay, for  
false am I,

Fit for naught save to eat and dress, Lion of victory.

---

90. None but myself has sunk myself. Thy name be  
ever praised !

No blame lay I on Thee, lauds to my Master be  
upraised !

Yet to forgive is aye a mark of greatness. Praise  
to Thee !

Lord of the land celestial, Praise ! O end this life  
for me.

96 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

91 மாணேர் நொககி யுடையாள பங்கா மறையீ ற,  
மறையோனே  
தேனே யமுதே சிந்தைக் கரியாய் சிறியேன் ட்  
பொறுக்குங்  
கோனே சிறிதே கொடுமை பறைந்தேன் சிவம  
நகர்குறுகப்  
போனா ரடியார் யானும் பொய்யும் பறமே றே  
தோமே.

92 யானே பொய்யென நெஞ்சம் பொய்யென  
னனபும்பொய  
ஆனால் வினையே நழுதா லுன்னைப் பெறலாடே  
தேனே யமுதே கரும்பின் நெளிவே தித்திக்  
மானே யருளா யடியே னுனைவந துறுமாறே.

93 விச்ச தின்றியே விளைவு செய்குவாய்  
விண்ணு மணனக முழுதும் யாவையும்  
வைச்ச வாங்குவாய் வஞ்ச கப்பெரும்  
புலைய னேனையுன் கோயில் வாயிலிற்  
பிச்ச னாக்கினாய் பெரிய வன்பருக்  
சூரிய னக ியை தாம்வ ளர்த்ததோர்

91. The fawn-eyed maid is part of Thee! From  
 holy writ Thou'rt hid!  
 Thou'rt honey, yea ambrosia, by man's mind not  
 compassed.  
 O king who bearest with my faults, some harsh  
 words did I say.  
 Thy saints have entered heaven. Without, false-  
 hood and I still stay.
92. Since I am false, and false my heart, and false my  
 very love,  
 Howe'er I weep, still held by deeds, can I reach  
 Thee above?  
 O honey, nectar, O essential sweetness, great as  
 sweet,  
 Grant grace to me to find the path that leads unto  
 Thy feet.
93. Heav'n, earth, and all that therein is, thou makest  
 without seed.  
 Thou dost preserve and Thou destroy. 'Tis Thou  
 who hast decreed  
 That I though treacherous, mean, should be a man  
 who frenzied faints  
 Before Thy temple gates, one with the band of  
 Thy true saints.  
 What men themselves have planted, e'en a poison-  
 ous mango tree,  
 They root not up. O Lord of mine, as such a tree  
 keep me.

---

Our next five stanzas, taken from a hymn of fifty,  
 are full of the pathos expressed in the refrain, which is a  
 refrain recurring in every verse. Only flashes of the  
 light of the presence of God pierce the prevailing  
 gloom. The saint cannot free himself from mortality,

94 கடையவனேனைக்கருணையினுற்கலந்தாண்டு

காண்ட

விடையவனேவிட்டிடுதிகண்டாய்விற்றல்வேங்கை  
யின்றே

லுடையவனேமன்னுமுததரகோசமங்கைக்கரசே  
சடையவனேதளர்ந்தேனெம்பிரா னென்னைத்தா  
கிக்கொள்ளே.

95 காருறுகண்ணியரைம்புலனாற்றங்கரைமரமாய்

வேருறுவேனைவிடுதிகண்டாய்விளங்குந்திருவா

ருருறைவாய்மன்னுமுத்தரகோசமங்கைக்கரசே

வாருறுபூண்முலையாள்பங்கவென்னைவளர்ப்பவனே

96 மறுததன்னயானுன்னருளறியாமையிலெனம

even while he hates it. He wonders whether even the God who drank poison for others' sake will leave him alone.

## WILT THOU LEAVE ME?

94. Mingling in grace with me, O rider of the bull,  
Thou mad'st me Thine.

But wilt Thou leave me? Thou whose form in  
the fierce tiger's skin is clad,  
Uttarakosamangai old has Thee for king. O lord  
of mine

With matted hair, hold Thou me up; for I am  
weary grown and sad.

95. Set in the marge of flowing stream that eats its  
banks away, the tree

Shakes to its fall; and thus am I, my sense  
bewitch'd by maids' dark eyes.

Uttarakosamangai's king, spouse of gem-vested  
Pārvati.

Who dwell'st in Ārur holy, O protector, for my  
help arise.

96. In ignorance I spurned thy grace. Dost Thou,  
my gem, now me despise,

And wilt thou leave me? O destroy my sum of  
deeds and make me thine.

Uttarakosamaṅgai's king, 'tis surely true, the  
great and wise,

When only little cups play false, to mercy ever  
will incline.

## 100 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

97 எனனை யப்பாவஞ்சலென்பவரின் றிநின்றெய்த்த  
லேந்தேன்  
மினனையொப்பாயவிட்டிடு திகண்டாயுவமிககின  
மெய்யே  
யுன்னையொப்பாய் மன்னுமுத்தரகோசமங்கை  
கரசே  
யன்னையொப்பாயெனக்கத்தொப்பாயென்ன  
பொருளே.

98 ஏசினும்யானுன்னையேத்தினுமென்பிழைக்கேகரு  
ழைந்து  
வேசறுவேனைவிடுதிகண்டாய்செம்பவளவெற்பி  
றேசடையாயென்னையாளுடையாய்சிற்றுயிர்க்க  
ரங்கிக்  
காய்சினவாலமுண்டாயமுதுண்ணக்கடையவ

97. With none to cheer me from my fear, far have I  
 wandered wearily,  
 O Lightning-like, and wilt Thou leave me? If I  
 truly thee compare,  
 Uttarakosamangai's king, I find naught else resem-  
 bling Thee ;  
 But a true father, mother dear art Thou to me,  
 my treasure rare.

98. Whether I praise or curse Thee, still I'm stained  
 with sin and sorrowing.  
 Yet, wilt Thou leave me? Splendour shining  
 like the red-hued coral mount,  
 Master, thou drankest poison black, the humbler  
 beings pitying,  
 That I, Thy meanest one, might find no poison,  
 but a nectar fount.

---

Our poet made songs which maidens might sing in their rhythmical games, or as they sat at the grinding-stone. In India the boatman sings as he rows, the ryot sings as he draws from the well, the sepoy sings on his march. A feature of such songs is the refrain, which is usually a mere collection of euphonic syllables, though it may have a meaning. Here are specimens of a few songs intended for women. The refrain of the first, "Elorembavay" probably means "Receive and ponder what I say, O lady." The Grinding song, strangely enough is used at funerals, as also is the 'Antiphony.' The song of 'The Three Castles' Destruction' is supposed to accompany play with a ball or a kind of shuttle called 'undi.' For the legend of the Three Castles, see page 7. 'The Shoulder-Play' is for some ancient game in which women grasped each other's shoulders.

99 ஸுன்னைப்பழம்பொருட்குமுன்னைப்பழம்பொ  
 ருளே  
 பின்னைப்புதுமைக்கும்பேர்த்துமப்பெற்றியனே  
 யுன்னைப்பிரானாகப்பெற்றவுன்சீரடியோ  
 முன்னடியார்தாள்பணியோமாவங்கவர்க்கேபாங்  
 காவோம்  
 அன்னவரையெங்கணவராவாரவருகந்து  
 சொன்னபரிசேசொதொழும்பாய்ப்பணிசெய்வோம்  
 இன்னவகையே யெமககெங்கோனலகுதியேல  
 ளன்னசுடையிலோமேலோரெம்பாவாய்.

100 உங்கையிற் பிள்ளையுனக்கேயடைக்கலமென்  
 றங்கப்பழஞ்சொற்புதுக்குமெம்மச்சத்தா  
 லெங்கள்பெருமானுனக்கொன்றுரைப்போங்கே  
 ளெங்கொங்கைநின்னனபரலலார்தாளசேரறக  
 வெங்கையுனக்கல்லாதெப்பணியுஞ்செய்யற்க  
 கங்குல்பகலெங்கண்மற்றொன்றுங்காணற்க  
 விங்கிப்பரிசேசெயெமக்கெங்கோனல்குதியே  
 லெங்கெழிலென்ஞாயிறெமக்கேலோரெம்பா  
 வாய்.

101 வேதமும்வேள்வியுமாயினர்க்கு  
 மெயமமையுமபொயமையுமாயினர்க்குச்  
 சோதியுமாயிருளாயினர்க்குத்  
 துன்பமுமாயின்பமாயினர்க்குப்  
 பாதியுமாயமுறறுமாயினர்க்குப்  
 பந்தமுமாயவீடுமாயினருக்  
 காதியுமந்தமுமாயினருக்

## SONG OF THE MAIDENS

99. Older are Thou than the oldest of all,  
 Newest of all that is new.  
 At Thy saints' feet we in service will fall,  
 We are Thy handmaidens true.  
 None but Thy bondsmen shall call us their own ;  
 Lord, we would none others wed ;  
 We would be slaves at their bidding alone :  
 So be our bliss perfected.

Ēlōrembāvāy.

100. "Sure for Thy child there is refuge with Thee,"  
 Trembling we take up the cry.  
 Hear, O our Lord, while we bring Thee one plea,  
 Grant but one boon for our joy.  
 May only Thy lovers rest on our breast,  
 Let our hands' labour be theirs.  
 Only on such our eyes night and day rest,  
 Then sun rise west, east, who cares ?

Ēlōrembāvāy.

## THE GRINDING SONG

101. Grind we the powder gold, that He may bathe ;  
 For He is Scripture, He is sacrifice ;  
 He's being's truth, and being's falsehood too ;  
 Light is He. yea, and He is darkness deep ;  
 He is deep sorrow, and true bliss is He ;  
 He is the half, and I gain the whole ;  
 Bondage is He, but He is true release ;  
 He is the alpha. He the omega.

104 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

102 பூசுவதும் வெண்ணீறு பூண்பதுவும் பொங்கரவம்  
பேசுவதுந் திருவாயான் மறைபோலுங்காணேடி  
பூசுவதும் பேசுவதுமபூண்பதுவுங்கொண்டெனனை  
யீசனவெனவ்வுயிர்க்குமியல்பானான் சாழலோ.

103 என்னப்பெனம்பிரானெல்லார்க்குந்தானீசன்  
றுன்னம்பெய்கோவணமாக்கொள்ளுமதுவென்  
னேடி  
மன்னுகலைதுன்னுபொருண்மறைநான்கேவான்ச  
ரடாத்  
தன்னையேகோவணமாச்சாத்தினன்காண்சாழலோ.

104 கோயில்சுகொடுகொல்புலித்தேதானல்லாடை  
தாயுமிலிதந்தையிலிதான்றனியன்காணேடி  
தாயுமிலிதந்தையிலிதான்றனியனாயிடினுங்  
காயிலுலகனைத்துங்கற்பொடிகாண்சாழலோ.

105 தானந்தமில்லான்றனையடைந்தநாயேனை  
யானந்தவெள்ளத்தழுத்துவித்தான்காணேடி  
யானந்தவெள்ளத்தழுத்துவித்ததிருவடிகள்  
வானுந்துகேவர்கட்கொர்வான்பொருள்காண்சா

## ŚIVA'S MYSTERIES (An Antiphony)

102. " His form is smeared with ashes white ; the  
snake His strange adornment is ;  
The secret scriptures utters He : what kind of  
god, my friend, is this ? "
- " Why talk of ash-smear, holy speech, adornment  
strange ? This only know,  
This god, of every living thing is the true  
nature. Chalalo."
103. " My father and my master, He of all men Lord  
supreme, is clad  
With but a hanging loin-cloth stitched ; pray  
tell me, friend, is He not mad ? "
- " The Vedas four with meaning fraught, the  
everlasting Śastras, know  
That these are but the threads whereof is wove  
His loin-cloth. Chalalo."
104. " The burning-ground's His temple fine ; the  
tiger's skin His raiment is ;  
Father or mother hath He none ; He's all alone ;  
my friend, see this."
- " Though He no parents hath, no kin, yet should  
His anger kindle, lo,  
The whole wide world would straightway turn  
to dust and ashes. Chalalo."
105. " Though I am but a cur, yet when I turned to  
Him who hath no end,  
Into a sea of bliss He made me sink o'erwhelmed ;  
see this, my friend."
- ' Those holy feet that sank thee in the sea of  
bliss o'erwhelmèd know,  
E'en to the very gods in heav'n they're richest  
treasure. Chālālō."

106 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

106 வளைந்த துவில் லுவளைந்த துபூச  
லுவளைந்தன முப்புரமுந்தீபற  
வொருங்குடன் வெந்தவாறுந்தீபற.

107 ஈரம்புகண்டிலமேகம்பர் தங்கையி  
லொரம்பேமுபபுரமுந்தீபற  
வொன்றும்பெருமிகையுந்தீபற.

108 தச்சுவிடுத்த லுந்தாமடியிட்டலு  
மச்சமுறிந்ததென்றுந்தீபற  
வழிந்தனமுப்புரமுந்தீபற.

109 ஏழைத்தொழும்பனெனத்தனையோகால  
லாம்  
பாழுக்கிறைத்தேன்பரம்பரனைப்பணியாடே  
யூழிமுதற்சிந்தாதநன்மணிவந்தென்பிறவி  
தாழைப்பறித்தவாதோனோக்கமாடாமோ

## THE THREE CASTLES' DESTRUCTION

106. Bent was the bow, begun the fight,  
The castles three were 'whelmed quite, (Fly, undī)  
Three castles blazing with one light. (Fly, undī)
107. One bolt in Śiva's hand saw we,  
One single bolt for castles three, (Fly, undī)  
And e'en that one scarce needed He. (Fly, undī)
108. Cleft lay the car at His foot's tread,  
The axle was all shattered, (Fly, undī)  
Three castles ruined lay and dead. (Fly, undī)

## THE SHOULDER-PLAY

109. Poor slave was I, how long I poured out all my  
days for naught,  
To Him the all-supreme no homage rendering!  
Yet see,  
How He, the jewel from eternal ages incorrupt,  
Has come and drawn the prison-bolt of births,  
and set me free.

Play we Tonokkam

---

In the poetry of all lands lovers have appealed to birds to be their messengers to the distant loved one. This is so common in Indian poetry as to have become a recognised convention. Here the sai is his message of love and devotion, in one case by a humming bee, in the other by the Indian cuckoo, to Śiva who dwells in Tillai. *i.e.* Chidambaran.

110 வன்னெஞ்சக்கள் வன்மனவலியனென்னோதே  
கன்னெஞ்சருக்கிக்கருணையினூலாண்டுகொ  
ண்ட

வன்னநதினாகருமணிதிலையம்பலவன  
பொன்னங்கழலுகடுகசென்றூதாய்கொத்த  
தும்பீ.

111 நாயேனைத்தன்னடிகள் பாடுவித்தநாயகனைப்  
பேயேனதுள்ளபிழைபொறுகரும்பெருமை  
யனைச்

சீயேதுமில்லாதெனசெய்பணிகளகொண்டரு  
ளுந்  
தாயானவீசற்கேசென்றூதாய்கொத்தும்பீ.

112 நானுமென்சின்தையுநாயகனுக்கெவ்விடத்தே  
தாநன்னையநாடசடையானாண்டில  
மேனல்

வானுந்திசைகளுமாகடலுமாயபிரான  
றேனுந்துசேவடிக்கேசென்றூதாய்கொத்தும்

113 பொய்யாயசெல்வத்தேதபுக்கழந்திராடோறு  
மெய்யாககருதிககிடநடுதனையாட்கொண்ட  
வையாவென்னூருயிரேயம்பலவாவென்றவன்  
றன்

## THE BRE'S MESSAGE

110. Hard-hearted thief, stiff-necked was I, but no such  
name He called me ;  
My stony heart He melted, and by mercy He  
enthralled me.  
The swans abound in Tillai's lovely hall of gold,  
His dwelling.  
Fly, king of bees, at His gold anklets hum, my  
message telling.
111. Cur though I am, my lord has set me His great  
glory singing ;  
To me, the mad, His patient grace is aye forgive-  
ness bringing ;  
Scorning me not, He deigns to take the service  
I can do Him.  
Mother and God. Go, king of bees, hum thou my  
message to Him.
112. Far would my heart and mind have gone from  
Him, but He compelled me,  
The lord with tangled locks, and His fair spouse,  
they saved and held me.  
He is the sky, the mighty sea, east, west, north,  
south, indwelling.  
His feet with honey drop. There, king of bees,  
my praise be telling.
113. In this world's treasure false immersed lay I, and  
self-deceivèd,  
Held it for treasure true, but for His own He me  
receivèd.  
My precious life itself is He, in Tillai's hall  
abiding.  
Go, king of bees, at His red lotus feet my words  
confiding.

114 தேன்பழச்சோலைபயி லுஞ்சிறுகுயிலேயி து  
கேணீ

வான்பழி த்திம்மண்புகுந் துமனி தரையாட்கொ  
ண்டவள்ள

லூன பழி க துள ள மபுகுந தென னுணாவ துவாய  
வொரு த்தன

மான பழி த்தாண்டமென டொககிமணை னீவ  
ரக்கூவாய்.

115 போற்றியென் வாழ்முதலாகியபொருளே

புலர்ந்த துபூங்கழற்கிணை துணை மலர்கொண்  
டேத்திநின்றிருமுகத்தெமக்கருண்மலரு

மெழினகைகொண்டுநின்றிருவடிதொழுக்கோடு  
சேற்றி தழ்க்கமலங்கண்மலருந்தண்வயல்சூழ்

திருப்பெருந் துறையுறைசீவபெருமானே  
யேற்றுயர்கொடியுடையாயெனையுடையா

யெம்பெருமான்பள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

## THE CUCKOO'S ERRAND .

114. Hear, little cuckoo in the honey'd orchard groves.  
 Heav'n did He spurn ; to save us men, to earth  
     He came,  
 Boundless in giving, recking naught of flesh of  
     mine,  
 Entered my mind, and there my very thought  
     became.  
 He, the alone, the spouse of her whose pure eye's  
     ray  
 Shames the gazelle in softness, call Him hither,  
     pray.
- 

One of the little childishnesses involved in idolatry is that every morning with solemn ceremony the idol must be wakened from his sleep, bathed, and dressed. Here is a song with which he is roused from slumber. But notice how successfully our author has filled his poem with the fresh morning feeling, and the sights and sounds of the sudden break of the Indian dawn.

## THE IDOL'S AWAKENING

115. Hail to Thee, treasure rare,  
     Source of all prosperity,  
 Dawn has come, at Thy feet,  
     Flowers themselves, fair flowers lay we.  
 Praising Thee, we await  
     Smiles that blossom fair and sweet  
 In Thy face, as we fall  
     Prone adoring at Thy feet.
- Śiva, Lord, dweller in  
     Perundurāi, where expand  
 Lotus flowers, petalled white,  
     In the cool moist pasture land,  
 Thou whose flag is the bull,  
     Thou the Lord of all my ways,  
 Now O Lord of us all,  
     From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

## 112 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

116 உரணனிந்திரன் றிசையணுகினனி ருள்போ  
யகனறதுவுதயநினமலா த்திருமுகத்தின்  
கருணையின்சூரியனெழுவெழநயனக்  
கடிமலர்மலரமற்றண்ணலங்கண்ணாந்  
திரணிரையறுபதமுரல்வனவியையோர்  
திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
யருணிதிதரவருமானந்தமலையே  
யலைகடலைபள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

117 கூவினபூங்குயில்கூவினகோழி  
குருகுளியமபினவியமபினசங்க  
மோவினதாரகையொளியொளியுதயத  
தொருப்படுகின்றதுவிருப்பொடுநமக்குத்  
தேவநற்செறிகழற்றாளிணைகாட்டாய்  
திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
யாவருமறிவரியாயெமக்கெளியா  
யெமபெருமானபள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே

116. Now anigh Indra's East  
 Draws the sun ; dark flies apace  
 At the dawn ; and the sun  
 Of the kindness in Thy face  
 Riseth high'r, ever high'r,  
 As like fair flowers opening,  
 Eyes uncloze from their sleep,  
 Eyes of Thee our beauteous king.

Hear how now clouds of bees  
 Humming bright fill all the air.  
 Śiva, Lord, dweller in  
 Holy Perundurai fair,  
 Thou wilt come to bestow  
 Favours rich, Oh shew Thy face !  
 Mountain-joy, ocean-bliss,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

117. Cocks now crow to the morn,  
 While the cuckoos loudly call ;  
 Little birds sweetly sing,  
 And the conch-shell sounds o'er all ;  
 Light of stars fades away  
 Into common light of day ;  
 Dawn and sun come as one,  
 Now to us, O God, display

In Thy love Thy twin feet,  
 Gracious, decked with anklets rare.  
 Śiva, Lord, dweller in holy Perundurai fair,  
 Hard for all men to find,  
 Yet to me Thou shewedst Thy face.  
 Now O Lord of us all,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

118 இன்னிசைவீணையரியாழிநரொருபா  
 விருககொடுதோததிரமியம்பினரொருபாற  
 றுன்னியபிணைமலாககையினரொருபாற  
 றொருகையரமுகையாதுவளகையரொருபாற  
 சென்னியிலஞ்சலிகூப்பினரொருபாற  
 றிருப்பெருந் துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
 யெனணையுமாணடுகொண்டிநனருளபுரியு  
 மெம்பெருமான் பள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

119 உடையாளுன்றனடுவிருக்குமுடையாணடுவுண்  
 யிருத்தி  
 யடியெனடுவுளிநுவீருமிருப்பதானாலடியேனுன  
 னடியாராடுவுளிருக்குமருளைப்புரியாய்பொன  
 னம்பலத்தெம்  
 முடியாமுதலையெனகருத்துமுடியுமவண்ண

118. On this side some men play  
 Lutes and vīnas sweet of sound ;  
 On that side some men chant  
 Ancient Rik, their songs resound ;  
 In their hands some have brought  
 Wreaths of many blossoms wove ;  
 Some bow down, some men weep,  
 Some men sway, o'ercome by love ;

Clasping hands o'er their heads,  
 Others stand with reverent air ;  
 Śiva, Lord, dweller in  
 Holy Perundurai fair,  
 Even me didst thou save ;  
 Sweet to me have been Thy ways.  
 Now, O Lord of us all,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

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The rest of our specimens of the ' Holy Utterances ' may be left to explain themselves without comment, save for a single line of title. Where two or more stanzas are given from a poem, the title here given is a translation from the Tamil.

### ONLY WITH THEE AND THY SAINTS!

119. Our lady eye is in Thy heart,  
 As Thou in hers ; and if ye both  
 In mine do dwell, grant me a part  
 Among your slaves, O ever First.  
 Unending lord, in Tillai's ha' l who dost abide,  
 Let this deep yearning of my soul be satisfied.

120 தந்ததுன்றன்னைக்கொண்டதென்றனைச்  
 சங்கராவார்கொலோசதுர  
 ரந்தமொன்றில்லாவானந்தம்பெற்றே  
 னியாதுநீபெற்றதொன்றென்பாற்  
 சிந்தையேகோயில்கொண்டவெம்பெருமான்  
 றிருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 யெந்தையேயீசாவுடலிடங்கொண்டா  
 யானிதற்கிலஞ்சைக்கைம்மாறே.

121 வெஞ்சேலனையகண்ணூர் தம்வெகுளிவலையிலகப்  
 பட்டு  
 நைஞ்சேனையேனானசசுட ரொநாரோதுண்கா  
 ணேன்  
 பஞ்சேரடியாள்பாகத்தொருவாபவளத்திரு  
 வாயா  
 லஞ்சேலென்னவாசைப்பட்டேன்கண்டாயம்  
 மாணே.

122 பாரொடுவிண்ணாய்ப்பரந்தவெம்பரனே  
 பற்றுநான்மற்றிலேன்கண்டாய்  
 சீரொடுபொலிவாய்சிவபுரத்தரசே  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 யாரொடுநோகேனூர்க்கெடுத்துரைக்கே  
 ணண்டநீயருளிலையானால்  
 வார்கடலுலகில்வாழ்கிலேன்கண்டாய்  
 வருகவென்றருள்புரியாயே.

## WHAT CAN I GIVE THEE?

120. Thou gav'st Thyself, Thou gained'st me ;  
 Which did the better bargain drive ?  
 Bliss found I in infinity ;  
 But what didst Thou from me derive ?  
 O Śiva, Perundurāi's God,  
 My mind Thou tookest for Thy shrine :  
 My very body's Thine abode :  
 What can I give Thee, Lord, of mine ?
- 

## PASSION'S PAIN

121. Caught am I in passion's snare from women's  
 liquid eyes ;  
 Stabbed at heart, a cur. O wisdom's light,  
 no aid I see.  
 Only lord, whose lady's feet are softer than the  
 down,  
 How I long to hear Thy coral lips speak cheer  
 to me.

## LONGINGS FOR DEATH

122. Our lord supreme, both earth and heav'n indwelling,  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Śiva's world, bright beyond telling,  
 Dweller in Perundurāi, look on me.  
 Who'll hear my cry, who list to my complaining,  
 If Thou Thy grace deny, who saved'st me ?  
 I find in sea-girt earth no joy remaining.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

123 பஞ்சினமெல்லடியாள் பங்கநீயல்லாற்  
 பற்றுநான் மற்றிலைன்கண்டாய்  
 செஞ்சவேயாண்டாயசிவபுரத்தரசே  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 யஞ்சினேனாயேனாண்டுநீயளித்த  
 வருளினைமருளினை மறந்த  
 வஞ்சனனிங்குவாழ்கிலனகண்டாய்  
 வருகவென்றருள் புரியாயே.

124 பழுதினெல்லபுகழாள் பங்கநீயல்லாற்  
 பற்றுநான் மற்றிலைன்கண்டாய்  
 செழுமதியணிந்தாய்சிவபுரத்தரசே  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 தொழுவனே பிரரைத்ததிப்பனேவெனகட்கார  
 துணையென நினைவனே சொல்லாய்  
 மழவிடையானே வாழ்கிலனகண்டாய்  
 வருகவென்றருள் புரியாயே.

125 பிணக்கிலாதபெருந்துறைப்பெரு  
 மாணுன்மைங்கள்பேசுவார்க்  
 கணக்கிலாததோரினபமேவருந்  
 துன்பமேதுடைத்தெம்பிரா  
 னுணக்கிலாததார்வித்துமேல்வினா  
 யாமலெனவினையொத்தபிண

123. In Thee she dwells whose feet than down are softer ;  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Śiva's world, my gracious master,  
 Dweller in Perundurai, look on me.  
 Fear holds me ; for, in dark confusion godless,  
 I did forget the grace that saved me.  
 Dog and deceitful am I. Life is joyless.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

124. In Thee she dwells whose ancient praise is faultless ;  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Śiva's world, the bright moon  
 wearing,  
 Dweller in Perundurai, look on me.  
 Whom save Thee could I worship with my  
 praises ?  
 Can any other refuge give for me ?  
 O Rider of the bull, my life is joyless.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

---

#### THE BALANCING OF DEEDS

125. O lord of Perundurai, place of peace,  
 To them who call Thy name, beyond compare  
 True joy art Thou. Thou mad'st my woe to  
 cease  
 When good and ill deeds done were balanced fair.  
 Then lest unwith'ring seeds of birth should  
 grow,  
 In Kalukundu Thy fair self didst shew.

120 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŚAIVITE SAINTS

- 126 எனனைநானென்பதறியேன்பகலிரவாவதுமறியேன்  
மனவாசகங்கடந்தானெனைமத்தேதான்மத்தனாக்  
கிச்  
சினமாலவியுடையானமன் னுதிருப்பெருந்து  
றையுறையும்  
பனவெனைச்செய்தபடிறறியேன்பரஞ்சுடரே.
- 127 வேண்டேன்புகழ்வேண்டேன்செல்வம்வேண்டே  
ன்மண் னும்விண்ணும்  
வேண்டேன்பிறப்பிறப்புச்சிவம்வேண்டார்தமை  
நானாந்  
தீண்டேன்சென்றுசேர்ந்தேன்மன்னு திருப்பெ  
ருந்துறையிறைதாள்  
பூண்டேன்புறம்போகேனிணிப்புறம்போகலொட்  
டேனே.
- 128 கோற்றேனெனக்கென்கோசுரைகடல்வாயமு  
தென்கோ  
வாற்றேனென்களரனையருமருந்தேயெனதரசே  
சேற்றார்வயல்புடைசூழ்தருதிருப்பெருந்துறை  
யுறையு  
நீற்றார்தருதிருமேனிநின்மலனையுனையானே.
- 129 வான்பாவியவுலகத்தவர்தவமேசெயவவமே  
யுனபாவியவுடலைச்சுமந்தடவிமரமானேன  
றேன்பாய்மலர்க்கொன்றைமன்னுதிருப்பெருந்  
துறையுறையாய்  
நான்பாவியனானுனைநல்காயெனலாமே.

## LIFE'S CONSUMING

126. Myself I cannot understand, nor what is day nor  
 night ;  
 He who both word and thought transcends has  
 reft my senses quite,  
 He who for bull has Vishnu, and in Perundurai  
 dwells,  
 O Light supreme, in Brahman guise has cast on  
 me strange spells.
127. I ask not fame, wealth, earth or heav'n. No  
 birth, no death for me.  
 None will I touch who love not Śiva. Now 'tis  
 mine to see  
 Abiding Perundurai, wear the King's foot as my  
 crown ;  
 Never will I leave this His shrine, nor let Him  
 leave His own.
128. Art Thou like honey on the branch too high for  
 me to climb ?  
 Or art Thou nectar ocean-churned ? O Hara,  
 King sublime,  
 In Perundurai, circled with moist fields, I can see  
 Thee  
 With form ash-smear'd, the spotless. Can I bear  
 my ecstasy ?
129. Many in this great earth who live do penance ; I  
 alone  
 Bearing this frame of flesh, a barren jungle-tree  
 have grown.  
 Dweller in Perundurai old where blooms the  
 kondai tree,  
 May I the sinner cry " Wilt Thou not grant  
 Thyself to me " ?

130 புற்றில்வாளரவுமஞ்சேன் பொய்யர் தம்மெய்  
 மஞ்சேன்  
 கற்றைவார்சடையெம்மண்ணல்கண் ணு தல்த  
 தநண்ணி  
 மற்றுமோர்தெய்வந்தன்னை யுண்டெனநினைந்  
 தெமபெமமாற  
 கற்றிலாதவரைக்கண்டாலம்மநாமஞ்சுமாரே

131 வன்புலால்வே லுமஞ்சேன் வளைக்கையார்களை  
 கணஞ்சே  
 நென்பெலாமுருகநோக்கியம்பலத்தாடுகின்  
 வென்பொலாமணியையேத்தியினிதருள்பரு  
 மாட்டா  
 வன்பிலாதவரைக்கண்டாலம்மநாமஞ்சுமாரே

132 உம்பர்கட்கரசேயொழிவறநிறைந்த  
 யோகமேயூற்றையேன்றனக்கு  
 வம்பெனப்பழுத்தென்குடிமுழுதாண்டு  
 வாழ்வறவாழ்வித்தமருந்தே  
 செம்பொருட்டுணிவேசீருடைக்கழலே  
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 நெனகெழுந்தருளுவதினியே.

## PIOUS FEAR

130. I fear not serpents lurking smooth ;  
 I fear no liars' feigned truth ;  
 But when I see fools venturing  
 E'en to the foot of Him our king,  
 Our three-eyed Lord with matted hair,  
 Of His great godhead unaware,  
 Fools thinking other gods can be,  
 Terror such sight inspires in me.

131. I fear no javelin's gory blade ;  
 Nor sidelong glance of bangled maid ;  
 But when I see men void of grace  
 Drinking no sweetness from the praise  
 Of my unchiselled Gem, whose dance  
 In Tillai's hall is seen, whose glance  
 Melts men's whole frame in ecstasy,  
 Terror such sight inspires in me.

## I CLING TO THEE

King of the heavenly ones ! All-filling Excellence !  
 E'en to vile me Thou Thy wonders hast shown ;  
 Balm of true bliss, ending false earthly bliss of  
 sense,

Thou my whole household did'st take for Thine  
 own.

Meaning of holy writ ! Wondrous Thy glory !  
 True wealth, our Siva, to Thee, Lord, I cling.  
 Never to loose my hold, firmly I cling to Thee ;  
 Where canst Thou go, leaving me sorrowing ?

133 விடைவிடா துகந்தவிண்ணவர்கோவே  
 வினையென னுடையமெய்ப்பொருளே  
 முடைவிடாதடியேன் மூத்தறமண்ணாய்  
 முழுப்புழுக்குரம்பையிற்கிடந்து  
 கடைபடாவண்ணங்காத்தெனையாண்ட  
 கடவுளே கருணைமாகடலே  
 யிடைவிடா துனைச்சிககெனப்பிடித்தே  
 னெங்கெழுந்தருளுவதினியே .

134 புன்புலால்யாக்கைகபுரைபுரைகனியப்  
 பொன்னெடுங்கோயிலாப்புசுந்தென்  
 னெனபெலாமுருககியெளியையாயாண்ட  
 வீசனே மாசிலாமணியே  
 துன்பமேபிறப்பேயிறப்பொடுமயக்காந்  
 தொடக்கெலாமறுத்தநற்சோதி  
 யினபமெயுனைச்சிககெனப்பிடித்தே  
 னெங்கெழுந்தருளுவதினியே .

135 உற்றாரையான்வேண்டே னூர்வேண்டேன்பேர்  
 வேண்டேன்  
 கற்றாரையானவண்டேனகற்பனவுமினியமை  
 யுங்  
 குற்றாலத்தமர்ந் துறையுங்கூத்தாவுன்குரைக  
 ழற்கே  
 கற்றாவின்மனமொபாலககசிந் தாகவேண்டுவவே

133. King of celestial ones, ever with bull for steed,  
 Evil am I, yet my riches art Thou ;  
 Lest I should rot in my foul flesh, and die indeed,  
 Thou hast preserved me, and Thine am I now.  
 Thou'art our God ; Thou of grace art a boundless  
     sea,  
 Saved from my flesh, now to Thee, Lord, I cling.  
 Never to let Thee loose, firmly I cling to Thee ;  
 Where can'st Thou go, leaving me sorrowing ?
134. Thou did's't come into my vile fleshly body,  
 E'en as 'twere into some great golden shrine ;  
 Soft'ning and melting it all, Thou hast saved me,  
 Lord condescending, Thou gem all divine !  
 Sorrow and birth, death, all ties that deceived me,  
 Thou did'st remove, all my bonds severing ;  
 True bliss, our kindly Light, firmly I cling to  
     Thee ;  
 Where canst Thou go leaving me sorrowing ?

### NAUGHT BUT THY LOVE

135. I ask not kin, nor name, nor place,  
     Nor learnèd men's society.  
 Men's lore for me no value has ;  
     Kuttalam's lord, I come to Thee.  
 Wilt thou one boon on me bestow,  
     A heart to melt in longing sweet,  
 As yearns o'er new-born calf the cow,  
     In yearning for Thy sacred feet ?

136 சீலமின் றிநோன்பின் றிச்செறிவேயின் றியறிவின்  
 றித்  
 தோலின்பாவைக்கூத்தாட்டாய்ச்சுழன் றுவிழு  
 துகிடப்பேனை  
 மா லுங்காட்டிவழிகாட்டிவாராவுலகநெறியேற  
 கோலங்காட்டியாண்டாணக் கிடையேனென்  
 டே கூடுவதே.

137 முத்திநெறியறியாதமுர்க்கரொடுமுயல்வேனை  
 பத்திநெறியறிவித்துப்பழவினைகள் பாறும்வண்  
 ணஞ்  
 சித்தமலமறுவித்துச்சிவமாக்கியெனையாண்ட  
 வத்தெனனக்கருளியவாரூர்பெறுவாரச்சோடு

138 நெறியலலாநெறிகண்ணெறியாகநினைவேனை ச  
 சிறுநெறிகள்சேராமேதிருவருளேசேரும்வண்ண  
 குறியொன்றுமில்லாககூக்கன்றன்கூக்கையெ

## LONGING FOR UNION

136. I had no virtue, penance, knowledge, self-control.  
 A doll to turn  
 A. others will I danced, whirled, fell. But me  
 He filled in every limb  
 With love's mad longing, and that I might climb  
 there whence is no return,  
 He shewed His beauty, made me His. Ah me,  
 when shall I go to Him ?

## THE WONDER OF GRACE

137. Fool's friend was I, none such may know  
 The way of freedom ; yet to me  
 He shew'd the path of love, that so  
 Fruit of past deeds might ended be.  
 Cleansing my mind so foul, He made me like  
 a god.  
 Ah who could win that which the Father hath  
 bestowed ?
138. Thinking it right, sin's path I trod ;  
 But, so that I such paths might leave,  
 And find His grace, the dancing God,  
 Who far beyond our thought doth live,  
 O wonder passing great!—to me His dancing  
 shewed.  
 Ah who could win that which the Father hath

# APPENDIX I

## SHRINES MENTIONED IN THESE POEMS

- Aduturai, or Avaduturai, in Tanjore District, now a station on the South Indian Railway.
- Aiyaru, twelve miles from Tanjore.
- Alavay, or Uttarakosaimangai, Madura.
- Annamalai, or Tiruvannamalai, in South Arcot District.
- Arur, Tiruvallur, Tanjore District.
- Athihai Virattanam, South Arcot District.
- Bramāpuram, Shiyali, Tanjore District.
- Chenkāttankudi
- Chidambaram, or Tillai, or Perumpattapuliyur, in S. Arcot District, the most venerated place of Saivism.
- Chola, one of the three great kingdoms into which the ancient Tamil country was divided.
- Comorin, extreme southern point of India, still a great place of pilgrimage.
- Dharmapuram, near Tranquebar, Tanjore District.
- Kaviri, or Cauvery, the most sacred river in South India.
- Kachchi Ehambam, or Kanchipuram, the modern Conjeeveram, in North Arcot District.
- Kedila
- Kētāram
- Kodumudi, near Erode, Coimbatore District.
- Kolili, near the modern Tiruvallur, Tanjore District.
- Kongu
- Kundaiyur, near Tiruvallur, Tanjore District.
- Kuttalam, Tanjore District.
- Malapadi, South Arcot District, near Trichinopoly.
- Maraikkadu, the modern Vetharanim, Tanjore District. Curiously enough, the modern name is the Sanskrit translation of the Tamil, meaning 'Forest of the Vedas,' *i.e.*, lonely place where Vedas are studied.
- Maruhal, on the Cauvery River, Tanjore District.
- Neyttanam, on the Cauvery River, Tanjore District.
- Ottiyur, better known as Tiruvottiyur, a few miles north of Madras, now practically a suburb.
- Palanam, Tanjore District.
- Perumpattapuliyur, see Chidambaram.
- Perundurāi, Āvudaiyārkoil, Tanjore District.
- Puhalūr
- Pūngur, seven miles from Shiyali, Tanjore District.
- Pūnturutti
- Puvanam, twelve miles from Madura.
- Tillai, see Chidambaram.
- Tiruputtur, Ramnad District, near Pudukottah.
- Tiruvannamalai, see Annamalai.
- Tiru Neyttanam, see Neyttanam.
- Tūngānaimādam
- Uttarakosamangai, Ramnad District.
- Valivalam, on the Cauvery, Tanjore District.
- Venneyvallur, South Arcot District.

*N.B.*—"Tiru" is an epithet meaning "Holy," but where it has become practically part of the place-name, that name is given in this list as if it began with T.

## APPENDIX II

### SYSTEM OF TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION OF TAMIL LETTERS

Tamil	Sanskrit	English	Pronunciation (approximate)
அ	अ	a	u in punch
ஆ	आ	ā	ā in rather
இ	इ	i	i in sit
ஈ	ई	ī	ī in clique
உ	उ	u	u in full
ஊ	ऊ	ū	ū in rule
எ	ए	e	e in fed
ஏ	ऐ	ē	a in fable
ஐ	अइ	ai	ai in aisle, but much shorter
ஓ	ओ	o	o in mobility
ஔ	औ	ō	ō in noble
ஐ	औ	au	ow in cow

### CONSONANTS

*N.B.*—The Tamil alphabet is not fully phonetic as are the Sanskrit and the other Dravidian alphabets. Several letters indicate different sounds in different connections.

Letter	1. When mute 2. In the beginning of a word 3. After a hard consonant	After a soft consonant	In other places	Remarks
க	k (क)	g (ग)	h (ह)	Guttural. This is pronounced as a palatal sibilant. Cerebral, far back in the palate. Dental purer than English dentals.
ச	ch (च)	j (ज)	s (स)	
ட	ṭ (ट)	ḍ (ड)	ḍ	
த	t (त)	d (द)	th	
ப	p (प)	b (ब)	p	Labial. Hard palatal ʃ, peculiar to Tamil as pronounced after a soft consonant.
஠	ṭ	ḍ	ṛ	

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Tamil	Sanskrit	Transliteration	Pronunciation (approximate)	Remarks
ங்	ङ्	ṅ (before g)	n in singing	guttural n palatal n cerebral n
ஞ்	ञ्	ñ	n in ginger	
ண்	ण्	ṇ	n stopped as far back as possible	
க் & ண்	क्	n	as in English	Peculiar to Tamil
ம்	म्	m	as in English	
ய்	य्	y	as in English	
ர்	र्	r	as in English (when soft)	
ல்	ल्	l	as in English	
வ்	व्	v	as in English, but not so firm	
ழ்	—	ḷ	r pronounced with the tongue as far back in the throat as possible.	
ள்	ळ्	ḷ	ḷ pronounced by the palate	palatal ḷ

Sanskrit words, unless they have become modified by long Tamil usage, as, for example, in the author's name Manikka Vasahar, are transliterated according to Sanskrit pronunciation, on the system used in other books in this series, the Sanskrit alphabet being represented as follows :—

k	kh	g	gh	ṅ
ch	chh	j	jh	ñ
ṭ	ṭh	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ
t	th	d	dh	n
p	ph	b	bh	m
y	r	l	v	
ś	sh	s	h	
ṛi	m	ḥ		

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