

Thirukkural:
The Scripture of Human Religion Based on Righteousness

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Abstract

Human created religions to create a social order and personal well being in the name of God, but many aspects of religion don't deal with practicality. Thirukkural the only text which preached a moral life to the whole human community though practical practice.

Thirukkural shows the way in which man can live as a human being beyond the religious teachings on which depends. Thirukkural is not only a jurisprudence but it is a biography of a civilization. The revolutionary book is not just for the man of the single millennium but for the new generation of the every millennium .The relevance of Valluvam has evolved over time, bringing new concepts and enriching human life across the boundaries, race, language and country .Valluvar a rare repository of Tamil and Tamil language following the Aram rather than Dharma seen as a universal thought and a life long vision of humanity. Human being is a social being, he formed a set of rules for himself for a moral society. Every law written for human beings, but the only law written for being a human is Thirukkural.

Keywords: Thirukkural, Practicality, Jurisprudence, Millennium, Valluvam, Aram and Dharma, Universal thought.

The human race evolved in nature to have created him with all amenities he needs. As much as a son owes to his son who raised him to a man, likewise he owes to mother nature and to the human race. God will not manifest himself in the kind of form that we see in pictures of dieties but his manifestation can be felt through acts of people who try to help us , so that God made humans as social being where they will help each other and live in harmony.this is what Bhagavad gita has termed “ Deva manusya rubenam” this is ara samugam . Thirukkural a scripture based on righteousness paves the way for a harmonius society. In the words of DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM, Thirukkural provides the code of conduct for the humanity of the planet Earth for all time, which makes the past meet the present and create future. It is a treatise par excellence on the art of living.

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Thirukkural is a collection of 1330 couplets organized into 133 chapters, there are three broad sections namely Aram [righteousness], Porul [wealth], Inbam [love]. The kural encompasses human life via these sections providing a comprehensive guideline to the art of living. The values , wisdom , knowledge and emotions embedded in the kural are truly unparalleled, which begs the question of the true identity of its author .Truly the author , Thiruvalluvar must have been a master of all sorts ; dutiful son , faithful husband , disciplining father , spiritual guru , political strategist , true friend , exemplary philanthropist, excellent orator and extremely knowledgeable.

The first part of kural aram deals with various aspects of leading a righteous domestic life and ascetic life. According to valluvar aram is a simple and straight forward concept.

“Righteousness is all about removing the four flaws – Envy, desire, anger and harsh words”.

Life should not be something limited and confined to a small circle. As Swami Vivekananda told you have no limits like this universe, this limitless life should be based on morality and righteousness. Mind is the birthplace of thoughts it should be pure when the mind is pure it reflects through word and deed. Human mistakes are mostly committed by word and deed, if we bounded with pure and positive thoughts it will reflect through our word and deed and our life will be moral. Lord Buddha also said these in the eight fold paths to attain enlightenment and live an ethical life.

Right understanding
Right thought
Right speech
Right action
Right livelihood
Right effort
Right mindfulness
Right concentration

All these eight fold paths are to make human enlightened one or Mahatma, but every human can lead a right and moral life. Removing the negativity within oneself and imbibing the positive values in one’s life is what aram is all about. Love, compassion, use of pleasant words, having good conduct, forbearance and honesty are positive qualities that one should cultivate it one was to choose to take up asceticism. According to Valluvar, following ascetic way of life is optional and even if one where to follow such a lifestyle. One would still have to eliminate the blemishes of his mind and pursue the positive qualities.

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“Kindness is the attribute of family life and morality is the fruit of family life”

- Kural 45

It is impossible for all human beings to do asceticism, but it is possible to do asceticism in home. Thirukkural is the major scripture which provides this code of conduct, it deals with aram, porul, inbam but it does not deal with veedu [moksha] because Thiruvalluvar’s interest was primarily to help common man with his doctrine of morality.

Thirukkural speaks about aram not dharma, everyone confuses with aram and dharma. Aram is not a Tamil translation of the Sanskrit word dharma, dharma is what is right according to the situation, dharma differs from person to person. But Aram is what is right in every situation. It is common to all. eating a deer is lion’s dharma, but it is not every one’s dharma, but kindness is the common attribute like aram.

*“If he that shaped the world desires that men should begging go,
Through life's long course, let him a wanderer be and perish so”.*

-Kural 1062

If the creator of the world has decreed even begging as a means of livelihood, may he He too should go abegging and perish.

Valluvar curses the God for his unbearable sin of creating beggars. He should be neutral, if he curses the people to beg for their livelihood, I curse him to do so. The first writer to curse the God for his partiality, Valluvar didn’t feel afraid of anything even God. It is Aram. Aram is a means of livelihood, Aram is a way of life, a place of origin of valor, a cremation of wrongdoing, a source of love, a source for complete life. Thirukkural shows the way to get into the lap of Aram. It will surely protect us from every evil like our mother's lap. So sit in the lap of Aram and do righteous actions it will bring you the heaven down to the Earth.

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