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tiruvAcakam -part I **English Translation, Commentary of** **(late) Rev.G.U. Pope**

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You are welcome to freely distribute this file, provided this header page is kept intact. Editorial Note on this release: Rev. Pope has used transliterated form with diacritical markers to cite many Tamil words with grantha characters

(such as the first letter of Civan marked with C-cedilla). To render the English translation using lower case ASCII characters, we have used the following transliteration scheme with upper-case C for C-cedilla (for the first letter of Civan):

Vowels: a A i I u U e E ai o O au H;

Consonants: k ng c nj T N t n p m y r l v
z L R n2

Grantha: j S s h kS SRI

**tiruvAcagam or Sacred Utterances
of the Tamil Poet, Saint and Sage
MANikka-vACagar**

by

Rev.G.U.Pope

Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1900

(part I - Hymns 1 -10)

HYMN 1 (civapurANam)

Civan's way of Old (or) Civan's Course from Everlasting

This has always been considered the first of MANikka-vACagar's poems, and it has all the characteristics of a preface, as enumerated in the NannUl; but its very technical completeness makes its genuineness doubtful; and it rather appears to have been added by the Tillai assembly when the lyrics of the Saint were first collected. In the VATHavUrar purANam(V II) it is said that after the divine Master had returned to Kailacam, the sage with the 999 devotees remained under the Kurunthu tree at Perunn-turrai, where the God had first appeared to him; erected a shrine there, and spent this time in adoration and praise, until his fellow-worshippers passed through the fire to Civan, leaving him alone. To this,

the first period of his religious history, the following three poems belong; and also according to tradition, lyrics 19, 20, 23-29, 32-34, 36, 38, 39, 41-48, and perhaps a few others.

Here all the Tamil lines are of four feet, except the last, which has three only.

The connection is VeNTaLai. The metre is veng-kalipA.

SALUTATIONS

Hail, the five letters! Hail, foot of the Lord !

Hail, foot of Him Who not for an instant quits my heart !

Hail, foot of the Guru-pearl that rules in GOgari !

Hail, foot of Him Who becomes, abides, draws near as the Agamam !

Hail, foot of Him, the One, the Not-One, and the King ! (5)

Victory to the foot of the King, who
soothed my soul's unrest and made me
His !

Victory to the jewelled foot of Pinnagan,
who severs continuity of birth !

Victory to the flower-foot of Him Who
is far from those without !

Victory to the anklets of the King,
rejoicing 'mid those that fold adoring
hands !

Victory to the anklets of the glorious
One, who uplifts those that bow the head
! (10)

Praise to the foot of ICan ! Praise to my
Father's foot !

Praise to the foot of the Teacher ! Praise
to Civan's roseate foot !

Praise to the foot of the Stainless, who in
love stood near !

Praise to the foot of the King, who cuts

off delusive birth !

Praise to the foot of glorious Perun-
turrai's God ! (15)

Praise to the Mount, in grace affording
pleasures that cloy not !

INTRODUCTION

Because He, Civan, within my thought
abides,

By His grace alone, bowing before His
feet,

With joyous thought, Civan's 'Ways of
Old' I'll tell,

That thus my former 'deeds' may wholly
pass. (20)

I came, attained the grace the 'Brow-
eyed' showed,

Adored the beauteous foot by thought
unreached.

O Thou, Who fill'st the heaven, Who
fill'st the earth, art manifested light,

Transcending thought, Thou boundless
One ! Thy glory great
I, man of evil 'deeds' know not the way
to praise ! (25)

HIS VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS

Grass was I, shrub was I, worm, tree,
Full many a kind of beast, bird, snake,
Stone, man, and demon. 'Midst Thy
hosts I served.

The form of mighty Asuras, ascetics,
gods I bore.

Within these immobile and mobile forms
of life, (30)

In every species born, weary I've grown,
great Lord !

HE FOUND THE MASTER

Truly, seeing Thy golden feet this day,
I've gained release.

O Truth! as the OngAram dwelling in
my soul,

That I may 'scape. O spotless one ! O
Master of the bull !
Lord of the VEdas! Rising, sinking,
spreading, subtile One ! (35)
Thou art the heat ! and Thou the cold !
the Master Thou, O spotless One !
Thou can'st in grace, that all things false
might flee,
True Wisdom, gleaming bright in
splendour true,
To me, void of all wisdom, blissful Lord
!
O Wisdom fair, causing unwisdom' self
to flee far off ! (40)

CIVAN'S FIVE OPERATIONS

Thou know'st no increase, measure, end
! All worlds
Thou dost create, protect, destroy, enrich
with grace,
Release. Thou causeth me to enter 'mid
Thy servant band.

More subtile Thou than fragrance.
Thou'art afar, art near.
Thou art the Mystic word, transcending
word and thought. (45)
As when are mingled milk, sweet juice
of cane and butter,
Thou dost distil, like honey, in the
thought of glorious devotees,
And cuttest off the continuity of births -
our mighty One !

HUMAN EMBODIMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT BY GRACE

Thou hast the colours five ! While
heavenly ones extolled
Thou didst lie hid, our mighty Lord ! In
the strong grasp of deeds, (50)
I lay, hidden amid illusion's shrouding
gloom.
Thou binding with rare cords of virtue
and of sin,
Didst clothe with outer skin, enveloping

with worms and filth, -
Within my nine-gated dwelling foul
bewildered,
By the five senses sore deceived, - (55)
To me, mean as I was, with no good
thing, Thou didst grant grace,
That I, with mind erewhile embruted, -
pure one ! - should
Become commingling love, in soul-
subduing rapture melt !
Thou cam'st in grace on this same earth,
didst show Thy mighty feet
To me who lay mere slave, - meaner
than any dog, - (60)
Essential grace more precious than a
mother's love !

EPITHETS OF PRAISE

Spotless splendour ! Brightness of full-
blown flower !
O Teacher ! Honied ambrosia ! Lord of
Civa-town !

O venerated One, Guardian, Looser of
PAcam's tie,
Working in grace of love, that in my
mind delution may die out ! (65)
Great river of exceeding tenderness,
with ceaseless flow !
Ambrosia that satiates not ! Infinite,
almighty Lord !
Light unseen that lurks within the souls
that sought Thee not !
Thou Who abidest in my soul, till
melting waters flow !
Thou Who art without pleasure or pain,
Who yet hast both ! (70)
Loving to loving ones ! Effulgent One,
Who all things art,
And their negation too ! Great Master,
whom no darkness gathers round !
First One, Thou'rt End and Midst, and
art devoid of these !
Father, Lord, Who drew'st, and mad'st
me Thine !

Eye of the minds that see by keenest
glance of wisdom true, (75)
Hard to be eyed ! Subtle understanding,
none can scrutinize !
Holy ! Who comest not, nor goest, nor
mingling liv'st !
Guardian who guardest us ! Great Light
whom none can see !
Flood of delight ! Father ! Light of all
passing splendours
That appear ! Unutterably subtle
Intellect ! (80)
Of all that in this world diverse
pronounced as truth
Is known, Thou art the knowledge sure !
Full certitude !
Precious ambrosia, fountain welling up
within ! My Owner Thou !

PASSIONATE INVOCATION

I can't endure, our Guru, in this changing
straitened frame to 'bide.

Aran! All Thy saints made true invoke
Thee, (85)

Worshipping abide, and praising Thee,
from falsehood freed,

Hither return no more ! That deeds and
birth cling not,

To sever bonds of this deceitful
sensuous frame the might is Thine !

Lord who dost dance, trampling dense
darkness down !

Dancer in Thillai ! Dweller in the
Southern PAndi land ! (90)

Thou Who dost cut off evil birth ! -

Adoring ever, Thee they name,

Whom words declare not; then 'NEATH
THY SACRED FEET

THEY LEARN THE MEANING OF

THEIR SONG. The blessed ones

In Civan's town who dwell, - full many a
one, - beneath

The feet of Civan, lowly bending utter
praise. (95)

**HYMN II . kIrttit tiru akaval
CIVAN'S FAME
THE SACRED SONG OF CIVAN'S
RENOWNED ACTS**

(composed in Tillai, tiru vAtavUrar
purANam, v. 62)

The sacred foot that danced in Tillai's
city old
Is His, Who in all varied lives has
energized;
Revealed in beauty of innumerable,
varied qualities;
In earth, in sky, and in celestial worlds.
All ordered lore hath He revealed, and
He made void. (5)
My darkness hath He driven for aye far
off.
Within His servants' inmost soul that
love o'erflows
He dwells, - His glory and His choice.

On great MahEndra's bidding hill
In grace He caused the uttered Agamas
appear. (10)

He came with the good goddess,
Pleasant and gracious, mingling with
men at KallAdam.

With her whose words are milk in the
'fivefold couch,'

He caused sweet grace, that unfailing
accumulates, to grow.

In guise of a woodman, of her whose
lips are crimson, (15)

He sank in the lovely expanse of the
swelling breast.

Becoming a fisherman He caught the
shark.

And he received the Agamas, a rich
spoil.

Moreover, on MahEndra seated, the self-
same Agamas

From His five mouths He graciously
spake forth. (20)

In our abode a BrAhman He became,
And as a deathless Guru dwelt in grace.
Assuming diverse forms, and diverse
habitudes,
As hundreds of hundreds of thousands of
natures,
I Can, Lord of the bull, that the world
might be saved, - (25)
He and the Lady, His partner, - came in
grace.
Bringing horses, in the Western land,
Right royally He rode in state.
In fair PuttUr, town of the dart, upon the
bull He rode,
Made manifest His state and glorious
pomp. (30)
In a mirror, at PuttUr of the santhal-
wood,
Gave increase to the woodman armed
with bow.
His form all flame, that held the 'gram-
bag',

In magic beauty exquisite, of old he
showed.

He whose extent to Hari and to Brahma
was not known, (35)

In goodness jackals into horse made,
To make him His, He of the sacred foot,
The chargers to the Pandiyan sold,
Nor deigned to take the heaped-up gold.
Our King made me His slave, and in the
path of grace to keep, (40)

Made manifest the ancient brightening
ray.

Becoming a Brahman, graciously
making me His own,
He showed the magic illusion.

Coming to Madura, the city great and
fair,

He became a horse's groom. (45)

And therein too, for the female devotee
He condescended to carry earth.

In Uttara-Koca-Mangai abiding
He showed His special form.

In PUvanam he vouchsafed to appear in
beauty, (50)

And showed His ancient spotless form.

In VAthavUr he came sweetly gracious
And caused the sound of His tinkling
anklets to be heard.

In Perun-turrai's blissful home, a Blessed
One He dwelt,

And guileful, in undimmed lustre hid
Himself. (55)

In PUvalam, beauteous, sweet and
gracious,
He sin destroyed.

A water-booth he placed, to gain the
victory,

And graciously became an attendant
who serves water.

He came a guest to VenkAdu. (60)

Beneath the Kurunthu tree He sat that
day.

In royal Mangai, in fair beauty throned,
The eight great mystic powers in grace

He gave.

Becoming a hunter, and assuming the
form He desired,

In the forest with guile He lay hid. (65)

Exhibiting a body, assumed at pleasure,
He bore the fitting form.

In Jackal-town well pleased in grace

He became an earthly babe.

In PANTUr He came to dwell. (70)

In the resplendent island, in the south of
DEvUr,

He assumed kingly state.

In sacred ArUr, famed for its honey-
dripping groves,

He bestowed the gift of wisdom.

In Idai-maruthu, by hosts attended,

He planted His pure foot. (75)

Assuming the nature of Ekambam,

He became partner with his never-
sundered queen.

In glory He dwelt in sacred VAnjiyam,

And delighted in the society of her of

perfumed locks. (80)

He became an attendant bearing a
mighty bow,

And assumed many various
appearances,

He dwelt in a spacious home in
KadambUr;

And showed Himself in beauty in the
hill IngOy.

He became a Caivan in AiyAru. (85)

He abode with desire in Turutti.

In the 'town of the sacred palm' He dwelt
desired.

In Karumalam He manifested His
presence.

In the 'Vulture's Hill' He dwelt without a
flaw.

In Purrambayam He taught virtues
manifold. (90)

In KutRAlam He was for a sign.

Concealing His endless greatness in
form of fire,

In beauteous disguise the only primal
One assumed a form,
In magic splendour came in grace,
Took each one's nature into Himself,-
(95)

Being the infinite Lord of grace, our
king,-

Became a Sage as moonlight bright.
Thro' upper air descending to the
beauteous LAND

He came in fairest form and filled with
grace,-

Lord of the HILL MahEnthiram,
mountain of mystic lore, (100)

The King of grace, immeasurably great !

If one could tell the way He made me
His:

He showed His sacred form of power
and grace;

He exhibited His BANNER of sacred
ashes;

The RIVER of rapture that straightway
(105)

All human vileness sweeps away, in
grace He gave:

The Partner of the DAME, in mercy
great !

While the great NATHA-DRUM spake
loud

He made me His, so that impurity
touches not.

He bears the mystic SPEAR, (110)

The splendour He whose flame pure
light emits,

Who cuts away the primal threefold
bond;

A loving one, the lotus GARLAND blue
In fragrant loveliness He wore;

Hari and BrahmA knew not Him to
mete; (115)

On prancing charger forth He rode.

He shows in grace the way knows no
return;

The old dominion of the PAndi LAND is
His;

He bears to bliss supern His pious saints
Uttara-KOca-Mangai is His TOWN;
(120)

To the primeval Beings He gives grace,
The GOD OF GODS His sacred NAME;
His VEHICLE is gift of joy dispels the
dark;

His the MOUNT of grace that greatness
gives,

Fitted to each one's lofty nature, each
one's power; (125)

Meetly in love He makes them His;-
Me, cur, in Tillai filled with good,
He bade draw nigh th'all-glorious
company;

Yet, Ah ! He left me here.

That day His servants who gained grace
to go with Him, (130)

Mingled in perfect union with Himself,

While those that gained it not leaped on
the fire !

Then did bewilderment come over them,
On earth they rolled, they fell, they
wailed,

They rushed with eager foot to reach the
sea; (135)

'Our Lord, Our Lord', they wept and
called.

While those who gained His foot pressed
near,

And cried, 'Celestial Dancer, who to
Patanjali gave grace,'

And yearned to gain satiety of bliss,

He dances 'mid the company of
beauteous 'Tiger-town', (140)

That golden beauty like HimAlaya
wears,

There to Umai, whose roseate mouth is
filled with sweetness,

And to KAli grants the beauteous smile

of His blest countenance.

Thus the King with His assembled saints
Joyous hath entered 'Tiger-town,' with
garners filled, (145)

High Lord of Kailai that resounds with
rapturous song.

HYMN III - thiruvannappahudi
THE NATURE AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNIVERSE

This poem has an introduction of twenty eight lines, after which the praises of Civan are intermingled with somewhat intricate but ingenious allegories. The whole partakes of the nature of a rhapsody, - not without some sublimity, - and can be fully appreciated by those

only who have studied the whole Caiva system as shown in Notes I-XVII. It is an imitation, it would seem of the Sanskrit Catarudriya or Hyme to Rudra. Yet, Civan - the Auspicious - is imagined by the Tamil Caivaites quite otherwise than by the northern and more ancient authorities Civan in the south is the Guru, the friend, ulmost the familiar companion, of His votaries, and is addressed with a mixture of awe and of simple affection that has a peculiar effect . Through all MAnikkaVacagar poems this personal relation of the God as manifested Guru to His devotees or disciples is, of course most prominent. I am not aware of anything quite like this in the mythology of the north though among the worshippers of Vishnu in His various incarnations something analogous may exist. Here lines 1-12 are very intricate, and emphasize two

thoughts (1) that the Supreme in His greatness embraces all, and pervades the minutest things in His universe; and (2) that He is the unique Being, whose wondrous and admirable sublimity is not to be fully comprehended by any finite beings, gods or men. The two epithets the the Great One (line 6), and the Beautiful one. (line 12).

The idea of lines 13-16 is peculiar to the Caiva system, which teaches that there are three great processes carried on by Civan, the Supreme, in the Universe. In the beginning of each aeon He evolves the phenomenal universe, and through countless ages sustains it as the theatre of births and deaths - of the whole drama of metempsychosis; and at the end of each aeon He involves the phenomenal universe in its primal elements. These three processes of

evolution, conservation and involution, are commonly assigned to three deities, of whom BrahmA is the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Civan the Destroyer. This however was seen to give to Civan an office apparently inferior, and certainly less gracious, than that which belongs to the other Gods. The South-Indian Caiva system boldly faces this difficulty. According to it there is really but one God. He is called, among many other names, Civan 'the Blessed One'. Vishnu and BrahmA and the other so-called gods are but dependent 'souls' like the rest, and at the beginning of each aeon their place and office for that aeon are assigned them by the Supreme as the result of merits accumulated. The BrahmA of the present aeon is the Demiurge or fashioner of The evolved Universe: he puts it into shape, and is the mere agent of Civan. This system

invites us to contemplate the universe at the beginning of each aeon awaiting the action of the Supreme. Existence is eternal; it is subject to what are called deluges, or overwhelming catastrophes, in which all the heavens, and all the regions of the abyss, all worlds, and all beings are restored to their rudimental condition, after which, by the will and operation of Civan they resume their normal manifestations. What exists at the beginning of an aeon

First, we have the Lord, Pathi, Sivan, PerumAn. He is the First Cause of all things; the only God. Inseparable from Himself, dwelling in Him, is His personified energy or Sakti --- his bride said to be the originator, source, fountain, beginning of all emotion, action, wisdom, and grace.

Secondly, we have Souls, lives, atomic existences, the flocks, pacu. These have now no embodiment, no powers, energies, or faculties, abiding like birds sleeping in the night on the branches of some mighty tree, hardly to be distinguished from the tree itself, save that they live. These are definite in number, and are eternal; no addition can ever be made to the number of souls that are alive in the universe, none of them can ever die. Since, as we shall see, these may gain absolute identification with Civan-PerumAn and thus be embodied no more, the number of embodied souls diminishes; but no soul ceases to exist even after obtaining release, and being taken into God. It may be, according to this system, that the time shall arrive when all embodied lives have obtained release, and then the worlds will for ever cease and Civan be

all in all. Each of these souls has its load of deeds which are stored up, and are a' parte ante, eternal; the result of which, in pleasure or in pain, each soul in some embodied form must experience. As the Caiva system says, The fruit of deeds must be eaten '

These souls, at the beginning of each aeon, crouch waiting for their embodiments. There are now no evolved worldsno heaven, no hell, no gods and demons, men. All these have been, and shall be, but now are not. That SOULS may be furnished with embodiments, and with worlds in which they may experience their fate, we have thirdly, the Bond, pAcam the eternal material cause of the creation. This is threefold, pure maya, impure maya and prakrithi, the of offspring of the latter, which is undefined. These three categories

PATHI, PACU and PACAM - which we call roughly 'The God, SOUL AND MATTER' Are the subjects expounded in the Caiva Siddhantha Philosophy.

Civan's palpable and subtle existence

The developement of the sphere of the elemental universe,
Its immeasurable nature, and abundant phenomena,
If one would tell their beauty in all its particulars,
As when, more than a hundred millions in number spread abroad,
The thronging atoms are seen in the ray that enters the house, (5)
So is He the GREAT ONE, Who exists in the minutest elements.
If you would know Him, BrahmA and the rest with MAI,

His greatness, source, glory, and end,
Conjoined with His eternity, His extent,
His abiding essence,
His subtile ant palpable manifestations,
(10)

They sought to understand. As the rush
of a mighty whirlwind
The Beauteous One drave them far in
whirling course !

The operations of the Supreme

He is the Ancient One, Who creates the
Creator of all;

He is the God, Who preserves the
Preserver of things created;

He is the God, Who destroys the
Destroyer; (15)

But, thinking without thought, regards
the things destroyed.

To the six sacred sects with their six
diverse kinds of men

He is the attainment of deliverance; and
Source of being to the heavenly ones
He is the Possessor of all, Who
resembles an insect.

Day by day He to the sun its lustre gave.
(20)

In the sacred moon He placed its
coolness;
Kindled in the mighty fire its heat;
In the pure ether placed pervasive
power;
Endued the ambient wind with energy;
To the streams that gleam in the shade
their savour sweet, (25)

And to the expanded earth with its
strength He gave;
For ever and aye, me and millions other
than me,
All in their several cells hath He
enclosed.

Forty epithets

See Him the First! See Him the Whole !
See Him Himself, Being without
compare ! (30)

See Him adorned with the wild boar's
ancient tusk !

See Him Whose girdle is the forest
tiger's skin !

See Him with ash besmeared ! Whene'er
I think and think,

See, I cannot bear the thought ! I perish
overwhelmed !

See, in the sweet voiced lute He is the
melody ! (35)

See, each thing, as its essence is, He
knows !

See Him, the Infinite ! See Him, the
Ancient One !

See Him, the Great One Whom BrahmA
and MAI saw not !

See Him, the Wonderful! See, the
Manifold !

See Him, the Ancient One, transcending
words ! (40)

See, He dwells afar where human
thought goes not !

See, He is taken in the net of piety !

See Him that One, Whose title is 'the
only One' !

See, He extends throughout the wide
extended earth !

See Him, more subtile than an atom
small ! (45)

See Him, the King incomparably great !

See Him, the Precious One, rarest of all
that's rare!

See, mingling with all beings, each one
He cherishes !

See Him, the Subtile One, Whom
science fails to see !

See Him, above, below, He spreads !
(50)

See the beginning and the ending He
transcends !

See, the 'bond' and 'loosing' He ordains !
See, He is That that stands, and That that
goes !

See, He discerns the aeon and its end !
See Him, the Lord Whom all may gain !

(55)

See, Civan Whom the gods know not !
See Him. the Male, the Female, and
'neither one'!

See, even I have seen Him with my eyes
!

See, the ambrosial Fount, yielding
abounding grace!

Lo, I have seen His mercy s might ! (60)

See, His roseate Foot this earth hath trod
!

See Him, even I have known, the
Blessed One !

See, in grace He made me His !

See, her His Spouse whose eyes are
dark-blue lotus flowers !

See, Her and Him together stand ! (65)

The Sea and the Cloud

Lines 66-95 are well nigh untranslatable, for they contain a subtle and intricate allegory, by means of which the grace of the manifested Civan, who is praised under the title of the 'Cloud' is set forth. The idea is that the Infinite sea of rapturous supreme felicity is Civan, but - as the Cloud in the monsoon season sucks up water from the sea, and rises in black masses that cover the sky, while all the phenomena of the wonderful outburst of the beneficent, but also fearful, monsoon are exhibited - so does the Supreme manifest Himself as the Guru, the Object of Love, and Give of grace to His worshippers. In the monsoon season, lightnings flash from

one end of the sky to the other, crested torrents sweep down over the hills, bearing with them uprooted plants and trees, and not unseldom huge snakes that have been disturbed from their rocky mountain hiding places. The various kinds of 'Gloriosa' spread forth their beautiful flowers like supplicating hands, while every valley and hollow is filled with water. Meanwhile, as the heat is most intense just before the burst of the monsoon, the poet pictures a troop of thirsty antelopes, deluded by the mirage which seems to offer them refreshing streams and shade: disappointed they are left to die of thirst in the wilderness. Meanwhile the pain of the fierce heat has ceased. Down the gorges of the hill the torrent rushes, and is received into tanks prepared for it by the expectant husbandmen. These lakes are fragrant with beautiful flowers, and on their

banks the maidens have kindled fires with aromatic woods, at which they dry their hair and garments after the refreshing bath. The cultivators may now sow their seed and expect a rich harvest. All this is the work of the black clouds which drew water from the sea to fertilise the earth. In these lines every particular of the description has its mystical meaning, which hardly needs illustration. The student will compare VII, 61-64.

The ancient sea of bliss supreme is
THAT indeed!
Appearing like a black vast CLOUD,
Arising in the hill of Petun-turrai blest,
Whilst sacred lightnings flash from
every point -,
While serpent bright of sensual bondage
dies -, (70)

While the sore sorrow of the fervent heat
hides itself;

While the all-beauteous Hibiscus shines
forth,

Swelling in its wrath like our mortal
pain,

It sounds forth in mighty grace as a
drum.

While the kAnthal stretches out
supplicating hands, (75)

And the tender drops of sweet unfailing
grace distil,

While the gleaming torrent swells on
every side,

And rises to the highest banks of every
lake -;

The 'demon-car' of the six sects
Excites the thirst of the large-eyed
antelope throng. (80)

And they with eager desire crowd to
drink;

And faint with unquenched thirst haste

hither and thither:-

Meanwhile, the heavenly mighty stream
Rises and rushes, crowned with hubbles
of delight,

Eddies around, dashes against the bank
of our 'embodiment, (85)

And twofold deeds of ours growing from
age to age, -

Those mighty trees, roots up and bears
away.

It rushes through the cleft of the high
hills,

Is imprisoned in the encircling lake,
Where grow the expanded fragrant
flowers, (90)

In tank, where rises smoke of the agil,
where beetles hum;

And as it swells with ever-rising joy,
The ploughmen-devotees in the field of
worship

Sow in rich abundance seed of love
Hail, CLOUD-LIKE god, hard in this

universe to reach ! (95)

Ascriptions of Praise

God Who wear'st black snake for girdle,
hail !

First One, giving grace to the devout
ascetics, hail !

Warrior Who dost remove our fear, all
hail !

Thou Who dost ever draw us to Thee,
make us Thine, all hail !

Thou Who dost wipe away sorrows that
gather around, all hail ! (100)

Thou Who giv'st ambrosia rare to those
that gain access to Thee, all hail !

Thou Who in thick darkness dancing
dost bend down, all hail!

Lover of Her with shoulders like the
swelling bamboo, hail !

Thou Who art hostile to the hostile one,
our King, all hail !

Thou Who to thy lovers art treasure in
distress, all hail ! (105)

Praises

Praise to Thee, our Own, waving the
envenomed snake !

Praise to Thee, Great One, Who fill'st
our souls with pious rage !

Praise to Thee, mighty in Thine ash-
smeared form !

In every part what moves, Thou mov'st
it; what lies still, Thou lay'st to rest

What stands, Thou dost establish. (110)

Thou Ancient One, transcending speech,
Not grasped by apprehension of the soul
!

Not by the eye perceived, nor by sense-
organs all.

Thou didst arrange in order, manifest the
ether and all elements.

Like fragrance of the flower uprising

everywhere, (115)

Thy greatness without cease all things
pervades,

This day to me in condescending grace
Thou cam'st

Making this body of destruction fall
away, O Being glorious !

To-day to me in condescending grace
Thou cam'st; I praise Thee ! (120)

Thou Who did'st fashion this decaying
frame; I praise Thee !

As fountain springing in my soul Thou
mak'st me glad, I praise Thee !

Whlle pleasure beyond bound like
flower expands

I know not how to bear this body vile !

His hidings of Himself

Bright gems flash'd emerald splendour
forth,-

The lightning's play mingling with

gleam of gold,- (125)

BrahmA went up to seek Thee; Thou
didst hide Thyself !

From them who toiled with mystic
scrolls didst hide Thyself!

From those who in their homes practised
virtue, Thou didst hide Thyself

From those who, in union with Thee,
fixed their contemplative soul

With painful effort; Thou didst hide
Thyself ! (130)

From those who boasted to see Thee by
some rare device,

By that same device, there, -didst Thou
hide Thyself!

Benign, regarding all, receiving with
abundant grace

As male appearing Thou dost change to
neutral form,

And in a bright-browed female form dost
hide Thyself ! Far off (135)

Bidding the senses five depart, passing

over every trackless hill
With frames scarce living, spurning all
delights,
Ascetic saints in contemplation dwell;-in
their souls Thou fitly hid'st Thyself!

Seeming one thing, then not, eluding
knowledge, Thou dost hide Thyself !
When e'en of old I strove to find Thee,
when to-day I strive, (140)
Thou hid'st Thyself, Deceiver ! But
we've found Thee now !

Worship

Haste, haste ye, garlands of fresh
flowers
Around His feet to bind !
Assemble, go around, follow hard on,
leave ye no gap.
Lay hold of Him, although He hide
Himself, avoid your grasp ! (145)

The Incomparable told out His nature as
it is,

That those like me might hear.

He called, in grace He made me His,
He as a BrAhman showed His glory
forth,

Then, while undying love dissolved my
frame, I cried; (150)

I raised enraptured voice above the
billowy sea's loud waves;

In utter wilderment I fell, I rolled, I cried
aloud,

Madman distraught, and as a maniac
raved;

While those who saw were wildered,
who heard it wonder'd sore.

More than the frenzy wild of raging
elephant (155)

Bore me away beyond endurance far.

'Twas then through all my limbs

A honied sweetness He infused, and
made me blest.

The ancient city of His foes with fire lit
by His beauteous smile

He caused to fall. Ev'n so that day
With mighty fire of grace our humble
dwellings (160)

He destroyed that none were left.
To me as the ripe Nelli fruit in palm He
was.

Rapture

What to say I know not, Hail !-to Thee
complain.

I mere cur cannot endure ! What He hath
done to me

I understand not ! Ah I'm dead ! To me
Thy slave (165)

What Thou in grace hast given I know
not, tasting am not satiate,
Though I've imbibed I comprehend it not
!

Like flowing billows swell from out the

sea of milk

Within my soul He made deep waters
rise,

Ambrosia surpassing speech filled every
pore. (170)

This is His gracious work !

In every body in this currish state

He filled me full with honied sweetness;

Ambrosial drops most marvellous

He caused throughout my being to distil.
(175)

With tender soul, as though He'd make
me as Himself,

He formed for me a frame where grace
might flow.

And as an elephant explores fields of
sweet cane, at last

He sought, and found, and made even
me to live. In me

Mercy's pure honey while He mixed,
(180)

He gave in grace supernal food: -

Ev'n He Whose nature nor BrahmA
knows nor MAI !

**Hymn 4 poRRith thiru agaval
THE SACRED AGAVAL OF
PRAISE.**

THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.
HE CAUSED THE PHENOMENAL
UNIVERSE TO APPEAR.

(This seems to the translator to read
more like a work of UmApathi, than of
our sage!)

Lines 1-10 The Feet of Civan

While the Four-faced and other heavenly
dwellers rose,
Adoring, sacred MAI, whose head with

rays is crowned,
With His two feet measured the
threefold world,-
While saints from the four quarters
praised with all their sentient powers,
Eager that day Thy foot and crown to
know, (5)
He then became a fierce strong boar, and
rushing on
Dug down through sevenfold regions,
wearied cried at last:
Eternal Source of all, to Thee be
triumphs manifold !'
Yet though He worship paid, Thy pair of
Feet-flowers saw he not;
Yet Thou to me Thy worshipper art easy
of access ! (10)

Lines 11 - 35 **Human embodiment**

On earth girt by the watery seas, from
elephant to ant,

Through many matrices I passed,
Obtained a human form within my
mother's womb.

..

Thus was I born into the sad sea of th'
afflictive life. (25)

Then during each year as it met me
I gained and hoarded gains. How varied
was my life!.

Morning's routine, hunger in noontide
hour, and night

For sleep. In journeys oft I lived.

Jet black locks, and crimson lips, and
radiant smiles were hers; (30)

Into love's sea I plunged.

.. (31-35)

In the wide marts where foolish
worldlings toil

I lived, still slave to fierce desires.

I lived by sea of learning multiform;

I lived in sorrow men call wealth;

I lived 'mid ancient stings of poverty,

(40)

And thus in varied forms and fortunes
spent my days.

**Lines 42-51 The idea of God comes
into his life**

Then wondrous thought of the Divine,
so-called, arose.

Soon as I knew that BEING, free from
hate, unique,

Delusive powers in ever-changing
millions

Began beguiling varied play. (45)

Relations, neighbours, came around,
With fluent tongue they urged their
'atheism'

Friends around (such herds of cattle old
!)-

Seiz'd me, call'd, hurried to and fro;

The BrAhman said 'the way of penance

is supreme'; (50)

And others showed the law of trusting
love !

Sectarian disputants complacently
Discordant tenets shouted loud and
fought.

Then haughty VedAnt creed unreal
came,

Whirled, dashed, and roared like furious
hurricane. (55)

LOkAyathan a glistening mighty snake
Brought cruel poisoned heresies.

Whilst these delusions, endless, girt me
round,

Lines 59 - 86 **His conversion**

Lest I should go astray, He laid His hand
on me !

As wax before the unwearied fire (60)

With melting soul I worshipt, wept, and
bent myself,

Danced, cried aloud, and sang, and
prayed.

They say: 'The tooth of elephant and
woman's grasp relax not,'

So I with love, real, intermitting never,
Was pierced, as wedge driven into soft
young tree. (65)

All tears, I like the refluent sea was
tossed;

Soul was subdued, and body quivered
with delight.

While the world called me demon,
mocking me,

False shame I threw aside; the folk's
abusive word

I took as ornament; nor did I swerve.
(70)

My mind was rapt;-a fool, but in my
folly wise,-

The goal I sought to reach infinity ! All
wondering desire,

As cow yearns for its calf, I moaning,

hurried to and fro.

Not ev'n in dreams thought I of other
gods.

The One most precious Infinite to earth
came down; (75)

Nor did I greatness of the Sage superne
contemn,

Who came in grace. Thus from the pair
of sacred feet

Like shadow from its substance parting
not,

Before, behind, at every point, to it I
clung.

My inmost self in strong desire
dissolved, I yearned; (80)

Love's river overflowed its banks;

My senses all in Him were centredl;

'Lord !' I cried.

With stammering speech, and quivering
frame

I clasped adoring hands; my heart

expanding like a flower.

Eyes gleamed with joy and tears
distilled. (85)

His love that fails not day by day still
burgeons forth !

To the end : **Praises**

Like mother, Thou hast brought me up, I
praise !

God, strong to cancel deeds of ours,
Who didst become in truth a Sage, I
praise !

King of golden Madura ! (90)

Guru Pearl, in KUdal shining bright !

Dancing in southern Tillai's court,
This day to me precious ambrosia Thou !
Source of the fourfold mystic Scroll that
ne'er grows old !

Civan, whose conquering banner is the
Bull ! (95)

Thy varied form gleams as the

lightning;-Thee I praise !
In me the stony heart Thou softenest.
Guard me, Thou guarded hill of gold !
Ah, give Thy grace to me !
Thou dost create, Thou dost preserve,
Thou dost destroy ! (100)
Father, who dost remove all griefs, I
praise !
Ruler, I praise ! My King, I praise !
Mount of shining crystal,-praise !
Monarch, to Thee be praise ! Ambrosia,-
praise !
Unfailing refuge are Thy fragrant-feet !
(105)
Thee Vedic Sage, I praise ! Spotless
One,- praise !
Thee First, I praise ! Wisdom, I praise !
Thou Goal I seek,praise ! Sweet fruition,
Thee I praise !

Our Lord, on Whose bright crest the
river flows,

Our Master, praise!

Understanding,praise ! (110)

Thou hast beheld the servitude of
lowliest me,

O Teacher,-praise ! Minute as atom,-
praise !

O Caivan, -praise ! Our Chief, I praise !

Our Sign, I praise ! Virtue, I praise !

ThouWay, I praise ! O Thought, I praise!

(115)

Balm, hardly by celestials gained, I
praise !

King, easy of access to others, praise !

Monarch in grace, Who savest lest we
sink

In hell's hated one-and-twenty rounds, I
praise !

Companion,-praise ! My Helper,-praise!

(120)

O Bliss of life, I praise ! My

Treasure,praise !

O free from bonds,praise ! First

One,praise !

Father,praise ! Haran,praise !

Thou One, transcending word and
understanding,praise !

Yield of the world girt by the extended
sea, praise! (125)

Beauty rare, yet easy of access, I praise !

Eye like an azure cloud, I praise !

Abiding Mount of sacred grace, I praise
!

Me, too, Thou mad'st a man,Thy twin
feet

Thou placed'st on my head, O

Warrior,praise ! (130)

Thou dost wipe off all sorrow from
adoring hand, praise !

Sea of imperishable rapture, praise ,

Thou dost transcend all forms that pass
and come renewed, praise !

First One surpassing all, praise !

Bridegroom of Her with fawnlike eyes,

praise ! (135)

Mother of the Immortals in the heavenly
land,praise!

Fivefold Thou dost in earth extend,-
praise !

Fourfold Thou dost exist in the water,-
praise !

Threefold in fire Thou shinest,-praise !

Twofold in the air Thou art all glorious, -
praise ! (140)

One in the ether Thou hast sprung
forth,praise !

Ambrosia of the troubled mind,praise !

Hard to be approached by gods e'en in a
dream,praise !

In waking hour to me a cur Thou gavest
grace,praise !

Father, Who dwell'st in Idai-
maruthu,praise ! (145)

Thou bearest Gangai on Thy crest, praise
!

King in ArUr abiding,praise !

Lord of glorious Tiru-aiyAru,praise !

Our Prince of AnnAmalai,praise !

Sea of ambrosia, filling all the place,-
praise ! (150)

Our Father dwelling in Ekambam, praise
!

Thou Who in form art half a woman,-
praise !

Who dwell'st supreme in Perun-turrai,-
praise!

Civan Who dwell'st in Sira-palli,-praise !

None other refuge here I know, -praise !
(155)

Our Dancer in KutRAlam,-praise !

Our King dwelling in GOkazi, praise !

Our Father of IngOy's Mount, praise !

Beauteous One of seemly Paranam,
praise !

Idangan Who dwell'st in KadambUr,
praise ! (160)

Father, gracious to those that come to

Thee, praise !
Beneath the Itti tree to six,

King, Thou wert gracious, and to th'
elephant,-praise !

Civan, Lord of the southern land,praise !
King of our country folk,-praise ! (165)

Thou wert gracious to the litter of the
boar,-praise !

Lord of glorious Kailai's Mountpraise !
Father, Who grants us grace,-praise !

King, Who our darkness dissipates,-
praise !

I Thy slave languish all alone,-praise !
(170)

In grace remove my guile,-praise !

In grace say to me ' Fear not,-Ôpraise!

Poison became ambrosis by Thy love,-
praise !

Father,-praise ! Guru,-praise !

Eternal,-praise ! Pure One,-praise! (175)

Brother,-praise ! Existent One,-praise!

O Great One,-praise ! O Lord,-praise !
O Rare One,-praise ! O Pure One,-praise
!
Glorious Path of Vedic sages,-praise !
I make my plaint,nor can endure, O First
One,-praise ! (180)

Kinsman,-praise ! Life,-praise !
Glory,-praise ! Bliss,-praise !
O Cloud,-praise ! O Bridegroom, praise !
Spouse of Her whose feet are soft,-praise
!
I, a cur, Thy slave am perplexed,-praise !
(185)
Our Master Thou, all dazzling bright,-
praise !
Eye apprehending forms diverse,-praise
!
King, dwelling in the circling, sacred
town, I praise !
Lord of the mountain land,-praise !
Thou in Whose locks is the crescent

moon,-praise ! (190)

Blessed Lord of the sacred Eagle-
mount,-praise !

Aran of hilly PUvanam,-praise !

Formless, in form revealed Thou art,-
praise !

Mountain of mercy ever nigh,-praise !

Light transcending utmost bound,-praise
! (195)

Clearness, hard to understand,-praise !

Ray of the flawless Gem, praise !

Loving to those Thou mak'et Thine
own,-praise!

Ambrosial grace that satiates not,-praise
!

Our Lord, the bearer of a thousand
names,-praise ! (200)

Thou Whose garland is the TAli-arrugu,-
praise !

Dancer in light expanding far,-praise !

O Beauteous with the santhal wood

perfume,-praise !

Bliss, hard for thought to reach,-praise !

On Mandira's mighty mount Thou
dwell'st,-praise ! (205)

Thou Who dost undertake to save us,-
praise !

Thou Who in grace didst give the tiger's
dug to th' antelope,-praise !

Thou Who didst walk upon the billowy
sea,-praise!

I hou didst give grace that day to the
black bird,-praise !

Thou didst appear by sense discerned,-
praise ! (210)

Fiery One on earth displayed,-praise !

Thou art the First, the Midst, the Last,-
praise !

Hell, Paradise, or-pendant Earth not
entering,

The heavenly goal Thou gav'st unto the
PAndiyan,-praise !

Thou that fillest all, to Thee be praise !

(215)

King of Civa-puram rich with clustering
flowers, to Thee be praise !

God, garlanded with purple lotus flower,
to Thee be praise !

Thou dost cut off bewilderment of those
that worship Thee,-praise !

Praise ! Take in grace this wreath of
babbling words

From me, mere cur, that know not to
distinguish false from true ! (220)

Ancient of days Burner of many towns,-
praise !

Infinite Lord of splendours infinite,-
praise !

Praise ! Praise ! Bhuyanga-PerumAn !

Praise ! Praise ! Ancient-cause of all !

Praise! Praise ! Triumphant praise !

(225)

HYMN V - thirucathakam

THE SACRED CENTO.

RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM.

Introduction to the Sacred Cento

This remarkable poem contains a hundred especially flowing and harmonious verses of varying metres. These are divided into ten decades, and the whole are connected by the law which requires that the last word of each verse shall begin the following verse. The whole ten lyrics with their hundred verses are thus linked together. This arrangement, which is very common in Tamil, is called AnthAthi, which I venture to translate 'anaphoretic verse'. This cento is intended to exhibit the progress of the soul through the successful stages of religious experience

till it loses itself in the rapture of complete union with the Supreme. The general title given by one editor is equivalent to 'The Varying Phases of Religious Enthusiasm' at least this is the nearest expression for it that I can find in English. The poem is supposed to have been composed in Tiru-peran-turai immediately after the departure of the Saints, for some time MANikka-VAcagar's companions, who passed through fire and went home to Civan. From the border of the tank, where the divine conflagration had arisen, into the midst of which his companions had thrown themselves, he returned to the Kondral tree, where he spent a long period in solitary meditation, of which these poems are the sum. He surveys his past experiences, contemplates the work assigned him and while he begins the series of sacred poems by which he was

to establish the Caiva system in the hearts of his fellow-countrymen, he never ceases to complain in most touching language, that he is not permitted at once to follow his Master and brethren into the rest and glory of Paradise. This is indeed the burthen of much of his poetry.

The titles of the ten decades, into which the poem is divided, indicate in some measure the course of his thoughts and the character of his mental conflicts. There is a most pathetic alternation of rapturous and realising devotion with coldness and apathy, and even, it seems of temporary abandonment to gross sensuality. It is to be doubted whether the whole of these verses are of one period, and I should prefer to think that they really embody his meditations and solloquies up to the period of his final

settlement in Cithambaram.

DECAD 1.

THE COGNITION OF THE TRUE.

1. Humble access to the New Master

My frame before Thy fragrant foot is
quivering like all opening bud;-
My hands above my head I raise; while
tears pour down, my melting soul,
The false renouncing,, praises Thee;
with songs of triumph praises Thee,-
Nor suffer I adoring hand to rest;-O
Master, look on me ! (4)

II. Self-surrender. He accepts the ascetic
life.

I ask not bliss of Indra, MAI, or Ayan;-
though my house and home

Be ruin'd, friendship form I none save
with Thine own; though hell's abys
I enter, I un murmuring go, if grace
divine appoint my lot;-
O King I no other god save Thee I
ponder, our Transcendent Good ! (8)

III. He is despised as a mad enthusiast.

Transcendent Good ! Owner and Sire !
Thy servant melting thinks on Thee.
In raptures meet I utter forth my fever'd
soul's ecstatic joys,
Still wandering from town to town;
while men cry out, 'A madman this;'
And each one speaks, with mind
distracted, discordant words. O, when
come death ? (12)

IV. None to be worshipped but Civan

Erewhile was Dakshan's offering death.

They ate the flesh, and poison feared
' Our Father,' cried our friends and
worshipt Him with suppliant voice.
And yet 'Three are the gods that rule in
heaven and earth,' they vainly deem.
What sin is this your haughty minds
breathe out, ye erring penitents ? (16)

V. I plead no merit- am no real devotee.

No penance have I done, nor bowed,
with hand unstinting scatt'ring flowers;
Born all in vain,-to ' cruel deeds ' a
thrall,-the bliss of Civan's heav'n,
Amongst Thy loving ones, I've fail'd to
gain; see, and in grace bestow
On me, Thy slave, consummate life
beneath Thy feet, Supernal Lord ! (20)

VI. Grace unfailing to the faithful

They roam'd and cull'd choice varied

flowers to lay in worship at Thy feet,
They deemed that all they sought they
should obtain; and from these loving
hearts

In mystic guile Thou hidest still, abiding
not ! In grace bestow,

Love to Thy glorious foot, that I may
ceaseless praise with perfect song ! (24)

VII. Civan was an ascetic, as am I now.

Erewhile the Maker's-maker bowed,
brought blooming flowers, and
everywhere

Sought for Th' All-seeing One, nor
found. Our mighty One, Who dwells
beyond,

Here in the wilds with demons danced, a
homeless, friendless one; and there
In tiger-skin arrayed Himself, as
madman wand'ring to and fro ! (28)

VIII. Save Thy servants in the day of
doom!

> The wand'ring wind, the fire, the flood,
the earth, the heaven,-a time shall be
When these adown the gulf shall go !
After that hour unknown has come
The deeds-mighty the soul to bind-
Thy slave in wand'ring days has done
Let the time come for these to pass !
Guard us from these, our Guardian then !
(32)

IX. Bhavan's our Lord.

Bhavan's our Lord, Whose garland is the
cool vast moon, of heavenly one
The Prince. Civan's our Lord, Who made
me His, my meanness though He saw
Our Lord Supreme is He, and I, His
lowly servant, thus declare !
That earth may know, sound out that

Bhuvan is our Lord ! (36)

X. 'Tis wondrous grace that sought me
out.

Unmeet was I to enter 'mongst Thy
loving ones, my flawless Gem !
Ambrosia rare ! The way Thou took'st
me for Thine own and mad'st me meet
The very meanest lifting high, Thou
didst the heav'nly ones bring low !
What Thou our Lord to me hast done is
as a play men laugh to see ! (40)

DECAD II

THE IMPARTATION OF DIVINE KNOWLEDGE.

XI. A prayer for perfect love-

'Midmost of Thy devoted ones, like them
in mystic dance to move;
Within Thy home above to gain wish'd
entrance, lo, I eager haste !
O golden-glorious Hill of gems ! Give
grace, that ceaseless love to Thee.
Our Master, in my heart of hearts,
melting my very soul, may 'bide. (44)

XII. Longing for grace alone.

I dread not any birth. To death what
should I owe ! Nor do I crave
Even heaven itself to gain. No power to
rule this earth do I esteem.
O Civan, crowned with cassia-flowers
that sweets distil; our PerumAn !
Our only Lord! I fainting cry: ' When
comes the day I find Thy grace ?' (48)

XIII. Without Thy presence I pine

I ever pine Thy flow'ry feet to see, -Thy
slave, dog though I am !

I sit, no fitting flowers present, my
tongue no rising raptures speaks.

Thou Who the well-strung golden bow
didst bend ! Ambrosia of Thy grace
If Thou give not, I PINE,-a wretch
forlorn,-what other can I be? (52)

XIV. Deadness of soul.

My inmost self PINES not, as were
befitting, for Thy sacred Foot;
Nor melts in love; I bring no wreath;
speak out no worthy word of praise
Within the shrine of Him, the King of
gods, perform no service due;
Nor move in dance. To death I haste !
Thou Whom true wisdom bringeth nigh!
(56)

XV. God all in all

Thou art the Heaven; Thou art the Earth;
Thou art the Wind; Thou art the Light!
The Body Thou; the Soul art Thou;
Existence, Non-existence Thou;
Thou art the King; these puppets all
Thou dost make move, dwelling within
That each one says: ' Myself and mine.
'What shall I say? How render PRAISE
(60)

XVI. My praise is pure. Free me from
embodiments.

The heavenly ones adore Thee still
heaven's bliss to share ! Their minds to
Thee
They lowly humble that, on high exalted,
men may worship them;
Thou round whose flower-wreath hum
the honey-bees ! Thy slave, I praise
Thee, even I, that Thou may'st save from

idle round of earthly birth ! (64)

XVII. The bliss of Civan's heaven of presence.

The heavenly dwellers chaunt Thy
praise; the fourfold VEdas utter song;
She of the shining locks that shed
perfume is sharer of Thy seat;
There in true love Thy servants all
commingling dwell; there, more and
more,
Thy feet with sounding anklets girt do
they behold, Thou hard to know !(68)

XVIII. This abandonment is
unendurable.

Thou Whom 'tis hard to know, in sky
and in the golden court revealed,-
Our mighty One ! beneath the jewelled
feet where I was made Thine own,

No more I scatter fragrant flowers, nor
wondering weep, nor melt in love.
'Tis past my power to bear ! How can it
be ? I die, insooth, I die ! (72)

XIX. He is above; we earthly still.

With flow'ry arrows in the spring-time
comes the god of soft desire,
And witching smile of maidens fair, with
rosy mouths and flower-wreathed locks !
Poor soul, that pants and melts through
these, Who made thee His, and thrilled
thy frame,
To-day hath gone and dwells in heaven;
yet see, thou still art lingering here ! (76)

XX. O soul be wise!

O soul, that livest here in joy ! Of life's
true joys bereft, in mire
Thou sink'st of 'mighty deeds ' ! Him

Who guards men from sinking praisest
not !

Thou art devising ruin to thyself,I tell
thee so full oft;

Thou'rt sinkcing even now beneath the
FLOOD of the distressful sea! (80)

DECAD III.

DYING TO SENSE AND SELF.

This decad describes the mystic
experience known by Caiva Siddhantha,
as NAna-Carithai, in which the devotee,
though able to discern God in and above
and beyond all things, continues to
perform outward rites (Carithai) and to
avail himself of all means of grace. See
Civa-PragACam II.48. Since Civan so
deigns to manifest, and yet vell, His
presence, the devotee is assiduous n
performance of all prescribed acts of
worship, while his soul transcends the

visible, and by NAnam (in this connection = divine faith) sees God.

XXI. I have relapsed into apathy.

Through Thine expanding locks the
FLOOD pours down;

the Bull is Thine, Lord of the heavenly
ones ! -

They sang, and stood, with panting,
melting souls,
like torrent, plunging in th' abyss ! and I,
With yearning soul I heard ! Thou mad'st
me Thine ! Yet now
from head to foot, I melt not; from my
eyes
The rushing waters pour not down; my
heart
is stone; both eyes are wood to SINFUL
me ! (84)

XXII. Deadness has come over me.

Thou ent'ring stood'st by me fast bound
IN SIN;

as one who says, ' I'm sin's destroyer,
come !'

Thyself announcing thus, Thou mad'st
me Thine,-

becam'st my mighty Lord. Like iron
statue, I

Now sing no praise, nor dance, nor
weep, nor wail,

nor faint with bliss. Behold, O Primal
One,

To Thee I make my plaint; nor know
how this

with me shall end, Thou Who art First
and Last !(88)

XXIII. Very vile, but Thine, save me!

Thou'rt Ayan, Thou the fourfold VEdas'

Lord;

I know Thee,-I, lowest of men that live;

I know,-and see myself a very cur;-

yet Lord, I'll say I am Thy loving one !

Though such I was, Thou took'st me for

Thine own

Thy saints are here no longer, only I,

Vile wretch ! and is it thus Thy greatness

shines ?

Our PerumAn, what shall I say to Thee ?

(92)

XXIV. Thy votary, though full of sin.

And if I spake, ' Thou'rt ICan, Father,

Sire

great PerumAn ;' thus have I ever said;

If I besmear'd, 'twas sacred ash alone

I smear'd, still praising Thee, our

PerumAn;

Who erst made those Thine own who'd

passed by love

o'er birth and death. In torrent plunged of
lust

And guile, behold me, spotless Hill of
gems !

Father ! 'Twas such an one Thou mad'st
Thine own ! (96)

XXV. The mystery of His being.

Thy colour is not red,-nor white Thy
form;-

Thou'rt Many, One; Atom, than Atom
far

Subtler; the heavenly host in 'wildered
thought

know not the way, Father, to reach Thy
feet.

Thou showd'st Thy form, Thy beauty
didst display

didst show Thy now'ry feet ! Me
wandering, Thine

Thou mad'st, safeguarding me from

future ' birth ' !

Our PerumAn, what shall I say, what
THINK ? (100)

XXVI. Wonders of grace.

Thou mad'st my THOUGHT Thy
THOUGHT ! Of me, mere cur,
Thou mad'st the eye rest on Thy foot's
blest flower,
Thou mad'st me bow before that flower
alone ! My mouth
Thou mad'st to speak abroad Thy gem-
like word !
My senses five to fill Thou cam'st, and
mad'st me Thine.
Ambrosial Sea of magic might ! O
Mount ! Thyself
Thou gav'st, Thy form like wild of
roseate lotus flowers,
to LONELY helpless me. Thou Only-
Light ! (104)

XXVII. The voyage

I, LONELY, tost by billows broad of
anguish sore,
on the great ' sea of birth,' with none to
aid;

Disturbed by winds of mouths roseate
like ripened fruit,
lay caught in jaws of the sea monster
lust !

' Henceforth, what way to 'scape ? ' I
frequent cried ! then thought,
and seiz'd the raft of Thy Five Letters !
So to me,
O Primal One, Thou showd'st a
boundless fertile shore,
and mad'st the rash insensate one Thine
own ! (108)

XXVIII. What He did for me.

Him none by hearing know; He knoweth
no decay;

He hath no kin; naught asking, heareth
all !

While people of the land beheld, here on
this earth

to me, a cur, He gave a royal seat;

To me, a dog, all things not shown
before, He showed;

all things not heard before, He caused to
hear;

And guarding me from future ' birth,' He
made me His.

Such is the wondrous work our Lord
hath wrought for me ! 112

XXIX. His appearing.

The WONDER this ! Say, is there aught
like this ?

He made me servant of His loving
saints;

Dispell'd my fear, ambrosia pouring
forth, He came,
and while my soul dissolv'd, in love
made me His own;
The Sire, Male, Female, Neither, Ether
pure, was He;
as wondrous Fire; as End of all; beyond
all far;
His body like a flower of golden hue;
our Civa-PerumAn, our Lord, OF GODS
THE KING ! (116)

XXX. Triumph

The GOD OF GODS, to king of gods
unknown;
King of the ' Three ' ; what teeming
worlds create,
Preserve, destroy; the First; Essence
divine;
the Sire of sires; Fa,ther, whose half the
Mother is;

The King of all ! He came, and made
me, too, His own.

Henceforth I'm no one's vassal; none I
fear !

We've reached the goal; with servants of
His saints

in sea of bliss we evermore shall bathe !

(120)

DECAD IV

THE SOUL'S PURIFICATION.

XXXI. The sluggish soul.

Thou dancest not; thou hast no love for
the DANCER'S foot;

with melting thrill

Thou singest not; thou throbbest not;

thou bowest not down;

the flower of His foot

Thou wearest not; thou crownest it not

with flowers; there's none like Thee,
DEAD HEART !

Thou seekest Him not through every
street; thou wailest not; nothing know
I thou dost ! (124)

XXXII. The ungrateful, treacherous
heart.

My Sire came, entered, made His own
me who knew naught; in mercy taught
me all;

Caused me to know the higher path; He
loos'd my every bond !

Despite the gain of changeless, sweetest
gifts of grace, thou'rt changed,

DEAD HEART !

RUINED by thee, to all that's false
subjected, thus I RUINED lie ! 128

XXXIII. Heart unworthy of trust;
insensible to complaint

My foolish senseless HEART, that
changing, RUIN bringst to me,
Henceforth I trust thee nevermore;-
assuredly on Civan's mighty arm
The ashes thickly smeared thou saw'st,
yet melted'st not; this, body's bonds
Thou rendest not,-nor can I bid restore
the ruin thou hast wrought. (132)

XXXIV. The utter folly of the fickle
mind.

Perish, O restless mind ! before the
Master Absolute,
A dog I lay; Thou didst enjoy His
fragrant flowery Foot;
But now thou'rt severed like a young and
tender shoot; all former bliss
Hast lost ! Truly I deem Thy wisdom
and Thy greatness measureless ! (136)

XXXV. Insensible to infinite mercy.

When He to heavenly ones inscrutable,
of access easy to His saints,
Our hidden sin destroyed, and made me
His, thou knew'st the melting joy !
Yet, HEART thou hast not, hating all thy
hidden sin, prepar'd an ample field for
Him,
Nor bow'd before the Master's healing
Feet, the heavenly goal to gain ! (140)

XXXVI. What remedy?

If 'tis not given to pass the golden gate,-
where all may entrance find,
And whence none e'er departs;-nor yet to
melt in love before the foot
Of Him, my Sire, my Lord;-if there to
me abound no more
Ambrosia, every honied sweet;-a sinful
man, what can I do for this ? (144)

XXXVII. A sinner - I quit thee not.

What other sinners are there like to me,
cur at the Master's Foot?

Yet not a whit from me to sever is Thy
sacred will; and thus,
O Primal One, Thy Foot's fair flower if I
should quit, arld yet live on,
My soul is iron, stone my mind; my ear
to what shall it compare ! (148)

XXXVIII. Life, a long exile.

The others all have reached the goal, yet
I, who know not anything,
Haste not to Thee who art all sweetness,
Civan, King of Civa-world;
Thou Spouse of her whose eye is like the
tender fawn; long time
I still abide, cherish this flesh, and so my
death-in-life drags on ! (152)

XXXIX. How do I bear life?

O bliss that ceases not ! O bliss beyond
compare ! His bright flower-foot
He gave; to me of kind more base than
dogs, He showed the perfect way
My Chief, who gave me grace sweeter
than mother's love, I see not now !
Yet in the fire I fall not, wander not o'er
hills, nor plunge me in the sea ! (156)
XL. Still the senses' slave.

'When Cupid's dart in springtide
wounds, moonlight will scorch ;' of this I
took!

No heed; like milk 'neath churning stick
I'm stirred by wiles of those of
fawn like eyes.

To Civan's city go I not, where grace as
honey to the soul is given;

To cherish soul within the body, still I
eat, and garments still put on! (160)

DECAD V

THE RENDERING A FIT RETURN

XLI. I did not clearly apprehend Thine
appearing.

Like elephant two-handed I saw not
My mind's true germ; I saw but sore
distress.

Thou bad'st me, 'come'; yet, 'mid the
heavenly ones

'Twas I alone passed not, the senses'
slave. (164)

XLII. It must have been illusion. Is HE
man?

To all who apprehend that one bright
Essence truly is,

As female, male, or lifeless thing Thou
art not known;-

To me Thy servant, coming as Thou art,
Thou didst appear !

I saw Thee, yet I saw Thee not ! What
visual juggle this !(168)

XLIII. When shall I really see Thee as
Thou art?

Thou Form unique, to even heavenly
ones

Unknown ! Thou Mystic Dancer, Who
didst make me Thine !

Me Thine ! On earth, in heaven, or when
all these

Have passed away,-WHEN shall I see
Thy face? (172)

XLIV. I am of earth, earthy.

Thou Infinite, by men yet seen ! Beyond
eye's ken

Thou Essence gleaming bright ! Here,

like a fledgling, I
Would gladly leave this faulty frame; yet
know I not
Dweller in this sense-world-how I may
Thee put on.

(176)

XLV. Deadness of soul.

I call not on Thee filled with mighty
love,
Nor render praise, nor fall in ecstasy
'Tis with me as when death confronted
Thee,
Bowing before those lotus flowers Thy
feet. (180)

XLVI. Call me, take me once more.

Call, take me 'midst Thy loving ones,
Thou crowned
With cassias, home of sweets and
humming bees !-

In 'midst, beneath, above, in all
contained,
Thou art, my Sire, ' like oil within the
seed ! '(184)

XLVII. The Self-sufficing sought out
me.

Father and Mother, Lord ! To all
besides.
Sire, Mother, Lord: to Him all these are
not !
Erewhile within my inmost soul He
entered,
Whom none by thought can know, the
Ever-blissful One ! 188

XLVIII. I had but a glimpse of His
glory.

To Thee, nor wealth, nor want ! From
heavenly ones to worms,

And grass, (no limit), all Thou fillest, -
Being rare !

I saw Thy Foot-gem limitless, yet
swerved from Thee.

This is the grief I stony-hearted have
endured ! (192)

XLIX. An appeal.

My bonds Thou loosed'st, mad'st me
Thine ! And all

The loving saints who ashes gave
beheld.

Thou didst exalt, within the temple
court,

Ev'n me Thou didst exalt, who knew not
anything.(196)

L. I was not chosen for my wisdom or
might.

Thou Only-Wise ! Ambrosia ! me, a

servile cur,
When Thou didst take and make Thine
own, was I then wise ?
Thou saw'st my ignorance that day Thou
mad'st me Thine !
Ah, Lord of grace, was I then wise ? was
I then strong ?(200)

DECAD VI.

OVERFLOWINGS OF JOY.

LI. No possible return for such mercies.

O Master, O my Mighty One, my Father,
PerumAn, my births'
Destroyer, Thou Who mad'st me Thine,-
an evil wholly worthless dog,
And throughly base; I cannot think,
Thou see'st,-of any meet return to Thee,
O Shining One, Lord of the Porch,-nor
know I aught that I can do. (204)

LII. I am still the senses' slave

Mean cur, that knew not what to do, I
gave myself to gain those things
That false ones gain, who ne'er have
seen Thy flowery Feet of ruddy gold.
I saw and heard that Thy true saints set
free from lies, had gained Thy fragrant
Foot;

Yet I,-false one,-O Warrior strong ! still
eat, am clothed, and here abide. (208)

LIII. I only left !

Thou Warrior strong from out Thy
golden city cam'st, mad'st darkness flee;
With Her the beauteous Queen didst
deign to come. The glorious devotees
Who grace had gained, approached Thy
Feet. I saw, yet like a sightless hog
That roams the village street, shall I still
roam a wretch doomed to live on ? (212)

LIV. My love is weak

Full many a saint through deathless time
wrought penance, members mortified
With frustrate hope to see Thee here !
Yet Thou didst sinful me Thy servant
make.

O Gem ! This frame with foulness filled
wears not away. To see Thy face,
The strong desire and love 'bide not in
me; my Prince, how may I rise ?(216)

LV. Still I live this loathed life.

Thy bride is Umai with the fawn-like
eyes ! Thou cam'st and mad'st me Thine
Ambrosia Thou, essential sweetness
shed ! O Civan, southern Tillai's King
Thy saints assembled 'neath Thy sacred
sign have gone to gather round Thy feet
This loathsome body still I guard, still
here I dwell, O MASTER MINE !(220)

LVI . Thy will ordains my exile.

O MASTER MINE ! They think on
Thee, Thy loving ones, with rapture
filled

They're Thine, Thy Foot I saw them join.
Yet here more mean than village cur
I dwell; my heart no rapture feels; my
mind is stone, nor melts within.

This body vile I still must guard and here
abide,-such is THY WILL ! (224)

LVII. My old life of earthly love.

The way THY WILL ordains befits me
well ! Faithless I strayed, I left
Thy saints. A reprobate was I I How did
I watch the one belov'd,
The quiverings of the lip, the folds of
circling robe, the timid bashfull looks
To read love's symptoms there ! My

mind thus ruin to myself wrought out.
(228)

LVIII. Was my vocation a mockery
then?

Thou honied Sweetness, purest Joy,
Souls' Light, Master Who fill'st with
bliss

The frame of those that trust in Thee,
Giver of endless gifts ! Of worth.

I void am yet Thy slave; Thou me hast
made Thine own; if this be so

Thy servant's state would show, I plead,
Thy gift of grace was but Thy sport.

(232)

LIX. What other refuge have I ?

Thy nature others know not ! Lord ! Me
evil cur, lowest of all,

Hast Thou not made Thine own ? And
wilt Thou let me go cast out from Thee?

Then who will deign to look on me ?
What shall I do, O PerumAn ?
Father, whose sacred form is gleam of
gold, where shall I refuge find? (236)

LX. I have sure hope; yet how
unworthy!

I shall enter beneath Thy Foot which is
mine ! 'mid saints that adore I standing
Shall laugh, glad as I gaze on the well-
known form! shameless dog tho' I am !
No melting love is here! To see Thee - to
be made Thine own, - can I
Be meet ? This abject state, Father !
behold, 'tis past my power to BEAR !
(240)

DECAD VII.

THE OVERWHELMING SENSE OF
THE DIVINE COMPASSION.

LXI. Praises

I BEAR no more these joys of sense;

Hail I CangarA !

Hail ! heaven's ancient Lord. Hail ! our
Vidalai !

Hail ! Matchless One ! Hail ! King of
heavenly hosts !

Hail ! Tillai's Dancer ! All hail ! our
Spotless One ! (244)

LXII. Ecstasy.

All hail ! Na ma-ci va ya ! Buyangan !

My senses fail !

All hail ! Na ma ci-va-ya ! Other refuge
is there none !

All hail ! Na-ma-ci-va-ya ! Send me not
forth from Thee !

All hail! Na-ma-ci-va-ya! Triumph,
triumph, Hail! (248)

LXIII. All in all !

Hail ! Loving One, Who deign'st to
make false ones like me Thine own !

Hail ! to Thy Foot ! Hail ! O Lord ! Hail,
hail !

Hail ! Sweetness new of mercy's flood !
Earth, water, fire,
Wind, ether, the two lights of heaven, are
Thee, O GOD ! (252)

LXIV. Come quickly !

Hail, O my GOD ! In grace behold me;
Hail !

Hail ! I pray Thee melt my soul within
me, make me Thine !

Hail ! This body strip from off me;
quickly give the heavenly realms !

Hail ! CangarA, Who in Thy braided
lock hast GangA placed ! (256)

LXV. Praise.

Hail ! O CangarA, other refuge have I
none !

Hail ! Partner of the Queen of glorious
form, of ruddy lips,
And gleaming smile, and black bright
eye ! Hail ! Rider on the mighty Bull
Here these earthly joys I bear not,
Embiran,I all renounce ! (260)

LXVI. Prostration.

I have myself renounced, even I; Hail,
hail, Embiran !

I have not done Thee wrong ! Hail ! Foot
to which I service owe !

Hail ! Faults to forgive is duty of the
great !

O cause this earthly life to cease ! Hail,
Lord of heaven ! (264)

LXVII. Adoration.

Hail, Lord ! Hail ! Thou King of
heavenly saints !

Partner of the Queen's graceful form,

Hail ! Wearer of the sacred ash !

Hail ! Worthy Prince ! Hail ! Thou of
Tillai's sacred court !

Hail ! ! King of heaven ! My only Ruler,
Hail ! (268)

LXVIII. Take me

Hail !, only Deity ! Incomparable Father,
Hail !

Hail ! Guru of the heavenly ones ! Hail !
! Tender Branch !

Hail, bid me come, receive me ! grant
Thy Foot to gain;

And thus remove my lonely friendless
woe ! (272)

LXIX.

Hail, to those who love with perfect
love, Giver of love surpassing theirs !
Hail ! Greatness that oft my falsehood
pardon'd, granted grace, and made me
Thine !

Hail ! Prince, Who drank the outpoured
poison,-to the heavenly ones ambrosia
gave !

Hail ! Thy perfect Foot on me, a wretch,
in grace bestow ! (276)

LXX. The Universal Lord.

Hail ! Thou Who art earth, water, fire,
wind, ether too !

Hail ! Thou, all life's phenomena,-
Thyself invisible !

Hail, all living beings' End,-Thyself
without an end !

Thyself reaching through all, by senses
five unreached ! (280)

DECAD VIII.

MYSTIC UNION.

LXXI. Sinking in rapture.

Sire, as IN UNION strict, Thou mad'st
me Thine; on me didst look, didst draw
me near;

And when it seemed I ne'er could be
with Thee made one,-when naught of
Thine was mine,-

And naught of mine was Thine,-me to
Thy Feet Thy love

In mystic union joined, Lord of the
heavenly land !-'Tis height of
BLESSEDNESS. (284)

LXXII. All bliss in God.

For BLESSEDNESS I seek; not Indra's
choice delights, nor those of other gods;
Thou Only-One, I live not save with Thy
Feet twain ! Our Lord, my breast is
Riven,
With trembling seized; my hands in
adoration join;
And from my eyes a ceaseless stream
pours down, as of a river, O MY SAGE !
(288)

LXXIII. Prayer for consummation.

MY SAGE, save to Thyself there's none
to whom I cling;-in me, deceitful one
No part from mingled falseness 'scapes;
I'm falsehood's self ! Partner of Her
whose dark
Eyes gleam, come Thou to me ! the love
Thy true ones feel,-
Who at Thy jewell'd Feet in love
commingling rest,-mine be it too, I

PRAY ! (292)

LXXIV. Give me essential oneness.

I PRAY for love of Thine own jewell'd
Feet; remove the false; Thine own
Make me in truth; dog though I am, O
bid me come, in grace join to Thyself
For ever more Thine own ! So let me
ceaseless praise,
Thro' every world returning ever come;
my King, that I may WORSHIP THEE !
(296)

LXXV. Thou art sole actuality

THEE WORSHIP both the earth and
heaven, with shouts of joy, and fourfold
mystic scroll:

They yearning pine for Thee. For they
who gain Thee know naught true exists
but Thee.

Ah ! since we vow to quit Thy service

never, come

And grant Thy grace, Thou Partner of the
lovely Queen ! Pausing why PONDER so
?(300)

LXXVI. He transcends thought and
speech.

WHEN PONDERING Thee the thought
goes forth, to reach the bound desired by
fitting word

Is not a whit attainable; nor are these
things one hears through forms of
speech.

Thee, Who art all the world, the senses
five know not.

How GAIN the Father's Foot that rests in
all that is and every sphere beyond?

(304)

LXXVII. Pity me !

To me, a guileful soul, who thought to
GAIN Thee, Lord, salvation save by
Thee

Is none. No other Being truly is, save
Thee ! Lest pining sorrow come,
In mercy to my sin, my soul vouchsafe
to guard.

'Tis pitying grace like this alone RULER
SUPERNE ! Thy glory doth beseem.
(308)

LXXVIII. My soul clings to Thee.

' RULER SUPERNE, there's none
butThee, or here or there,' and thus I ever
spake,
Fool though I was, there was no
difference ! Our Lord: Thou Spotless
One,
Who didst
Make me, an outcast wretch, Thine own,
my Teacher Thou,

The THOUGHT, that other god exists
than Thee the One, my mind shall never
THINK !(312)

LXXIX. Old days of ignorance.

BY THOUGHT, by deed, by hearing, or
by speech, or by these wretched senses
five

I failed in days of old Thy truth to
reach;- I, low and foolish one.

I passed not through the fire, my heart
burst not with shame.

To Thee, O Father, even yet may I attain
! May I yet dwell with Thee ! (316)

LXXX. Strange command: 'Tarry yet
below.'

Me iron hearted and deceitful one, Thine
own Thou mad'st; Thy foot's sweet bliss
Filled me with joy; with me Thou didst

commingling join. The fire was there
and I

Was there: that was which was ! Though
this was so that day,

There was in Thee desire for me, in me
for Thee;-what ignorance was mine?

(320)

DECAD IX.

ECSTASY.

LXXXI. Falsehood lingers yet.

'The seed of lies is not destroyed ;'-so
saying, Thou hast placed me here !-

All those that were to Thy desire have
come, and reached Thy sacred Foot ! -

In depths of fear I sink O God, Who
didst in ArUr ask for alms,

What shall I do ? SPEAK Thou to me !

(324)

LXXXII. Resignation.

Thou SPAK'ST to me, amid Thy saints
with sacred ash I was besmeared;
By men on earth as Thy poor slave I've
been abused; henceforth, if what
I suffer pleases not, 'tis what my soul
desires, because I am
Thy SLAVE, whom Tho~ didst make
Thine own ! (328)

LXXXIII. Yet I know not why I'am left.

And am I not Thy SLAVE ? and didst
Thou not make me Thine own, I pray
All those Thy servants have approached
Thy Foot; this body full of sin
I may not quit, and see Thy face,-Thou
Lord of Civa-world!-I fear,
And SEE NOT HOW TO GAIN THE
SIGHT ! (332)

LXXXIV. Tell me the hindrance to my instant freedom.

I SEE NOT HOW THY SIGHT TO
GAIN; though Thee THAT DAY I saw !
Speak Thou
In music say what 'tis that weighs my
spirit down,-O Light Superne !
Male, Female, rare Ambrosia, Sire ! I
die, a dog, of power bereft,
By what may I rise up, my Lord ? (336)

LXXXV. Falseness keeps me out.

Thou Partner of the fawn-eyed Queen;
Thou Word, whose end the Word
knows not;-
Ambrosia sweet, to thought unknown;
King, faults of wretched me Thou bear'st
I babbling tell my woes. Thy saints have
reached the city blest. OUTSIDE
I and my FALSENESS wander here !

(340)

LXXXVI. But O, the pity of it.

OUTSIDE We go, FALSENESS and I
!True love to gain I've lost the power.
This is my gain! Thy saints to Thee who
utterly are joined now,
Know nothing else but Thee; in acts all
glorious on their way they go !
O Civan, they have reached Thy FOOT !
(344)

LXXXVII. Failure !

O Master, give Thy slave to love Thy
FOOT; Thy servants now have gained
The world from which they come not
back; outside I have remained, I've tried
'To crown the village cow, and so have
crowned the blind !' From love, of
Thy twain Feet

Estranged, a slave I 'wildered WEEP !
(348)

LXXXVIII. I am unworthy to be
numbered with Thy saints.

I WEEP ! With loving mind towards
Thee, like wax before the fire were they.
Thy gleaming, golden, jewelled Foot
have they beheld, and worshipping
Have followed Thee; not following on
with them, in vain have I been born !
Wherewith shall I before Thee bow?
(352)

LXXXIX. At least, take my sin away.

In grace Thou hast put far all ills of
those that bowed; on ancient saints
Thou didst bestow Thy Foot adorned ! If
that's too great for me, my guilt
(Who'm like a tough bambu) destroy;

come swiftly, give Thy healing Foot
Thou only True, from FALSEHOOD
free ! (356)

XC. Teach me Thy way.

All FALSE am I; FALSE is my heart;
and FALSE my love; yet, if he weep,
May not Thy sinful servant Thee, Thou
Soul's Ambrosial sweetness, gain ?
Lord of all honied gladness pure, in
grace unto Thy servant teach
The way that he may come to Thee !
(360)

DECAD X

THE OVERFLOW OF RAPTURE.

XCI. The true ones blest - but I!

O Flood of mighty changeless grace !

They came,
who gain'd erewhile the gift immutable
Of station 'neath Thy twain flow'r-
wreathed Feet.

They, LOVING THEE IN TRUTH,
HAVE REACH'D THE TRUE !

Thee, Endless One, benignly manifest,
diffusing light,-as Man, I saw Thee
come !

Yet I, a dog, of heart by fate unblest,-
lie at the gate, ah me ! in low estate.

(364)

XCII. Deny me not Thy truth.

O Half of Her with eyes of glist'ning jet,
Thou cam'st and mad'st me Thine, with
tender hand

As feeding me from golden cup, since
when

hard of access I deem Thee never more;
Thou on Whose Body gleam the ashes

white !

They, LOVING THEE IN TRUTH,
HAVE REACH'D THE TRUE !

But, tell me, is it MEET that Thou
should'st go
and leave me here, in falsehood thus to
fall ? (368)

XCIII. Take 'deeds' away.

MEETNESS I'd none,-the false I took
for true;
but when with loving glance Thou had'st
me come,
Afflictions ceased ! Yet now deceit
seems truth.
I have not died, O blooming lotus Foot !
Thou with Thy loving ones-to whom
Thy grace
was given, O roseate Form,-on high
Hast gone, and left me here. Lord, hear
my plaint:

there is no end of deeds for worthless me
! (372)

XCIV. No limit to Thy power.

There was no love in me towards Thy
FOOT,

O Half of Her with beauteous fragrant
locks !

By magic power that stones to mellow
fruit

converts, Thou mad'st me lover of Thy
Feet.

Our Lord, Thy tender love no limit
knows.

Whatever sways me now, whate'er my
deed,

Thou can'st even yet Thy Foot again to
me

display and save, O Spotless Heavenly
One ! (376)

XCV. My course laid out by Thee.

Thou Whom the lords of heaven
themselves know not !

Thy source and end the VEdas cannot
trace !

Thou Whom in every land men fail to
know !

As Thou hast sweetly made me Thine
hast called

This flesh to dance on stage of earth,-
me to enjoy Thyself with melting soul,-
In mystic drama, too, hast caused to
move,-

pinning on earth, Thou Lord of magic
power ! (380)

XCVI. 'I am Thine, save me!?

Without a seed, the fruit Thou causest
spring;

th' entire of heaven and earth, and all

therein

Thou didst ordain, and wilt destroy ! Me
too,

deceitful, mean, within Thy temple gates
Thou fill'd'st with frenzy; mad'st to join
the band

of Thy great loving ones ! Ev'n should
the tree

They plant yield poison, men destroy it
not;-

and thus am I, MY OWNER AND MY
LORD ! (384)

XCVII. Devotion.

OWNER AND LORD, all hail! Besides
Thyself

support to cling to hath Thy servant
aught ?

I serve Thee, hail ! Transcendent Being,
Lord

of those in heavenly courts who dwell,

all hail !

Lowest of all have I become, all hail !

Giver to me of every grace, all hail !

Thou Who didst make me Thine own
servant, hail !

the First Thou art, and Last, my

FATHER, hail ! (388)

XCVIII. Earnest appeal.

My FATHER ! unto me Ambrosia Thou
!

O Blest Supreme ! Thou art to honey
like

That flows abundant, thrills the soul with
bliss I

Thy loving ones enjoy Thee as their own
!

Helper Thou art ! with glist'ning glory
crowned,

in weary anguish of Thy worshippers.

O Treasure ! tell me, wilt Thou leave me

here,
in this poor world to pine away, our
KING ? (392)

XCIX. Come !

O KING, our Lord, come Thou to me, to
me !

Who art before the four-faced One and
MAI,

And all the gods. Our Lord, come Thou
to me, to me !

After the day when all things have their
end

Thou art ! Our Lord, come Thou to me,
to me !

I at Thy jewell'd feet would utter praise
With loving tongue ! Our Lord, come

Thou to me, to me I

that I, Sin's-slayer, may Thy glories
SING ! (396)

C. Longing desire.

THY PRAISE TO SING I long, all hail !

Thee sing !

while all my being sinks and melts in
love.

I long to dance, all hail ! in Thy blest
courts,

before Thy flow'ry dancing Foot ! A
dog,-

I long to join, all hail ! Remove me from
this nest of worms, all hail ! The false I
long

To leave, all hail ! Grant me Thy home,
all hail !

Hail Thou who art to THY TRUE
SERVANTS TRUE !

**HYMN VI - neethal viNNappam
(prapanja vairakkiyam)
'FORSAKE ME NOT'**

This title, which forms the burthen of the poem, is given to one of the Sage's most interesting compositions. It consists of fifty quatrains, constructed in a beautiful metre (see my Second Grammar 192) which is in fact epichoriambic (as is explained in the notes to the Tamil text).

It is called AnthAthi poem. This means that it is anaphoretic, the last word of a verse is to be repeated in the beginning of each following verse, and very often striking its keynote. Hymn V is the same). This has a beautiful effect in Tamil, but the difference of Idiom often forbids translator to attempt to reproduce it in English.

The poem throughout is a genuine human cry for Divine help in the midst of a terrible struggle and is full of the

most vivid emotion. It was composed, according to tradition, immediately after the wonderful cento that forms the fifth poem, and gives expression to the youthful devotee's feelings after his guru had finally departed, and the company of the 999 (?) saints who attended him had thrown themselves into the fire. He is said to have gone round the Civan shrines in the PAndiyan Kingdom, and first of all to have spent some considerable time in the ancient city of Tiru-uttara-kOcamangai, which was at one time a PAndiyan capital, situate eight miles south-west of Ramnad, where the ruins of an important Civan shrine are yet to be seen. There he suffered from the reaction naturally consequent upon the excitement produced by the wonderful events of the preceding months. He had been till now the petted, highly gifted favourite and

prime minister of the PAndiyan Kingdom living in the midst of pomp and luxury, invested with almost absolute power; and was still in early manhood. He finds himself at once a Caiva mendicant, who has renounced everything subsists on alms, and must spend his days and nights in solitary meditation.

Meanwhile the circumstances in which he finds himself placed the lives of his companions, the whole environment of the temple, are not favourable to pure and high devotion. The lofty ideal is not realized here. Then, as now, the influences surrounding and emanating from the shrine itself were in many ways deteriorating. From the evidence of these verses, we conclude that there were two things from which he suffered. One of these was the allurements of the female

attendants who, in bands pertained to the temple. We have noticed this elsewhere. Hindu commentators will often find mystic meanings, which are harmless, - if unfounded. Again and again in this and other poems he deplors the way in which he has been led to violate his vow. The other difficulty, often referred to was the way in which mere ceremonial acts had to be performed, affording no relief to his conscience. He thus fell into a desponding and well-nigh despairing state of mind, and sent forth this cry like that heard in the Psalter, and reiterated by the greatest Being that ever trod the pathway of this human life. Few things in literature have such a genuine ring as some of the verses in which young noble bewails his apparent desertion by his Master. Yet he never quite lost his confidence and love; and afterwards, as many of the lyrics show,

exchanged for the 'spirit of heaviness the garment of praise'.

I do not think that any one can be found who will withhold his sympathy from the Sage. It may be noticed, though it is in connection with the Tamil text that the matter must be more fully discussed, that there is a great difference, as it seems to me, between the style of the first twenty stanzas (where indeed it may be conjectured that the poem originally ended) and those that follow. Notably in verses 21-50 there is only reference to Uttara-kOca-mangai, which city in verses 1-20 is a part of the perpetual refrain. These latter verses, too, are more ingenious and subtle, and are more full of poetic fancies. Sometimes, indeed, they may seem to be even more beautiful than those that are the undoubted composition of the Sage. Their language, rhythm, and

manner seem to me, however, to be different. But I readily acknowledge the difficulty that lies in the way of all merely subjective criticism, especially by a foreigner. Yet the exceedingly uncritical way in which these texts have been hitherto handled necessitates and justifies the attempt.

The writer did a great part of these translations at beautiful Lugano, not unfrequently relieving the toil by the enjoyment of an hour in the church of S. Maria degli Angoli, before the marvellous frescoes of Bernardino Luini; and could not help wishing oft times that the Tamil Sage and Seeker after God could have stood there, or haply knelt by his side. Could Manikkavacagar have traced that history of the Great Master, of His passage from Gethsemane to the glory of His heavenly dwelling place,

how would he have been affected?. One wonders!. It may be that he, and the weaver of MailApUr, and the wandering sages of the NAladiyAr, and others whose legends we recall, have since, freed from the flesh, visited that spot. Certainly they know those histories now! Shall we not in regard to our poet-sage, wherever his ashes are scattered, say hopefully and tenderly, Requiescat in pace?

Metre: kaTTaLaikkaliththuRai

I. The foresaken one's petition

Me, meanest one, in mercy mingling
Thou didst make Thine own,-
Lord of the Bull ! Lo, THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME! O Thou Who wear'st
Garb of fierce tiger's skin ! ABIDING
UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING

Thou of the braided lock ! I fainting
sink. Our Lord, uphold Thou me ! (4)

II.

The crimson lips of maidens fair, in
ripeness of their charms,
I press no more; yet, Lo ! THOU HAST
FORSAKEN ME; though in,
Not out Thy worthy service, UTTARA-
KOCA-MANGAI'S KING,
I am ! Thou mad'st false me Thine, why
dost Thou leave me NOW ? (8)

III.

A tree on river bank of dark eyed
maiden's senses five
I rooted stand ! LO, ME THOU HAST
FOKSAKEN; Thou who dwell'st
In ArUr's shrine renowned; O
UTTARA-KOCA MANGAI'S KING !

Half of her form, the beauteous one !
Thou FOSTERER of my life ! (12)

IV.

Thou took'st me in Thy gracious
FOSTERING hand; and then,
withdrawn,
LO ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN me lost
here; Thou Whose lofty crown
Bears the pale crescent moon, O
UTTARA KOCA-MANGAI'S KING !
Thou radiant Beam as lightning seen
'mid sheen of GLISTENING gold ! (16)

V.

Like moth in GLISTENING flame, to
those of gentle speech, long time
I fall a prey ! LO, THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME! In Thy flower-crown
Sweet bees sip fragrant honey;

UTTARA KOCA-MANGAI'S KING !
Since with ambrosia of Thy grace to
feed me I REFUSED ! (20)

VI.

Through ignorance I have Thy grace
REFUSED; and Thou, my Gem!
Hast loathed me ! Lo, THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME ! My throng of 'deeds '
Suppress, and make me Thine, O
UTTARA-KOCA MANGAI'S KING !
Will not the great-soul'd bear, though
little curs are FALSE ? (24)

VII.

FALSE me Thou mad'st Thine own, as
though some worth I had; didst mend
Me, O Thou True ! LO, THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME! Thy throat is black
With swallow'd poison ! STATELY

UTTARA-KOCA MANGAI'S KING!
O roseate One, Civan, who PUTT'ST
AWAY my mortal pains ! (28)

VIII.

What is Thy way of glorious grace that
PUTS AWAY my sin ?
I ask with awe; THOU'ST LEFT ME,
UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING;
Before whose jubilant Bull flower-
crown'd foes fearing fled !
The senses 'five' and fear in ways
DIVERSE draw guilty me ! (32)

IX.

Like ant on firebrand lit at DIVERSE
ends, sever'd from Thee,
Distraught, Lo ! ME THOU HAST
FORSAKEN, Thou the only Lord
Of the vast triple world, strong

UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING !
Whose BRIGHT right hand uplifts the
warrior's triple-headed spear ! (36)

X.

I gained access to Thy BRIGHT Feet,
freed from this mortal frame !
Yet me who pine, THOU'ST LEFT; O
UTTARA-KOCA MANGAI'S KING,
Around Whose beauteous flowery
groves the swarms of beetles hum;
Thou Who with bow of might didst burn
the city of, Thy FOES ! (40)

XI.

MY FOES, 'the five' deceived me; from
Thy jewelled flower-like Feet
I parted; LO! THOU HAST
FORSAKEN ME ! Thou honey of
My sinful soul ! O UTTARA-KOCA

MANGAI'S KING !

O WORTH, Whose golden form gleams
'neath the hallowed ash ! (44)

XII.

O WORTHY ONE, Thou mad'st me
Thine; by senses ' five ' deceived,
I worthless left Thee ! UTTARA-KOCA
MANGAI'S KING ! And Thou
Hast left me ! Thou Whose mighty
javelin slays Thy trembling foes;
Great SEA of clear Ambrosia given for
worthless me to taste ! (48)

XIII.

As dog laps water from the lake, my soul
Thy mercy's SEA
Quits not; me THOU'ST FORSAKEN,
UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING;
Who dost as in a home abide in those

who leave Thee not,
Wine of the palm ! Ambrosia ! Gem !
My FLOOD of bliss ! (52)

XV.

Like one whose tongue amid the
FLOOD is parched I gain'd Thy grace,
Yet sorrow springs; ME THOU'ST
FORSAKEN; UTTARA-KOCA-
MANGAI'S KING;
Who ever dwellest in Thy servants'
hearts that Thee desire !
To me in guile immersed grant grace !
My joy is JOYLESS all ! (56)

xv,

With JOYOUS thought I saw Thy Foot,
drew near, and gained Thy grace;
Yet am not free ! ME THOU'ST
FORSAKEN, UTTARA-KOCA-

MANGAI'S KING,
Whose flowery jewell'd Foot is Light of
all true lights that gleam !
Father accessible ! Lord, Who didst
make me all Thine own ! (60)

XVI

I wandered weary, none to say 'Fear not
' Like lightning's flash
Behold, THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME
! Thou Truth beyond compare;
Great UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S
KING, that like Thyself abides:
Like Mother Thou, like Father Thou, my
soul's most precious WEALTH ! (64)

XVII.

O WEALTH ! Sole Refuge of my lonely
heart ! By those who spurn
Thy glories fear'd ! Lo, THOU'ST

FORSAKEN ME; O Grace by eager
heart

And true enjoyed; THOU KING OF
UTTARA-KOCA MANGAI'S SHRINE,
With fair groves girt ! Darkness and
light, this world and that, Thou art ! (68)

XVIII.

'Be with me ! Govern, use, sell, pledge
me,' thus I cried,

Yet me, erewhile Thy guest, THOU
HAST FORSAKEN, Who didst drink
The poison as ambrosia; UTTARA
KOCA-MANGAI'S KING !

Thou healing Balm for those bowed
down by 'changeable birth's' disease ! (72)

XIX.

Fire of Thy 'biding grace my sins' thick
springing wood burns up,

Vidangan ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME;
O UTTAR-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING;
Who dost destroy the root of human
'birth,' and make me Thine;
The hill-like elephant didst flay, and
fright the Vanji-BOUGH ! (76)

XX.

Like climbing plant with no-supporting
BOUGH, I wavering hung !
Lo, Tender One, me-tremblulg
THOU'ST FORSAKEN; Thou Who
dwell'st
Where heavenly ones come not; strong
UTTARA-KOCA-MANGAI'S KING;
Thou Who art Ether, Earth, and Fire, and
Wind, and watery FLOOD ! (80)

XXI.

Like little shrubs where elephants

contend, by senses five
I've been sore vexed; lo, THOU, my
Father, HAST FORSAKEN ME !
To sinful me commingled honey, milk,
sweet cane, ambrosia,
LIGHT of my soul, thrilling my flesh
and inmost frame,-Thou art ! (84)

XXII.

The LIGHT Thou art: the White One,
gleaming bright. with sacred ash
Besmeared. Lo ! THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME; Thou to Thy servants
true
Art near; from others ever distant; hard
to know;
The Feminine, the ancient Male, the
neutral One art Thou ! (88)

XXIII.

The form Thou gav'st I wore, in faults
abounding, scant of love,,
Me, worthless slave, THOU HAST
FORSAKEN, see ! But, if Thou leave,
I perish; none but Thee upholds Thy
slave; Source of my being's bliss;
This clear perception hath Thy servant
gained, Indwelling Lord ! (92)

XXIV.

Things true abiding, folly-stirred, for
vanities I burn'd;
And THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME; Thou
Who as robe dost wear the hide
Of fiery mighty-handed elephant !-I joys
of sense
Seeking gain not, like ANTS that
noiseless round the oil-jar swarm. (96)

XXV.

Like worm in midst of ANTS, by senses
gnawed and troubled sore,
Me, utterly alone, Lo ! THOU'ST
FORSAKEN; Thou Whom fiery death
obeyed;
Whose fragrant flowery Foot the
heavenly ones attain, and they
Who know; O MIGHTY One, Who from
Thy servants partest not ! (100)

XXVI.

'When the GREAT waters fail, the little
fishes faint; ' so reft of Thee
I quake. Lo ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN
ME ! The moon's white crescent borne
On Ganga's wave, like little skiff on
mountain stream,
Is hidden in Thy braided locks, O
CHOICEST GEM of heaven ! (104)

XXVII.

CHOICE GEMS they wore, those softly smiling maids; I failed, I fell.

Lo ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME ! Thou gav'st me place 'mid Saints who wept, Their beings fill'd with rapturous joys; in grace didst make me Thine !- Show me Thy Feet, even yet to SENSE revealed, O spotless Gem ! (108)

XXVIII.

While SENSES made me quake, I trembling swerved to falsehood's way.

Lo ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME !

While heaven and earth the poison feared

From out the mighty sea, Thou madest it ambrosia; Home of grace !

Thy servant I, O Master, stand distraught; sole Worship of my heart !

(112)

XXIX.

Thyself from every fetter free, Thou
freed'st me from all fault, O Sire,
Whose bow victorious is the mighty
mount ! Lo, THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME
!

Thy lotus-form the cassia's gold wreath
wears; O matchless One !
By fivefold-evil am I stirred like milk by
CHURNING STAFF. (116)

XXX.

The senses' fire burns fierce; I'm stirr'd
as the cool curds by
CHURNING'STAFF,
Lo ! ME THOU HAST FORSAKEN I
Thou Who wear'st chaplet of skulls
And clustering wreaths of flowers, and
the long entrails' twine; and dost Thyself

Adorn with ashes, and sweet sandal-
paste, O ESSENCE PURE ! (120)

XXXI. Thou art with all ! - but me !

PURE ESSENCE Multiform, Who art
cool flood, sky, wind, earth, fire;
THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME ! White,
black, and azure art Thou seen !
Roseate Thy form ! Thy girdle is the
glistening hooded snake !
O WARRIOR ELEPHANT, with
dripping brow and mighty foot ! (124)

XXXII. Sensuality was my bane.

Those WARRING ELEPHANTS, the
senses five, I feared,-was lost.
THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME, Thou,
hard to leave,-hard to attain,
Save by Thy worthy saints, bright Gem !
While fierce fire raged,

Poison hard won from out the sea, Thou
mad'st Thy food, O Azure-throat! (128)

XXXIII. Pardon my waywardness !

That I wished to do I did,-wine of Thy
grace I drank,-rejoiced;-
Then swerved ! THOU HAST
FORSAKEN ME ! Thy fragrant flowery
Foot,
As in the days of old Thou gav'st,
command and bid me serve !
Take me, my Father ! O remove this
wayward FOND DESIRE ! (132)

XXXIV. I was fickle and self-witted

Sitirred by no strong DESIRE I did my
will, nor clung to Thine !
And, lo ! THOU HAST FORSAKEN
ME ! When wilt Thou yet as wine
Of joy meet me, and all my mind with

fragrant sweetness fill,
As of the plantain fruit,-
TRANSCENDENT LORD of Kailai's
hill ? (136)

XXXV. I am, though faulty, Thine !

TRANSCENDENT LORD, with Thine
own ancient saints, me faulty one
Thou didst desire ! O Aran, yet LO !
THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME !-
Thou didst me place near Thee, like the
hare spots thou wear'st,-
O mighty Warrior 'gainst birth's five-
mouth'd snake, my soul would shun!
(140)

XXXVI. Quench sensual fires.

Like flames in forest glade sense-fires
with smoky glare burn fierce !
I burn ! LO, THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME

! O conquering King of heaven,
The garlands on Whose braided lock
drip honey, while the bees
Hum softly 'mid MandAra buds, whence
fragrant sweetness breathes. (144)

XXXVII. Is there no pity?

O King, to me poor ignorant, 'Fear not
for faults,' Thou didst
Not say, but HAST FORSAKEN ME, O
Thou with fragrance crowned !
Spouse of the sea-born maid with
sparkling gems and jet-black eyes !
Bhuyangan ! Golden Foot ! My 'deeds'
PRESS round like clustering hills. (148)

XXXVIII. I have erred through
weakness.

By senses PRESSED, fearing I left Thee,
weak to quit the charms

Of sweet-voiced maids. Lo ! THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME ! Thou radiant Beam
King of the burning ground; Ambrosia to
Thy worshippers;
Hard to be gained; sole HELP, removing
loneliness of lonely me ! (152)

XXXIX. Help me in this conflict with
flesh.

SOLE HELP, whilst Thou wert there I
wandered wanton, -'deeds' my help !
THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME, Thou
Helper of my guilty soul;
Thou Source of all my beings bliss;
Treasure that never fails !
No whit bear I this grievous body's
mighty NET ! (156)

XL. The pain of sensuality.

Caught by those eyes whose timid

glance is like fawn's in the NET,
'Wildered I grieved. Lo ! THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME ! Thou on Whose head
The pale moon's crescent thin is seen !
Ocean of grace ! Thou Lord
Of Kailai's hill ! Spouse of the mountain
Maid ! Source Of my being's joy ! (160)

XLI. Woe is me, in this vile fleshy
prison.

In the hot flood of lust for those of ruddy
lips, like crocodiles,-
I eager plunged. Lo ! THOU'ST
FORSAKEN ME ! This body foul,
Ant-eaten, I endure not; Civan, list to my
complaint !
Thou Bridegroom of the beauteous
Bride; my joyous Goal of bliss ! (164)

XLII. Grace once given, now withdrawn.

Thou gav'st indeed to me in grace to
gain my goal, Thy Feet;-
Yet THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME, not
fated to shake off this flesh !
The moon beheld the serpent bright in
skull-cave hid, and feared;-
Then plunging hid his swelling crest
within Thy braided lock, O KING !
(168)

XLIII. I adore Thee, though forlorn.

O KING, to wretched me, who know not
any path, the Light
Of joy ! THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME
!-Thou the true Vedic Lord
To me didst speak, Who passed speech !
To steadfast worshippers,
Thou art the First, the Last too,-Thou
this universal Whole !(172)

XLIV. Tormented by lust.

Like oil was I poured in fierce fire of
glancing dartlike eyes,-
LO ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME!
Whose word erst joined me to Thy
saints,
Who ever worship at Thy fragrant
flowery Feet; my Lord !
My Master, faulty though I am, forsake
me not ! Thee will I SING. (176)

XLV. Spiritual desertion

I SANG Thee not, nor worshipped Thee,
O hidden Gem,-nor left this flesh.
LO ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME ! All
wonderment I wept, yet sought Thee not,
Nor, 'Where is Civan,' 'Who hath seen
Him?' did I haste to ask.
I lay supine, my soul no raptures knew;-I
suffered sore ! (180)

XLVI. Still will I adore the mysteries of
Thy nature.

Like fly in jack-fruit caught, I fell a prey
to fawn-eyed maids !

LO ! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME ! But
if Thou leave, I'll utter loud reproach !
I'll call Thee 'Black-throat,' 'Who ate
poison from the sea,' 'The Unqualified,'
'The man,' 'Crowned with the waning
moon,' 'The mighty God gone wrong.'
(184)

XLVII. Various wanderings.

The ancient worship of Thy blameless
Feet I gained; then fell;
Reviled Thee; woke once more; and, LO
! THOU HAST FORSAKEN ME !
Greatness, that heavenly Ganga stirs to
shed bright gems and pearls !
Thy WREATH'S the crescent in the

water seen, caught in Thy braided lock !
(188)

XLVIII. I will boast Thy name.

Hero, Who wear'st the fiery snake-
WREATH on Thy starlike head !
Lo I THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME; But if
Thou leave when others ask
'Whose servant Thou ?' 'Slave of the
glorious slaves
Of Uttara-kOca-mangai's King,' I'll name
myself, and cause them SMILE at Thee.
(192)

XLIX. Ever praising.

I'll make them SMILE, unfolding faults
and service to the Lord !
Lo! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME; but if
Thou leave, I shall ABUSE Thee sore !
'Madman, clad in wild elephant's skin;'

'Madman, with hide for his garb
'Madman, that ate the poison;' 'Madman
of the burning-ground-fire
'Madman, that chose even me for His
own !' (196)

L.

ABUSING Thee or praising,-crushed by
sin, and grieved am I !
LO! THOU'ST FORSAKEN ME, Thou
Brightness on red coral hill !
Thou madst me Thine; didst fiery poison
eat, pitying poor souls,
That I might Thine ambrosia taste,-I,
meanest one ! (200)

HYMN VII - thiruvempaavai
(Cattiyai viyantatu)
THE MAIDENS' SONG OF THE
DAWNING

The mystic 'Song of the Maidens' forms a pendant to the 'Morning Hymn' (XX). It has always been attributed to Manikka-vACagar without any hesitation, though in many respects it is certainly unlike most of his other lyrics. It is said to have been composed for the use of the women at ArunACalam, among whom it is, and was, the custom to celebrate with great demonstrations of joy a festival in honour of the god Civan and the goddess Catti in the month of Margazhi, which corresponds to the second half of December and the first half of January. At that time the females of the city of all ages for ten successive days rise before dawn, and perambulate the precincts, arousing their companions from house to house, and proceeding to bathe (in rigidly decorous manner) in the sacred tank. There are passages in this poem which I have been obliged

somewhat to veil, and modify, carefully preserving, however, the full and exact meaning of the original, as I conceive it. There is, however, connected with the Caiva worship, it must be said, a series of rites which is sometimes called the tantric, and sometimes the Cakti system. No doubt, in connection with this, many unspeakable abominations have been, and are at times perpetrated; and every thoughtful Hindu is sincerely anxious that all trace of these corruptions should be swept away. In all nations similar things have existed, and it would be quite superfluous to enumerate the ancient rites of a similar character that have been enthusiastically celebrated. From such things the Caiva system must sever itself absolutely, which it can the more decidedly do, because they have no real root in the Caiva Siddhanta philosophy itself.

In one edition of these poems there is the introduction to the 'Maidens' Reveille,' which gives a mystic interpretation to a large portion of the lyric. According to this author, from the month of Adi to the month of Margazhi (i.e. from July 15th to January 15th) is the night season; the other half of the year being the daytime; the whole year forming a single day of the Gods. The former half of the year, in which there is rain with black clouds, is the representative of the secular period of involution or destruction, when all things have been re-involved in the ripple veils of darkness, which period precedes that of the recreation, or evolution. The other half of the year represents the period of creation, i.e. the time during which the phenomenal universe is re-evolved from its eternal elements as the sphere of the activities of all things that have life. The month of

Margazhi is then the symbol of the awaking of the universe from its slumber of involution. It is the dawn of the new creation,Ñ of secular evolution. [NOTE XIII].

Now this creation is the work of Catti, the manifested energy of Civan:Ñhis wife, who is the author, not of life indeed, but of the whole phenomenal system in which and by which life exerts its energy, and achieves its destinies. Civan himself can come into no personal relation with matter and its veiling delusions and darkness. It is, therefore, Catti that accomplishes the work; she is an energy of activity, of knowledge, and of desire; and through her alone the Supreme evolves all things. But this tantric system, like the gnostic systems of old, does not permit Catti as the Partner of the Supreme, to accomplish

directly the work of evolution. This would be far too simple and direct for Hindu philosophy. There is a long chain of feminine manifestations (aeons evolved in succession, each coming into a relation to the Supreme that constitutes a distinct stage in the process; and it is only at last that BrahmA and Vishnu are evolved, to be respectively the fashioned and the maintainer of the cosmic world. The writer here enumerates nine of these Cattis amongst whom are numbered the chief female divinities that, under various names and epithets, are worshipped or propitiated in various parts of India. Among them is the dreaded KAli. No doubt there are hints of all this in this poem, but its plain and obvious interpretation is the only one known to the majority of those that use it, and I imagine the composer himself was innocent of anything like the

gnosticism and mysticism that his interpreters have given him credit for. As the hymn stands it is a beautiful composition, but in some parts it will seem to be somewhat obscure. I have tried to give a version that still be as literal as possible, but only the Tamil reader can feel how great a poet its author was; and only the student of the South-Indian Caiva philosophy can expect to enter into its spirit.

Metre: veNTanaiyAnvanta
iyaRRavinaik koccackalippa

I. The temple worship

(The waits sing at the door)

The Splendour rare and great, that
knows nor first nor end,

we sing; Thou hear'st the song, yet still

sleep'st on;
O lady of the large bright eye ! is thine
ear dull
that it perceives not sound of praise that
hails
The great God's cinctured feet ?ÑShe
hears the strain resound
through all the street, yet in forgetful
sleep
On her flower-couch she muttering turns
! Ñ
See, here she nothing noting lies ! Why
thus, why thus ?
doth this our friend beseem ?-OUR
LADY FAIR, ARISE ! (4)

II. Trifle not.

'Hail to the heavenly Light,' thou ever
say'st, as we,
by night and day. Now of this flowery
couch
Art thou enamour'd, maid with faultless

gems adorned ?

Shame I jewell'd dames, are these things
trifles too ?

To sport and jest is this the place, when
He in grace

Hath come to give the foot-flower,
shame fast angels praise ?

The Teacher, Lord of Civa-world, in
Tillai's porch He rules.

Who are His lovers all ?-OUR LADY
FAIR, ARISE ! (8)

III.

O thou whose smile as pearl is bright,
arise, present
thyself before the Sire, the blissful One,
th' Ambrosial,

And with o'erflowing sweetness speak !
Come, ope thy doors !-

[She joins them. They enter the temple
porch]

'Ye men devout, the Ruler's ancient

saints, ye reverend men,
Will't be amiss if ye our weakness aid,
us novices admit ?
[in the temple]
No cheat is this know we not all Thy
wondrous love ?
Who sing not what they beauty deem ?
Our Civants form
ev'n so we yearn to see.-OUR LADY
FAIR, ARISE ! (12)

IV.

[They all henceforth sing their morning
song to the goddess,
imploring HER to arise in grace]
O thou of radiant pearl-like smile, is't not
now dawn ?
have not the sweet-voiced come, like
parrots many-hued ?
Thus thinking, as is meet, we speak;
meanwhile in sleep
close not Thine eye; let not thy time in

vain be spent ! -

Sole Balm of heaven, the VEda's
precious Sense, the Dear
to eyes that see, we sing, our melting
minds

In rapture all dissolved; nor deem thou
should'st remain

for ever thus asleep !-OUR LADY
FAIR, ARISE ! (16)

V. Say not, 'Civan is unknowable!'
The 'Mount' that MAI knew not, and
Ayan saw not,-we
can know; so Thou dost utter falsities,
O guileful one, whose mouth with milk
and honey flows,
ope thy door! He Whom earth, heaven,
and other realms know not,
In glory makes us His, cleanses our
souls in grace.
His goodness sing ! 'O Civan, Civan,'
hark ! they cry.

Thou understandest not; thou
understandest not !-
So's she with perfumed locks !-OUR
LADY FAIR, ARISE ! (20)

VI.

O fawn, but yesterday thou said'st, 'At
dawn I come
to rouse you up;' but now, all unabashed
Tell us, what quarter didst thou seek ?-
is't not yet dawn ?
He Who is sky, and earth, and all things
else, to men unknown:
Himself will come, will guard, and make
us His; to us
who coming sing His-heavenly cinctur'd
Foot, speak thou !
In rapture melt I The King of thee, of us
extol;
of all the worlds ! -OUR LADY FAIR,
ARISE ! (24)

VII.

Mother, are these too trifles? Many
heavenly ones
know not, the One, the mighty glorious
Lord.

Hearing His signals, ope thy mouth, and
'Civan ' cry,

Cry Southern-One.' Like was before the
fire

Melting, -'My own, my King, Ambrosia,'
we all

have sung! Hear thou ! apart from us yet
dost thou sleep ?

Dost thou yet speechless lie, like the
hard-hearted silly ones ?

What grace is in this sleep ?-OUR
LADY FAIR, ARISE ! (28)

VIII.

While cocks are crowing, small birds
chant on every side;

while trumpet sounds, sound out the

conch-shells everywhere;
The heav'nly Light without compare, the
Grace without compare,-
the Being great without compare, we've
sung; hear'st not ?
Bless thee, what slumber's this ? Thou
openest not thy mouth ?
is such the recompense for our King's
love we bring ?
Th'Eternal, First of Beings; Him
Who'bides the Only-One;
the Lady s Partner sing we all !-OUR
LADY FAIR, ARISE ! (32)

IX.

Ancient of days, existing ere the ancient
world!
Whose nature shares the newness of
created things!
Thy worshippers devout, who've gained
Thee for their Lord,
adore Thy servants' feet.-to them give

reverence due.---

And these alone shall be our wedded
lords; joyous
ev'n as they bid, due service will we
render meek.

Thus, if Thou grant to us this boon, our
King, no lack

Thy handmaids e'er shall know!-OUR
LADY FAIR, ARISE ! (36)

X,

Beneath the sevenfold gulf, transcending
speech, His foot-flower rests;
with flowers adorned His crown of all
the universe is crown !

The Lady's at His side !-His sacred form
dwells not alone !

The VEdam, heavenly ones, and earth,
praise Him; and yet

He's our one Friend, Whose praise ne'er
dies; within His saints He dwells;
pure He sustains the 'clan ' ; ye temple-

ladies, say

What is His Town ? His Name ? His kin
? and who His foes ?