

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE BHARATH CULTURAL CENTRE AT VANI MAHAL,
CHENNAI ON 30/06/2018 AT 6.00 PM**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam
Thiru. Kojiro Uchiyama
The Consul-General of Japan**

**Dr. M. Rajaram
Founder President, Bharat Cultural Centre**

**Dr. Akbar Kauser
Editor, Health Plus, Unani Kidney Foundation**

**Thiru. Karumuthu Kannan
Chairman, Thyagaraja Group of Companies**

**Thiru. Ramesh Sharma
Nobel Publishers**

**Thiru. C. Shivakumar
Industrialist**

**Distinguished Invitees
Ladies & Gentlemen**

I am happy to be here at the function being organized by the Bharat Cultural Centre. The occasion is a celebration of Thirukkural in the form of a musical dance drama titled '*Aayirathil Oruvan*'.

The Thirukkural focuses almost on all aspects of life. It is loaded with nuggets of wisdom on good governance, planning, specialization, merit selection, placement, communication, equality, time management, financial management, water management, etc. These valuable pearls of wisdom are relevant to present day living.

That is why Poetess *Avvaiyar* observed, "*Thiruvalluvar* pierced an atom and injected in it the seven seas and compressed it into what we have today as the *Thirukkural*."

Thirukkural is appealing to the mind and sweet to the ears, conveying maximum sense in minimum words. Its construction resembles that of a design in a mosaic.

Mahathma Gandhi after reading a translation of Thirukkural remarked **“The maxims of Thiruvalluvar have touched his heart and soul. There is none who has given such a treasure of wisdom like him.”**

Thirukkural lays emphasis on things to be done and methods to be employed for accomplishing tasks. It emphasises on able ministers, good advisors, wise ambassadors, efficient administrators etc. Above all *Thirukkural* emphasises on righteous conduct, absolute purity of action and moral values.

Thiruvalluvar’s philosophy on politics is relevant today, even after 20 centuries. His words of wisdom have universal appeal and enjoy a world-wide recognition.

One is reminded of a poem by Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai in this regard. He calls the Tirukkural a dictionary of ethics for all humanity to live a life of happiness. He goes on to add that the Ramayana as presented by Kambar, illustrates through the narrative of Rama’s life all the great values embodied in the Tirukkural. This shows the extent of the massive influence of the Thirukkural on later works in Tamil!

Let me give an example of the directness and sublimity of the Kural with one couplet, Kural 33, in which Tiruvalluvar says that purity of heart is all that matters in life.

He says, “All ethics boils down to being pure in the heart”. After accomplishing his purpose even in the first line, he hits the nail on the head with the second line, saying, ‘Everything else is vain and empty display!’ (आगुल नीर पिर Aagula Neera Pira).

Ethical verses rarely become poetry, but the Tirukkural is an exception! Historian and linguist P. T.Srinivasa Iyengar puts this beautifully when he says, and I quote, "Artists have always refused to admit didactic poetry into the legitimate realms of the Muse. But if excellence of

workmanship and the occasional illumination of moral teaching by flashes of true poetic fire can justify the acceptance of any didactic poem as true poetry, then the Tirukkural is that poem."

The Thirukkural lays down a code of ethics which is universal and at the same time eternal. The Kural draws up an ideal code for rulers and kings, the right code of conduct for common people and shows the way for peace, progress and prosperity.

The Kural's great wisdom on practical affairs is matched only by its sublime expressions on moral issues such as

Kural 132: Which says, "Watch your conduct carefully; for wherever you search you will not find a more reliable ally than good conduct!

Kural 621: Those without love yearn to possess everything; those who love would give even their bones for others' welfare.

What Sane Guruji, the Marathi author, freedom fighter and social activist said about the Thirukkural is also noteworthy in this regard. Sane Guruji, who learnt Tamil when he was imprisoned in the Tiruchi jail in 1930 and translated the Thirukkural in Marathi has said, "After reading the Kural, we will realize that Indian culture all over the country is one".

Between the Thirukkural and the Bhagavad Gita, we have a lot in common.

Looked at closely, both the Thirukkural and Bhagavad Gita, through their verses, strive to create men and women of character who are not swayed by the passions of the mind but do virtuous action as their bounden duty.

The Gita speaks of the mind as being as uncontrollable as the wind and pontificates that triumphing over the mind can be achieved and it is the true purpose of life.

The Bhagavad Gita gives us the secret of action. Such action is the key to true achievement. Ironically, the most famous verse of the Gita, 'Karmanyeva Adhikaarasthe'... asks man not to think about the fruits of his actions!

I am truly pleased at the release today of the 'Success Mantra in Bhagavad Gita', because it calls our attention to a work which is considered to be the distilled essence of all the wisdom of the Upanishads.

Leadership Awards are being conferred on two eminent personalities, Thiru. Karumuttu Kannan and Thiru. C Shivakumar who have contributed to the fields of art and culture and industrial growth in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Besides these the former IAS Officer Dr. Rajaram's book on the Bhagavad Gita is being released today. The Gita and the Kural have guided crores of people all over the world. It is a matter of happiness and satisfaction to be associated with these two great works on the occasion of today's function. My best wishes to all those who have made the function memorable.

Nandri Vanakkam.

Jai Hind...