

MAANICKAVAACAGAR

POET AND MYSTIC

An original interpretation

of

The Tiruvaacagam



by

G. VANMIKANATHAN

A Tirukkural Prachar Sangh Publication

MAANICKAVAACAGAR

POET AND MYSTIC

An original interpretation

of

The Tiruvaacagam

by

G. VANMIKANATHAN

Published by

The Tirukkural Prachar Sangh

3. Annamalaipuram, Tennur, Tiruchirapalli-17

TAMILNADU, INDIA.

PREFACE

The Newman Association of the St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli asked me to give three talks on the Saiva Siddhaantha. I pleaded my ignorance of the subject, but offered to speak on *The Tiruvaacagam* under the title, 'Maanickavaacagar - Poet and Mystic'. They agreed, and I gave the talks in November 1969. This booklet is a revision of those talks to suit the needs of a printed book. I am very grateful to the President and Secretaries of the Newman Association for giving me this opportunity to put my meditations of many years into words. My interpretation of *The Tiruvaacagam* is based primarily on the instruction given me in the work at great pains and with great love by my revered guru Sri V. Subbarayar of Bombay on practically all Sundays and holidays in the years 1951 to 1955. I reverently dedicate this work to him with humility and gratitude.

I offer my heart-felt thanks to the unknown donor and my dear friend Professor R. Radhakrishnan, the vehicle for the donation, who have made the printing of this book possible.

I am indebted to Dr V. A. Devasenapathi M. A., Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy, University of Madras, for giving a learned Foreword to this book at short notice. Mrs. Ratna Navaratnam and Tiruvaacagamani K. M. Balasubramaniam have claims on my gratitude for the valuable opinions they have given about this book.

I am grateful to the Jothi Printers, for their cooperation and help in bringing out this book.

I am now engaged in preparing an interpretative rendering of the entire *Tiruvāccagam* into English. With God's grace, it is hoped that this work may be published in early 1971. May God, in his grace, grant me health and life to complete this work. A translation of the 1st decad, *The Civapuraanam*, which appears at the end of this book will serve as a sample.

Readers who are interested in the work are requested to book *their copies* in advance by sending Rs. 10/- (Ten) only at once by money order to me. If sent by cheque, Re. 1/- should be added. This advance booking has an element of a novel gift plan in it, a gift plan of spiritual value and, unlike any other gift plan, you will be an instrument of giving and not a vessel for receiving. This advance booking is open only to end of August of this year. Only those who are genuinely interested in matters spiritual and *are eager to co-operate with us in sharing with others the benefits of this great mystical book* need send the money.

Tamil New Year's Day, 1970.

G. Vanmikanathan.



MR. G. VANMIKANATHAN, better known in the North as G. V. Pillai, was born on 6th January 1901 in Tennur, Tiruchirapalli. He received his education mostly from the S. P. G. (now Bishop Heber) High School and College, Tiruchirapalli and took his B.A. degree with History, Economics and Latin as his subjects. During his college years and later too, for several years, he took an active part in the Boy Scout Movement, and edited for the two years of its life a magazine called 'Drona' from Karachi. He was a District Scoutmaster in 1922-24 in Tiruchirapalli and later from 1926 to 1928 for the province of Sind.

He joined the Accounts Department of the North Western Railway at Karachi as a clerk in 1925, and after seeing service in Lahore, Jamalpur (Bihar), Calcutta and Delhi, he retired from Government service in 1956 from Bombay as a Deputy Secretary of the Central Secretariat Service of the Government of India on deputation as Office Secretary to the Khadi and Village Industries Board (now Commission), Bombay. He served later in the Delhi Cloth Mills as its Administrative Officer till September 1960. Since then he lives in Tennur, Tiruchirapalli, within a stone's throw of the place where he was born. He was awarded the title of Rao Sahib for civilian service rendered during the war of 1939-45.

He comes of a long line of lovers of Tamil and its literature, and this ancestral penchant drew him to Tamil literature in 1938 since when he began to study Tamil seriously. The Tirukkural and the Tiruvaacagam are his favourite studies. He had, in his early years, attempted short story writing, and produced half a dozen stories which the Ananda-Vikadan and its English counterpart, the Merry Magazine were kind enough to publish.

In 1949-50 he completed, edited and published on behalf of the Delhi Tamil Sangam, 'Kamba Ramayanam — A Study' by V. V. S. Aiyar who had died without writing the last chapter of the book, — a character study of Sita. He has translated for the Sahitya Akadamy Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Autobiography from Hindi to Tamil. The All India Radio, Tiruchirapalli sometimes uses his services for talks in Tamil.

He is the Organiser of the Tirukkural Prachar Sangh, and, on its behalf, he edited and published in 1967 Sri. M. G. Venkatakrisnan's translation of the Tirukkural in Hindi verse. He has, moreover, translated the Tirukkural into English prose (1969).

He has a large circle of loving friends.

He is an ardent devotee of His Holiness Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya Swamikal, on whose instructions he had the privilege of writing, for the use of children, meanings for the poems 'Tirvempavai' and 'Tiruppalliezhuhi' in the Tiruvaacagam.