

THE THIRUKKURAL

(A GUIDE BOOK TO MORAL, MATERIAL AND
SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY)

(TRANSCRIPT)

THE GREATEST AND MOST ANCIENT TAMIL CLASSIC
BY
THIRUVALLUVAR

TRANSLATED
BY
G. VANMIKANATHAN
AND REVISED WITH THE AID OF
DOM BIRD GARFIELD, M.A. (Oxon)



Mr. G. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN, better known in the North as G. V. Pillai, was born on 10th January 1901 in Tenmar, Tiruchirappalli. He received his education mostly from the S. P. G. (now Babes Huber) High School and College, Tiruchirappalli 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 Schoolmaster in 1922-24 in Tiruchirappalli and later from 1928 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 at Lahore, Jamalpur (Bihar), Calcutta and Delhi, he retired from Government service in 1936 from Bombay as a Deputy Secretary of the Central Secretariat Service of the Government of India. He served later in the Delhi Cloth Mills as its Administrative Officer till September 1950. 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 literature, and this ancestral penchant drew him to Tamil literature in 1934 since when he began to study Tamil seriously. The *Tirukkural* and *The Yāgyavalkyaśrauta* are his favourite studies.

He has translated for the Sahitya Academy Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Autobiography from Hindi to Tamil.

He is the Organizer of the Thirukkural Prasthan Sangha, and, on its behalf, he edited and published in 1967 Sri M. G. Venkatasubramanian's translation of the Thirukkural in Hindi verse. He has, moreover, translated the Thirukkural in English prose (1959).

He has a large circle of loving friends.

He is an ardent devotee of His Holiness Sri Kaasthi Karamathi Jagadgurur Sri Sankarācārīyā Śaśvatīgāl, on whose instructions he had the privilege of writing, for the use of children, meanings for the poems 'Thiruvaymōzari' and 'Yāgyavalkyaśrauta' in *The Jīvaśrautakam*. Now comes *Pathway to God through Tamil Literature* (1971).