



மதுரை மீனாட்சியம்மை பிள்ளைத்தமிழ்  
ஆங்கில மொழிபெயர்ப்பு: கௌசல்யா ஹார்ட்

maturai mInATciyammai piLLaittamiz  
of kumarakuruparar  
English Translation by Kausalya Hart  
In unicode/utf-8 format

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Note : The e-version of the Tamil verses of this work (in Tamil Unicode format) has been published earlier under PM release #43:

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### **Kumaraguruparar.**

According to scholars Kumarakuruparar was born in the city of Shri Vangundam in the Pandyan country to Shanmuka Sikamani Kaviraayar and Shivakami Ammai in the Saiva Vellaala caste. Tradition says that he was not able to talk until 5 years old and that through the prayers of his parents and the grace of the god Murugan in Thiruchendur he began to talk and then composed Kandar Kalivenba. Tradition also says his name was given to him by Murugan himself and therefore we do not know his real name.

When Thirumalai Nayakkar who ruled Madurai (1623-1659) requested him to compose poems on Meenakshi, he composed Madurai Meenakshi Ammai Tamil. The name Meenakshi Ammait Tamil may have been given to this book because Kumaraguruparar calls his goddess "Angayarkkanni," "Angayarkkan Amudu" and the "Madurait Talaivi." Among his books, Meenakshi Ammait Tamil is the most famous one. People praise this composition saying that Meenakshi herself came and heard when he recited it in front of Thirumalai Nayakkar.

The Dharmapuram Adinam mutt seems to have been established already in 16th century at the time of Thirumalai Nayakkar. Kumaraguruparar went to Dharmapuram and became the disciple of Masilamanit Tesikar, who was the fourth head of the mutt. He had been to Dharmapuram mutt many times, and now there are many mutts in Tamil Nadu under his name.

He went to Kasi and composed Kasikkalampakam, which praises the god Viswanathar in Kasi. The Muslim king was pleased with his his ability to speak Hindustani and, admiring his composition Sakalakalaavalli Maalai, gave him land for establishing Saiva mutts. He also build the Kedaranath Swami temple in the north. There are stories that he met Tulsidas and told him the story of Kampan's Tamil Ramayana and thus influenced Tulsidas to write the his Ramacaritam. Kumaraguruparar does not mention name of any king or the name Meenakshi in his poems, and this makes it difficult to establish accurate dates for his life.

### **Kumaragurubarar's compositions:**

Kandarkalivenbaa, Meenakshiammai Pillaittamail, Maduraik Kalambakam, Neethineri Vilakkam, Thiruvarur Naanmanimaalai, Muthukkumaraswami Pillaitamil, Chidambara Mummanikkovai, Chidambara Ceytutkovai., Pandaaramummanikkovai, Kaasikkalamakam, Sakalakalaavalli Maalai. There is some dispute among scholars as to whether he was the author of Meenakshi Ammai Irattaimanimaalai and Meenaakshi Ammai Kuram, Sivakaami Ammai Irattaimani Maalai.

Kumararuguruparar's Meenakshi Ammai Pillaittamail is the first pillaittamail (a work that treats a character as a baby) to be written on a goddess and bears a formal resemblance to Periyazhvar's Tirumozhi. In his poems, Kumaragurubarar does not call the goddess Meenakshi but rather uses such Tamil names as Angayarkanni, Kayarkan Kumari, and Angayarkan Amudu. He praises her as the princess and queen of the Pandyan country and the beloved of the god Shiva. His descriptions of Madurai city delight those who read them. He praises Madurai, its flourishing fields, its plants, trees, innocent animals and birds. After reading his poem, no one can forget his descriptions of the moon, the clouds, the jackfruit trees, the lovely mother cow, the frightened monkey, the male elephant's love for his mate, fighting in war, Indra's generosity, Ganesha, and the loves of Murugan. It seems he plunges into the beauty of the land as much as he plunges into the devotion of his goddess. He does not forget the god Shiva and constantly praises him along with the goddess. The poet does not give much historical information about the Pandyan country, but he does

describe how it flourishes. Reading the poem, one often feels that his love for Madurai is as much as, or even more than, his love for the goddess.

The name Irattai Mani Maalai is given because each poem of this work has two parts in different meters, one nerikai venpaa and the other kattalaikkalitturai. Its twenty poems praise the goddess who is in Kadambavanam in Madurai and Shiva her beloved.

Meenakshi Ammai Kuram describes the life of gypsy families, their village, their mountains, how they predict the future and includes praise of the goddess of Kudal city.

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## **The Fish-Eyed Goddess of Madurai Pillaittamil**

Praising the Gods to Protect the Fish-Eyed Goddess.

### 1. Praising Ganesha

Let us praise the god Ganesha  
whose ichor floods from his dark cheeks.  
He has a long face, wide ears, a dark trunk  
and shining eyes like the fire at the end of the earth.  
The wind that comes from his ears  
when he fans them  
cools the fire on the earth at the time of dissolution.  
With his strong feet he plays without being tired,  
kicking the dust on the golden Potiya hills,

like Iravadam, the elephant of Indra.  
Let us praise that heroic god.

O goddess,  
the god Shiva decorated with garlands,  
who has a crescent moon on his Jata,  
sheds grace on you.  
You are pleased  
and your breasts shine like the rays of the sun  
and the cool young moon.

O goddess,  
you, the daughter of the king of Himalayas,  
are beautiful as a fragrant creeper,  
and people anoint you  
with fragrant pastes in the temples.  
O Abhiramavalli, let us praise you  
so that this book of Sentamil will be praised by all. Chapter I. Invoking the  
Protection of the Gods for the Goddess

## 2. Praising the God Vishnu

O almighty Vishnu,  
loving Tamil once you  
walked on the fields  
embracing beautiful Lakshmi  
who stays on a lotus flower.

As you walked,  
honey from your cool tulasi garland  
dripped, spread on the fields,  
mixed with mud and made it fragrant.

You, your color lovely as a cloud,  
 walked folding the thousand-headed Adisesha  
 as your mat and carrying him on your shoulders.

Even though your neck pained you,  
 you went behind the Tamil poet Kanikkannan  
 because he loves Tamil.  
 The ancient Vedas became anxious and followed you all.

O fish-eyed goddess,  
 our mother, queen among women,  
 you stay with Shiva on a shining throne  
 carried by the elephants of the eight directions,  
 thirty-two lions that have bright white manes,  
 and the sixty four ganas  
 who are all carried by Adisesha  
 who has shining diamonds on his heads.  
 May the god Vishnu protect her. 3. Praising Shiva

Shiva bent the northern mountain of high peaks  
 and made it a strong bow in battle  
 when he fought with the three forts, his enemies.

He made the poems of Sambandar  
 float above the river Vaikai  
 when the Jains who pull out their own hair  
 competed in composing poems  
 with the child Sambandar.

He ordered that devotees  
 who praise him singing, "Hara! Hara!"  
 reach the rich heavens of Vishnu  
 and Indra, where karpaga tree gives whatever one wants.

Shiva, scholar of excellent Tamil, accepted my poor words of Tamils the words of sweet nectar.

With his ears ornamented with white conch earrings,  
he enjoyed the music of Asuvatharan and Kambalan.

His thick forest-like Jata, red as coral  
and garlanded with green arugam grass  
shines with the white crescent moon.

He composed precious divine songs  
for Brahma who stays on a lotus,  
helping Brahma create the Vedas.

He dances in the famous silver hall of Madurai.  
Let us keep his dancing feet  
in our hearts and worship him.

Praising the Fish-eyed Goddess

Her hair is fragrant with oil.  
Her pearl-like smile shines like the rays of the moon.  
Her eyes look for an opportunity  
to fight with Shiva.

When Shiva looks at the lovely  
young round breasts of the goddess, his mind grows weak.

She did the impossible  
by drawing a picture of Shiva in her mind.

Lakshmi, the beautiful goddess

who lives on a coral-like red lotus  
and Saraswathi, shining like lightning,  
who lives on a pearl-like white lotus  
worship the goddess.

She is the nectar born in the milky ocean  
where fish leap over the pure waves.

She is a parrot that prattles sweet words like a baby.  
She is as lovely as a swan.  
She is as beautiful as a female elephant that walks gently.

She, the shining ornamented goddess,  
is the precious daughter of the Pandyan king  
who bears the world on his mountain-like shoulders.

May the god Shiva protect her,  
the emerald creeper of Madurai city  
where Tamil sweet as honey flourishes.

#### 4. Praising Siddhi Vinaayagar

Ganesha has a long trunk  
and ichor drips from his two ears  
like waves of an ocean.

He stays in his devotees' minds,  
as if tied to them on a stake.  
Let us praise his fame.

O goddess, queen of Madurai,  
are you fresh nectar?  
Are you a flourishing golden creeper?

You were born with three breasts  
in Madurai where all three parts of Tamil flourish.

Let us worship Ganesha  
to protect our fish-eyed goddess.

## 5. Praising Murugan

Many gods joining together,  
using Meru mountain as a churning stick  
churned the milky ocean  
where the dashing waves roar loudly.

Divine Vishnu,  
decorated with a tulasi garland,  
sleeps on Adishesha  
whom the gods used  
as a rope to churn the ocean.

When the poison came from the ocean,  
Shiva drank it  
while the goddess held  
and blocked his throat to save him  
and so he became blue-throated,  
he who has the power to make  
the brightness of  
the sun and moon dark.

Her fish-like eyes are long  
and extend to her ears,  
decorated with swinging earrings  
as if they wished to contend with them.

When Devayanai, daughter of Indrani  
 and of Indra the god of gods  
 who rides on the divine elephant Iravadam,  
 grew up wandering in the Karpaga forest,  
 she was as beautiful as Lakshmi  
 the goddess of wealth  
 born in the milky ocean.

Beautiful Devayanai is the wife of Murugan.  
 Yet, Murugan, Muthu Kumaran, went  
 to the cool slope of the hills  
 where millet grows  
 and longed to marry Valli,  
 lovely as a peacock,  
 the daughter of a gypsy family  
 who dances the kuthu dance.

Let us worship Murugan  
 to protect our fish-eyed child.

## 6. Praising God Brahma

The fish-eyed goddess,  
 the queen of Kudal city,  
 born with three breasts,  
 grew up sweet as nectar  
 with beautiful hair swarming with bees.  
 She wished to marry Shiva,  
 majestic as a coral hill,  
 surrounded by Brahma and Vishnu  
 who have the colors of golden and green hills.  
 Shiva, beautiful as an emerald hill  
 stayed with the goddess

ever after marriage.

Vishnu sleeps on the ocean on Adishesha,  
the snake that was used as a rope to churn  
the ocean of milk.

And the nectar that emerged from it  
was drunk by the clouds  
and the gods who were like innocent children.

Brahma, the child of Vishnu,  
born on a lotus that grows from the navel of Vishnu,  
created the world  
that Adishesha carries on his head,  
surrounded by the blue water of the ocean  
that holds the nectar.

Let that god Brahma, the son of Vishnu  
who helps his father,  
protect the child fish-eyed goddess.

#### 7. Praising God of Gods Devendran

O goddess, you gave the shining spear  
to Murugan who conquered  
the deep, whirling wide dark ocean  
and dried it up.

With his Chendu weapon he  
split the Meru mountain.

You raised your fish banner  
against Chokkanadar in battle.

You made the fragrant water of the Ganges river  
that flows on the red Jata of Shiva  
come down and flow to the fields

so the earth would flourish.  
 You, a golden creeper,  
 give your divine grace to the world.

Indra carrying his weapon Vajrayudam  
 in his strong hand,  
 rides on his dark cloud-like elephant Iravadam.  
 It has small eyes,  
 and a voice like bright thunder,  
 and dripping ichor, it drinks  
 abundant amounts of honey  
 that the bees with beautiful wings have left  
 after swarming around bunches of flowers in  
 the fragrant karpaga forest.

O goddess, lovely as a golden creeper,  
 may that Indra, god of gods,  
 protect you.

#### 8. Praising the Goddess Lakshmi

The god Vishnu dark as a cloud,  
 sleeps on his snake bed, Adishesha,  
 whose body is long  
 and thousand-headed.

Lakshmi, tender as a creeper  
 who lives on the chest of Vishnu,  
 dazzled by the brightness  
 and the roughness of  
 the shining diamonds  
 of Srivatsam, the ornament of Vishnu,  
 is frightened by them and hides in the cool shadow

of his fertile green tulasi garland,  
thick as a forest.

Brahma, disguised as a swan,  
flew to the top of the sky  
where many clouds move,  
and, unable to find the head of Shiva,  
became tired.

But the white swan, Mandahini,  
the goddess who has a thousand faces  
flowing with abundant waves,  
stays on the red Jata of Shiva  
who has a black neck.

O goddess,  
you had three breasts  
when you stood against  
the black-necked Shiva in battle.  
May the goddess Lakshmi protect you.

9. Praising the Goddess of Art, Saraswathi

O fish-eyed goddess,  
you teach sweet prattling words  
to your baby parrots.

You taught the happy peacock  
how to look lovely.

You taught the deer how to glance shyly.  
You taught the young royal swans  
that have crests like murukkam blossoms

how to walk softly.

You taught your female friends innocence.

You are the generous princess of  
the Pandyan kingdom.

O goddess Saraswathi,  
you live on a lotus blooming with long shining petals  
dripping with honey  
and swarming with bees that hum sweetly.

O goddess of art,  
you are lovely as a white swan  
and you know all the poems of love  
in sweet excellent Tamil composed by Shiva,  
and you have given that knowledge  
to all your devotees.

Placing our heads  
on your two beautiful feet  
we worship you  
to protect the princess of Pandyan country.

#### 10. Praising the Goddess Durga

O fish-eyed goddess,  
female elephants could not compete with your soft walk  
and they surround you, longing to walk like you.

You gave birth to the elephant god  
whose single tusk looks like the crescent moon.

Shiva ate steamed pittu

and did not do his assigned work  
of carrying sand to block the flooding of the Vaikai river.  
The Pandyan king struck Shiva with a stick and hurt him.  
But when you embraced Shiva, his body melted and he loved you.

Your breasts are decorated with ornaments  
studded with precious jewels.  
You are a young female elephant  
playing in the Kadamba forests of Madurai.

The goddess Durga with her trident  
defeated the buffalo-headed Mahisasuran  
who has dark curving horns.  
Her small waist, like a tudi drum, is as thin as a vine.  
It grew weak, unable to bear the burden  
of her breasts that are like strong elephants  
with small eyes and dripping with ichor.

She mounts and rides a lion that has fire-like eyes  
and a thick mane.

May the terrifying goddess Durga, who rides on the fearful lion,  
protect the timid fish-eyed goddess.

#### 11. Praising the Seven Goddesses

The goddess who wears the rutting elephant's skin.

The goddess who dammed the ocean  
with stones collected by monkeys.

The goddess who threw  
a lustrous spear and

burned up the ocean.

The goddess who wears fragrant flower garlands  
in her hair.

The goddess who rides on a strong lion  
and fought with thunder.

The wise goddess who knows all  
the extensive sastras.

The goddess who took the form of a boar  
that picked up the seven worlds on its tusks  
and carried them.

Let us worship all the seven goddesses  
that they may protect the fish-eyed goddess.

The god Vishnu dances  
on the head of Kalinga the snake,  
joining the kudakkuthu dance  
and the kuravai dance of the cattle women  
as the humming of bees sounds like flute music,  
and listening to those happy songs,  
the petals of the tulasi garland of Vishnu open  
and spread fragrance everywhere.

O goddess, you are lovely  
as a young elephant  
and are the younger sister  
of Vishnu, the black-colored one.  
May the seven goddesses protect  
the goddess Gauri, the younger sister of Vishnu,  
who was raised in Madurai

surrounded with strong forts.

## 12. Praising the Pandyan Country.

The Pandyan kings defeated the Chera  
and the Chola kings and made them retreat  
in battle and run away.

Many crowned kings  
bring tribute and wait  
at the door of the Pandyan palace.  
The Pandyan kings are praised everywhere  
in the world and people proclaim,  
“These are the kings of the world,  
and they rule in all directions.  
They are like gods.”

The burning sun feels jealous  
of the bright white moon  
because he is the ancestor  
of the Pandyan kings.

The great rivers  
Kumari, Ponni, Vaikai and Porunai  
flow in the Pandyan country  
more happily than the Ganges in the sky.

The gods who live on golden Meru mountain  
praise the Southern Potihai hills saying,  
“There is nothing equal  
to the peaks of Potihai.”

Siddha Saints worship and

praise the goddess saying,

“Even though she is the mother  
of two young gods  
she is still a virgin.”

In the Pandyan country,  
heavenly women holding the hands  
of beautiful earthly women  
dance the kuravai kuthu.

In the Pandyan country,  
the royal swan, the vehicle of Brahma  
who lives on a lotus,  
makes friends with the swans  
of all the seven oceans.

In the Pandyan country,  
Garuda the vehicle of dark Vishnu,  
and the peacock,  
vehicle of fair young Murugan  
stay together in one nest and play.

In the Pandyan country  
Iravadam, the elephant of Indra  
that fights ferociously in battles,  
falls into the same hole  
where the elephants  
of the enemies of the goddess fall.

In the Pandyan country,  
the two shining goddesses  
Lakshmi and Saraswathi

who live on two lotuses  
 stay together on one lotus  
 that blooms on a golden pond.

The Pandyan kings  
 who rule following Manu's laws  
 flourish and live happily  
 with Shiva, their son-in-law.

Under the rule of the fish-eyed goddess,  
 no one could tell  
 the gods from the people.  
 No one could tell  
 the golden world of the gods  
 from the Pandyan country.

May the thirty-three gods,  
 the two Asvins,  
 the eight Vasus,  
 the eleven Rudras,  
 and the twelve Suns  
 protect our goddess  
 born with three breasts,  
 so our lovely Madurai may flourish.  
 Chapter II. The Baby Goddess Crawls.

### 13. Pandimaadevi bringing up the goddess

The queen Pandimaadevi  
 bathes you, puts fragrant golden powder on you  
 and decorates your forehead with sacred ash.

Combing your hair she makes a bun

and decorates it with a garland.  
 The pearl Chutti ornament  
 that she puts in your hair shines with cool light.

She adorns you with shining golden earrings  
 studded with pearls.

She feeds milk lovingly to you.  
 The sweet honey-like drops  
 that fall from your beautiful  
 mouth shaped like a kumudam flower  
 touch her silk sari and wet it.  
 She kisses, extols and caresses you.

O goddess,  
 you are as beautiful as a green parrot.  
 Lift up your head and crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

You are precious  
 to the Pandyan king of the southern land  
 and Shiva the king  
 of the majestic golden Himalayas.  
 Lift up your head, crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

#### 14. The Pandyan king, the Proud Father

Seeing you,  
 your beloved father's heart brightens like the moon.  
 He makes signs with his hands to call you.  
 Even before he calls you,  
 you crawl and go quickly near him.

With your small hands,  
you smear the kumkum paste on  
your father's wide chest.

You babble to your mother  
with your innocent baby talk sweet as nectar.  
Hearing your speech your mother's heart fills with joy.

His arms are long and extend to his knees.  
You hold on to his strong hands  
and climb on his mighty garlanded shoulders  
that protect lovely Tamil.

Your body shines like green emerald.  
You have a lustrous coral-like red mouth,  
When you smile, your teeth are as white as the rays of the moon.  
You are lovely as a peacock.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are precious  
to the Pandyan king of the southern land  
and Shiva the king of  
the majestic golden Himalayas.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and show us your grace.

#### 15. The Lovely House of the Goddess

The walls that surround your house  
are built with mountains as tall as the  
eight Cakkravaala hills.

Meru mountain is planted  
as a pillar in the middle of the hall.

The sky is the roof of your house.  
The sun and moon brighten  
your abode with their light.

You collect the worlds that float  
in the deluge at the end of the world  
and pile them as dishes.

O sweet one,  
always you cook fresh sweet nectar-like food  
in your home.

Such is the small play house  
that you have built.

Shiva, like a madman,  
dances on your porch  
and again and again destroys your house.

You, a lovely young child  
do not get upset with him,  
but again again you build  
your play houses  
that cover all the ancient worlds  
and play with them.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are precious

to the Pandyan king of the southern land  
and Shiva the king  
of the majestic golden Himalayas.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

#### 16. The Compassion of the Goddess

The bright rays from Shiva's  
third eye and the cool rays of  
the young moon on his jata  
shed bright light on the dark neck of Shiva,  
the handsome one,  
and the compassionate glance  
of the goddess makes his heart happy  
and her devotees who worship her always  
plunge into the ocean-like joy of devotion.

O goddess,  
you are compassionate  
to all creatures that are created  
in the beautiful wide world  
that is a part of you  
and you make them flourish.

Your dark beautiful fish-like eyes  
bestow grace as a flood  
that rolls and flows  
for your devotees.

O goddess,  
you are a lovely peacock with dark eyes.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are precious  
to the Pandyan king of southern land  
and Shiva the king of the majestic golden Himalayas.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

### 17. The Three Goddesses and Lovely Madurai

O goddess Karpuravalli,  
you stay in the shining palace  
that is more excellent than  
the lotus seat of Lakshmi  
that drips sweet honey  
like a flooding river  
and swarms with six legged bees  
that do not stop humming,

more excellent than  
the lotus seat of Saraswathi  
who has a bright tongue  
that in its wisdom gave all the ancient  
wonderful Vedas,

and more excellent than  
Shiva's dark Himalaya  
where peacocks  
lovely as emeralds  
wander looking for rain  
from the clouds  
without blinking their eyes.

The white waterfalls descend  
from the sky,  
their water sweet as nectar,  
and they pass through  
the rabbit on the moon  
that shines always in the heavens.

The baby vaalai fish  
with their broad bellies  
are afraid of the swift water  
of the waterfalls  
and leap everywhere  
dashing into the lotus buds,  
so they open  
and the clear honey  
from those fragrant blossoms  
flows like a waterfall.

Such is the beauty of Madurai.

O goddess Maragadavalli,  
you are the queen of that lovely Madurai.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are precious  
to the Pandyan king of the southern land  
and Shiva the king of  
the majestic golden Himalayas.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

## 18. The Dancing Goddess

O goddess,  
as you crawl  
the smile on your pretty face  
dances like the shining moon.

As you crawl  
the dark bun on your hair  
dances with its ornaments.

As you crawl  
your bent eyebrows  
dance like curving creepers.

As you crawl  
the golden cutti ornament  
that hangs over your forehead  
dances.

As you crawl,  
your fish-like eyes contending with one another  
extend to your ears  
and the makara ornaments  
that hang on your ears  
dance together.

As you crawl,  
the anklets on your feet dance.  
The bells on your anklets  
dance, singing, "kinkini, kinkini."

As you crawl,

your waist thin as a creeper dances with your dress.

As you crawl,  
your belly broad as a banian leaf  
moves and dances.  
Your navel that is hidden  
in your belly shines and dances .

O mother of all worlds,  
as you crawl,  
all the moving  
and unmoving creatures  
of all the worlds dance.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are crowned  
to make this world flourish.  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

#### 19. The Dancing Goddess

As you crawl,  
the three round breasts that dance  
on your beautiful chest  
show that you were not born with two breasts.

You crawl and smile looking  
at the ignorance of those  
who calls you saying, "O mother, come!"

Your green body became pale  
because you gave birth to all the creatures  
of the flourishing world.

As you crawl,  
your thin green creeper-like waist becomes more thin  
and your belly bends and dances.

As you crawl,  
the bells of your mekalai ornament dance  
singing the praise of their beloved god  
and your small waist joins them and dances.

As you crawl,  
you are like a green fragrant creeper  
dripping honey from its flowers  
and dancing in the wind.  
Lift up your head, crawl sweetly  
and grant us your grace.

You are crowned to make this world flourish .  
Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

## 20. The Dance of the Fish-eyed Goddess

As you crawl,  
the bun tied up on the top of your head  
dances spreading fragrance.

As you crawl,  
the shining golden ornament on your forehead  
and the small cutti ornament on your hair

shine like the sun and the white moon and dance.

As you crawl,  
 the small drops of sweat on your divine forehead dance.  
 As you crawl,  
 your divine fragrant body spreads  
 emerald-like light in all eight directions and dances.

As you crawl,  
 the karuvilai flowers on your ears spread fragrance  
 and the kudambai ornaments  
 on your ears swing with joy and dance.

As you crawl,  
 you smile with your shining teeth,  
 your divine face blooms like a lotus,  
 and your compassionate eyes pour  
 grace on your devotees.  
 Lift up your head, crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

You are crowned to make this world flourish.  
 Lift up your head, crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

## 21. Praising the Fish-eyed Goddess

O goddess,  
 you are a majestic mountain  
 where the sun shines brightly  
 and an emerald-green shadow spreads.

O goddess

you are a lovely creeper,  
the sister of Vishnu  
who is dark as a cloud  
and plays his flute.

O goddess  
you are an unrivaled remedy  
given by the Himalayas  
to cure the sorrow  
of your devotees.

O goddess  
you know all the divine Vedas  
beyond the understanding  
of even the gods  
who live in heaven  
where arisandanam trees grow.

O goddess,  
you are like fresh sweet sugarcane  
and the eyes on your red lotus face  
that are like kayal fish  
give abundant grace  
to your devotees.

O goddess,  
you are a young innocent calf  
and a young moon that was raised  
in the Pandyan royal line  
of the bright white moon.

You are yourself

Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity,  
Saraswathi, the goddess of knowledge,  
the princess of the Himalayas,  
and the queen of Madurai.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

You are a young peacock,  
raised in Madurai  
where pure Tamil flourishes.

Lift up your head, crawl  
and grant us your grace.

## 22. The Fish-eyed Goddess

O goddess,  
you are the beautiful sister of Vishnu  
who, dark as thick cloud,  
carries a conch in his strong hand.

You share a half part of Shiva  
and you are a thin, beautiful green creeper  
that flourishes on the golden Kailasa hills.

You are our mother!  
You give boons, protection  
and help to your devotees  
who worship you  
everywhere in the beautiful wide world,  
saying, "Don't be afraid."

Your eyes are as lovely as the fish  
 that is on the banner of Kama  
 who shoots his arrows  
 as he wanders all night  
 that is dark as a rutting elephant.

You are a shining golden creeper,  
 lustrous as lighting.  
 Lift up your head, crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

You are a young peacock, raised in Madurai  
 where pure Tamil flourishes.  
 Lift up your head, crawl  
 and grant us your grace.

Chapter III. Lullabies for the Baby Goddess

### 23. The Mother buffalo and the Playful Swan of Lovely Madurai

As the soft breeze blows gently  
 mixed with the sweetness of Tamil  
 nurtured by the Pandyan king, in the southern land,  
 a young buffalo sleeps  
 in the shadow of a sweet Mango tree  
 with tender red shoots.  
 Its eyes are red and its mouth is long.  
 Loving the calf that she just gave birth to  
 and knowing that it does not yet know how to eat grass,  
 she sheds milk from her udder that flows abundantly  
 like a white waterfall.

The blooming fresh golden lotuses with fragrant petals

sprinkle their golden pollen  
 on the swans that have shining crests  
 and swim in the sweet water of a pond.

The rays of the moon brighten  
 the rolling waves of the pond,  
 and their brilliance falls on the swans' legs,  
 making them shine like gold.

You are the queen of beautiful Tamil Madurai,  
 taalo taalelo.

You are the gracious fish-eyed goddess  
 sweet as nectar.  
 Show your grace to your devotees,  
 taalo taalelo.

#### 24. Farm Girls Cooking Pearl Rice in Tamil Madurai

The dark beautiful girls of Madurai  
 who work in the fields  
 wear kalaapam ornaments  
 tied to their saris that flow like the tails of peacocks.

Building sand houses to play with,  
 the lovely farm girls pretend to enter there to live.

They pretend to start a shining fire  
 on the stove that is decorated  
 with bright red rubies that take away the darkness.

Piling up precious corals for wood,  
 they pretend to start red fire in their hot stoves.

Pouring clear sweet honey instead of water  
 in a round pot, they pretend to boil it.  
 Rinsing pearls in sweet liquor, they use them as rice.

After cooking the rice,  
 the lovely farm girls pour the water from it,  
 sit together and pretend to eat.

Such is the beauty of Madurai city  
 surrounded with abundant cool farms  
 where the lovely group of farm girls make their play rice.

You are the queen of Madurai  
 flourishing with green farms, taalo taalelo.

You are the gracious fish-eyed goddess sweet as nectar.  
 Show your grace to your devotees, taalo taalelo.

## 25. The Clouds and the Fish of Tamil Madurai

An angry vaalai fish  
 leaps up to the sky,  
 where the clouds move  
 like strings of garlands  
 and float, distended like the bellies of pregnant women  
 after filling themselves  
 with the salty water of the ocean.

Leaping above the karpaga forest  
 that blooms with flowers,  
 swimming over the clear waving water  
 and the long banks of the Ganges,

touching the rabbit in the bright white moon  
 that drips with nectar,  
 kicking and pushing away  
 the clusters of shining stars  
 that spread everywhere,  
 opening the clouds  
 to pour their rain on the earth,  
 the vaalai fish descends  
 stirring the water of the ocean  
 and plays with an angry suraa fish  
 in the fertile fields of Madurai.

You are the queen of Tamil Madurai  
 flourishing with rich fields,  
 taalo taalelo.

You are the gracious fish-eyed goddess  
 sweet as nectar.  
 Show your grace to your devotees,  
 taalo taalelo.

## 26. The Streets of Madurai

The elephants' ichor that drips from their cheeks,  
 the pollen that falls from the flowers  
 that decorate the hair of beautiful women,  
 and the kumkum paste  
 that they have smeared on their bodies  
 all fall on the streets, covering them  
 so the elephants slip and cannot walk.  
 Such are the lovely large streets of Madurai.

The powerful royal chariots of the kings

stop and move away  
 from the little play chariots pulled by the children  
 whose hair is decorated with flowers.

Red-eyed young men, strong as bulls,  
 carry spears,  
 and their horses gallop so swiftly  
 that their saliva drips down  
 and makes puddles on the street  
 that ripple, foam and bubble  
 flowing like a great river.  
 Such are the streets of Tamil Madurai.

You are the the queen of Madurai city  
 flourishing with rich fields,  
 taalo taalelo.

You are the gracious fish-eyed goddess  
 sweet as nectar.  
 Show your grace to your devotees,  
 taalo taalelo.

## 27. The Frightened Clouds

Humming bees, sleep inside the flowers  
 on the ornamented hair  
 of lithe women on the fields  
 who are as lovely as blooming creepers  
 and have mountain-like breasts that strain their waists.  
 The bees wake up, visit the flowers  
 of the tall trees of groves that touch the sky,  
 making their pollen fall and fill up the heavenly Ganges.

The dark clouds are frightened  
by the noise of the monkeys of the groves  
as they shout and leap.

They jump over the rabbit on the moon, descend,  
and come to rest over the haystacks  
piled high as hills on the paddy fields.

The Mallars drink palm wine, and, intoxicated,  
mistake the dark clouds for female buffaloes.

They yoke the clouds to male buffaloes  
that fight with their horns  
and then they plow the land,  
and the frightened clouds  
roar loud and thunder over the fields.

Such is Tamil Madurai city abundant with its rich paddy fields.  
You, the queen of Madurai,  
taalo taalelo.

You are the gracious fish-eyed goddess  
sweet as nectar.  
Show your grace to your devotees,  
taalo taalelo.

## 28. The Fish and Kanikaiyar of Madurai city

The fish frolic and swim in water  
the dark clouds have poured down.  
They swim through the swirling whirlpools,  
through the small puddles that the rain has filled,  
and leap over the banks,  
through the waves that break on the shores,  
through the screwpine bushes that bloom,

through the mud on the bank,  
 over the stacks of paddy,  
 over the muddy clay on the banks of the fields,  
 and through the abundant water of the ponds.  
 Such are the flourishing fields of Madurai.

The Kanikaiyar of Madurai city,  
 their curly hair decorated with beautiful flowers,  
 their fish-like eyes so long they extend to their earrings,  
 stare at the chest of the young heroes  
 who ride on chariots,  
 ornamented with shining jewels,  
 and their heroic bows tied with ropes,  
 on their round hill-like arms.  
 Those lovely women embrace them tightly  
 as the petals of their garlands fall  
 and so avoid quarreling with them.

Such is the beauty of Madurai city.  
 You are the queen of rich Madurai,  
 taalo taalelo.

You, a golden creeper, rule in Madurai  
 where the Tamil Sangam flourishes,  
 taalo taalelo.

## 29. The War of the Goddess

The commanders of the army of the goddess,  
 fighting with the chiefs of their enemies  
 from every direction  
 break their bows,  
 destroy their chariots and banners

and shoot unceasing arrows like pouring rain.

The headless bodies of warriors  
dance with their dead friends  
holding hands in the  
ocean of blood flooding the battlefield.

Your armies are like a mighty ocean  
and fights with its enemies unceasingly  
like the waves that roll over the ocean.  
They fight ferociously with their elephants and horses  
hurling them onto the battlefield  
as if someone were playing  
ammaanai balls with elephants and horses.

O Divine goddess lovely as Lakshmi,  
you shine victoriously  
with your ocean army.

You are the queen of rich Madurai,  
taalo taalelo.

You, a golden creeper,  
rule in Madurai  
where the Tamil Sangam flourishes,  
taalo taalelo.

### 30. The war of Skanda with Indra, the king of the Gods

Indra, the king of the gods,  
who cut off the wings of the shining clouds,  
carries his diamond-hard weapon,  
and rides on his white elephant Iravadam

that trumpets like thunder and fights ferociously.  
 He was defeated by Murugan,  
 the son of Shiva,  
 who hurled his spear, burning up the ocean,  
 threw his Chendu weapon, splitting the mountain  
 that has high golden peaks,  
 and flung his valai weapon,  
 destroying Indra's crown.

When they saw that Indra and his commanders  
 who fought on every side  
 had lost and retreated,  
 and that his garlanded crown  
 and garland of karpaga flowers swarming with bees  
 were destroyed,  
 the gods who were enemies of Indra rejoiced.

O goddess, lovely as a peacock,  
 you bore that divine warrior as your son  
 who defeated Indra,  
 Meru mountain and the ocean,  
 taalo taalelo.

You, a golden creeper,  
 rule in Madurai  
 where the Tamil Sangam flourishes,  
 taalo taalelo.

### 31. The Excellence of the Goddess's Rule

O goddess, under your supreme rule,  
  
 the precious Tamil books

composed by ancient scholars  
will never be destroyed.

The earth created by Brahma  
who is seated on a lotus  
will never turn upside down  
but be stable.

The enemy named poverty  
will not rule the flourishing Tamil country.

All creatures that live in the world  
will never plunge into the ocean of sins.

Justice under your royal rule  
will only save the people,  
and never ruin them.

Even the ignorant will never say,  
“The Pandyan kings are equal to the Cholas.”

O goddess,  
you are a blooming creeper and  
you flourish in Madurai city,  
taalo taalelo.

You are a lovely parrot raised by  
Malayadvajan, the Pandyan king,  
taalo taalelo.

### 32. The Battle of the Goddess with Shiva and his Escort

You are a small girl

with dark fragrant hair.

Angry, you decided to besiege  
the walls of the Himalayas,  
the abode of Shiva, the pure one,  
and oppose him.

Nandi and other attendants of Shiva,  
thinking in their pride  
that they are equal to you in battle and could defeat you,  
fought against you, were vanquished  
and lost their strength, and their bull banners fell.

You did not lose the battle  
like Kama, the clever one,  
who rode on his wind-chariot  
when he raised his shark banner  
and opposed Shiva in the tall Pothiya hills.

You, a golden creeper,  
raising your fish banner  
won the battle with Shiva,  
taalo taaleloo

You are a lovely parrot raised by  
Malayadvajan, the Pandyan king,  
taalo taalelo.

Chapter IV. The Baby Goddess Claps her Hands

### 33. The Dance of Shiva

At the dark night at the end of the earth,

eight-eyed Brahma  
who stays on his lotus flower, soft as a curving bed  
and Vishnu who stays on his snake bed in Vaikundam,  
the highest heaven, are asleep.

In the middle of that night, Shiva dances madly  
wearing umattai flowers that drip with honey.

As he dances  
the sky, the earth  
and the eight mountains  
turn over and fall into the seven oceans.

As he dances,  
all the ancient universes,  
and Kailasa, king of mountains,  
and the Chakravaala hills  
all dance and whirl with him.

And you clap your hands  
and beat the cymbals  
to accompany the beats of his pure,  
ever-present dancing,

You, a beautiful creeper,  
born and raised with Tamil in ancient Madurai,  
clap your hands and  
grant us your grace.

#### 34. The Goddess Falls in Love with Shiva on the Battlefield

O goddess,  
you rode on your shining chariot

decorated with a golden lotus ornament,  
and opposed Shiva who carries  
golden Meru mountain for his bow.  
Your thin waist that could not be seen  
shrank as you fought,  
and your mind fell in love with him  
and he entered into your heart.

When you saw Shiva on the battlefield,  
your third curving breast disappeared.  
You bowed to him shyly and were amazed to see  
that suddenly you had only two breasts.

Your heart was filled only with him.  
You looked at him sweetly  
with a nectar-like side glance, and felt shy.

You sighed, and small drops covered  
your sweating forehead.  
You looked like a painting  
that suddenly came alive joyfully.

In your shyness, you kept feeling  
the sharp corners of your bow with your fingers.  
Clap your beautiful hands, and grant us your grace.

You, a beautiful creeper, born and raised with Tamil  
in ancient Madurai,  
clap your hands and grant us your grace.

### 35. The Goddess Playing with her Friends

You play with your friends

picking up tender leaves and flowers  
in the garden blooming with fragrant buds.

You join your friends  
and pour sand in the pots  
and play as if you were making rice.

You raise lovely baby peacocks,  
young, soft beautiful swans, white doves and other birds.

As you and your friends play  
you hide your dark eyes on your face  
with your red hands  
and it is as if a kaandal flower  
made a lily blossom close  
as it flowered in front of a lotus.

You carry and kiss your lovely divine parrot  
whose words are sweet as honey.

You play with round golden balls.  
Your hands soft as tender shoots  
have a lovely red color  
and are bright as divine lotuses  
opening their flowers.  
Clap your beautiful hands, and grant us your grace.

You, a beautiful creeper, born  
and raised with Tamil in ancient Madurai,  
clap your hands and grant us your grace.

Your cradle is like Indra's chariot  
that brightens the sky.

Your cradle is like a divine place that gives peace  
in the highest sky.

Your cradle is like a forest filled with kadamba trees.

Your cradle is like  
the Tamil country filled with cool paddy fields.

Your cradle is like the lustrous six-legged seat  
of handsome Shiva  
who gives grace to all with his third eye.

Your cradle is like  
the beautiful bed in the inner sanctum of Shiva.

As you lie on that beautiful cradle,  
you babble words sweet as music.

You suck your fingers  
tasting and drinking the honey-like water  
from your mouth that is as lovely  
as a kumudam flower.

Your lotus-like fingers become red,  
as you suck them in your mouth.

Clap your beautiful hands and grant us your grace.

You, a beautiful creeper, born and raised with Tamil  
in ancient Madurai,  
clap your hands and grant us your grace.

O goddess,  
your grace is like a flood of nectar,  
thrown off by the clear waves of the dark ocean  
as if suddenly it were let loose.  
It streams from your fish-like shining eyes  
to your divine child Murugan  
who burned up the ocean with its white waves.

O queen of Madurai,  
you carry your divine child Murugan  
on your beautiful swinging thighs and bathe him.

You put oil on his hair,  
and decorate his forehead with sacred ash.  
You put conch bracelets on his arms.

You take milk from your breast in a conch  
and feed him opening his petal-like soft lips.

You put fragrant powder on his body.  
You make him sleep on your beautiful lap precious as gold.

You put him in a small cradle  
studded with large bright diamonds  
and sing him lullabies.

Clap your blooming lotus-like hands,  
and rock the cradle, and grant us your grace.

You, a beautiful creeper,  
born and raised with Tamil in ancient Madurai,  
clap your hands and grant us your grace.

## 38. Peys in the Battle

Kings, warriors of the earth,  
heroes with swords and valiant men fought  
in a battle in the city of Parandalai  
and the thunder-like sound of the war  
reached the clusters of stars and shook them.

When the warriors who died in the battle went to heaven,  
they fell in love with heavenly women,  
ornamented with golden bangles  
with mountain-like breasts,  
and eyes like arrows  
that struck them like weapons in war.

The peys on the battle field  
ate the tasty intestines, the brains and the fresh meat  
of the defeated gods and the warriors  
and the circling vultures in the sky  
came down and ate the fresh meat with them.

A group of peys holding on to each other's hands  
danced the kuravai dance.

O goddess,  
you bent your bow  
and almost silently you sent your long arrows  
to vanquish the chieftains  
of all directions, making them ashamed.  
Clap your hands and grant us your grace.

You make the earth goddess thrive and protect her

under the shadow of your canopy,  
Clap your hands and grant us your grace.

### 39. The War of the Goddess and her Protection

After the Pandyan and the Chola kings  
retreated as they fought with you,  
they joined you and fought  
with the gods, who were your enemies.

Indra's white elephant Iravadam,  
and Yama's vehicle the dark buffalo  
were frightened of you and hid in the wild ocean.

Varuna, the rain god rode on his sura fish  
to fight with you, but the sura fish leaped,  
spun and fell unable to fight with you.

You made kings who ruled cruelly  
embrace justice.

You fought with the Himalayas and the eight high hills  
and made them the boundary of your country.

By yourself you took over,  
ruled and protected all the lands in the eight directions.

Conquering all the lands  
you rule all the northern shores  
as easily as you rule the shores  
of the Kumari river in the south.

You who are beautiful as a female elephant,

clap your hands.

You make the earth goddess thrive  
and protect her under the shadow of your canopy,  
Clap your hands and grant us your grace.

#### 40. The Battle between the Goddess and Shiva

The fish-eyed goddess shot her arrows  
at kulis, kaalis, dogs, lions  
and Bhairavar and they were defeated  
and scattered.

Nandi, the vehicle of Shiva fought  
with the goddess, lost and ran away.  
Seeing how splendid Nandi was  
both from front and back,  
the goddess laughed in delight,  
her smile like the rays of the moon.

She forgot how she once danced with Shiva  
on the highest peaks of Kailasa  
and grew shy because she fought with him.

She stopped shooting arrows,  
but bent her bow-like eyebrows  
and shot glances with her lotus-like eyes at Shiva.

O goddess Thadaadagai,  
you have attracted Shiva  
who bent Meru mountain as his bow in battle.

O goddess Tadaathagai,  
clap your hands.

You make the earth goddess thrive  
 and protect her  
 under the shadow of your canopy,  
 Clap your hands  
 and grant us your grace.

#### 41. The Beauty of the Goddess and the Himalayas

You give your grace to your devotees  
 so that they can cross the ocean of births  
 if they melt in their hearts  
 for your gracious glance  
 that pours out its abundant compassion.

O fish-eyed goddess,  
 you are as beautiful as a doll  
 and your long eyes  
 lovelier than the eyes of a deer  
 are like killing arrows  
 and, extending to your earrings,  
 they give extra loveliness to your nose.

You are a peacock  
 born in the Himalaya hills  
 where a male monkey that lives  
 in a flourishing bamboo grove  
 jumps up to the dark clouds in the sky,  
 and the nectar that flows  
 from the young creeping moon  
 mixes with the rain  
 that the clouds pour on the hills.  
 Clap your hands.

You are a young elephant  
 raised in Madurai,  
 clap your hands.

#### 42. Goddess, the Mother

You showered your grace and fed  
 the nectar-like milk from your breasts  
 to Sambandar your devotee  
 in the city of Seerkaazhi,  
 and you gave him the power of singing  
 the Devaram, devotional Tamil songs  
 that are divine Vedas.

As a compassionate mother  
 you raised your son Murugan  
 who rides on a peacock  
 and Ganesa, the elephant-headed god.

Your prattling baby words  
 are sweet as honey  
 and are like the music of a flute.  
 Your baby talk is as sweet as ripen fruits  
 that shed nectar.

Your words are lovely as a parrot's.  
 Clap your hands.

You are a young elephant  
 raised in Madurai,  
 clap your hands.

Chapter V. Grant us Moksha

## 43. The Greatness of the Goddess

You are like a divine jewel  
for the scholars who composed  
the treasure of ancient timeless songs  
that are so lovely  
no one could have even dreamed of their beauty.

You are a blooming karpaga tree  
that gives the fruit of grace  
to the devotees who love you in their hearts  
and who nurture the feeling of devotion  
as if they were watering a tiny banyan tree.

You are a parrot in the grove  
that prattles like a baby,  
and your words were never written down.

You are the matchless companion  
of Shiva the highest god,  
the highest form of all sounds,  
who pervades the empty sky  
as the companion of all lives,  
unseen but helping all devotees and creatures.

You are the omnipresent one  
who originated with Shiva.  
Grant us moksha.

O goddess, born with three breasts,  
you are a feast for the three-eyed god,

the light of all. Grant us moksha.

#### 44. The Beautiful Goddess

You are the highest flood of joy  
that springs abundantly in the hearts of your devotees  
who melt in everlasting love for you,  
love that they had even in their previous births  
as their hearts filled with devotion  
like ponds being filled with water.

You are great good fortune  
for those like us who are small.

You are like a sweet young female elephant  
and your fragrant hair is decorated  
with blossoms, dripping with honey.

You are a creeper blooming  
with lovely flowers  
and your heavy mountain-like round breasts  
decorated with kumkum paste  
make your thin waist weak.

Your prattling words  
are as sweet as the music of a flute.

Your lotus-like red mouth is as sweet as a fruit.  
Grant us Moksha.

O goddess, born with three breasts,  
You are a feast for the three-eyed god,  
the light of all.

Grant us moksha.

#### 45. The Beauty of the Goddess

Dark clouds lose when they compete  
with your dark hair decorated with flowers  
swarming with bees.

Sugarcane cut into small pieces  
loses when it competes with your  
prattling speech as sweet as the words of a parrot.

The red lotuses lose when they compete  
with your small golden feet  
that touch the crescent moon on Shiva's jata,

The conch pregnant with pearls  
and the beautiful fertile kamuku plant  
lose when they compete with your neck.

Long bamboo shoots lose when they compete  
with your beautiful arms decorated with lovely drawings.

The two strong tusks of elephants lose when they compete  
with your round soft breasts.

The pearls that are born in shells cannot compete  
with your divine teeth.

You give your devotees  
the pleasures of life on the earth and in heaven.  
Grant us moksha.

O goddess, born with three breasts,  
 you are a feast for the three-eyed god,  
 the light of all. Grant us moksha.

#### 46. We Want Only You

O goddess, we do not want  
 the cindamani jewel  
 that is in the world of Indra,  
 the king of gods in the shining sky  
 who rides on his rutting elephant Iravadam  
 that has four mountain-like tusks.

O goddess, we do not want  
 the precious jewels sanganihi  
 and padumanithi of Kubera  
 the king of Alagapuri in the north.

O goddess, we do not want  
 the Srivatsam jewel that shines like the sun,  
 decorating the chest  
 of the lord Padmanabhan  
 who lies on a snake bed  
 with his wife Lakshmi on a lotus blossom,  
 the light of all homes.

Shiva who stays in the temple  
 in the city of Thirunelveli  
 surrounded by bamboo trees  
 loves to kiss your sweet fruit-like mouth.

O goddess, born with three breasts,  
 you are a feast for the three-eyed god,

the light of all.  
Grant us moksha.

#### 47. Pearls

The pearls that grow  
by the shores of the Kumari river  
where waves dash on the hills  
and the banks of the river,

and the pearls from the shells  
that the hard-working pearl-fishers,  
bring to the shores of the Korkai city,

and the pearl-like rays  
of the white moon that fall  
on the Porunai river,

and the cool pearls  
brought by the waterfalls  
that fall on the beautiful cool  
slopes of the Potiyam hills—

O goddess, you gather all these pearls  
on the bank of the river,  
bathe and play with innocent women  
as your waist, thin as creeper, suffers.

The fragrant smoke  
that perfumes your long oiled hair  
spreads its fragrance  
all around the sand bank of the river  
where women play.

Grant us moksha.

You are the feast for the three-eyed god,  
the light for all. Grant us moksha.

#### 48. The Divine Kudal City

The shining sun god carrying his cloud-flag,  
rides on a decorated chariot  
yoked to strong white-maned horses.  
He splits the water of the sea,  
with his bright rays,  
removes the thick darkness of the earth  
and brightens the front of the houses  
of Kudal city where Tamil flourishes.

There, the white saris that hang on the clotheslines  
in the yards of the houses  
fly to the sky in the wind,  
touch the stars and hide the rays  
of the moon and the lovely rainbow.

Divine Madurai city  
is surrounded with forts  
where your victorious flags fly.  
Covered with clouds they fly shining  
as they do on Mount Meru  
that you have conquered.  
Such is divine Tamil city of Kudal  
and you flourish there, bringing prosperity.

O goddess,  
your divine mouth is as lovely as coral.

Grant us moksha.

You, a beautiful creeper,  
 carry a shining fish-banner in your right hand.  
 O goddess, your divine mouth is as lovely as coral.  
 Grant us moksha.

#### 49. The Fields of Madurai City

The Kadaiyar who have bodies  
 as dark as clouds that pour rain  
 drink palm wine that foams up  
 like the waves of the ocean  
 and carry in their hands swords  
 that look like the crescent moon.

The soft natured Kadaiyar women  
 beautiful as bright lightning,  
 wearing dark bangles,  
 walk behind their husbands  
 as their thin waists swing.

The varaal fish leaping to the sky  
 scares a cluster of stars and  
 the Kadaiyar women seeing the fish,  
 are frightened and run away.

The sugarcane plants in the fields of Kudal  
 grow tall and touch the sky  
 reaching Indra's world,  
 and Indra's divine elephant Iravadam  
 who lives in the karpaga forest  
 eats the sweet sugarcane there.

The flourishing paddy stalks  
 in the fields of Kudal grow so tall  
 they touch the sky  
 and Kamadenu, Indra's cow, grazes on them.

Such is the wealth of Madurai  
 filled with flourishing paddy fields  
 and sugarcane plants.

O goddess,  
 your divine mouth is as lovely as coral.  
 You protect Madurai city.  
 Grant us Moksha.

You, a beautiful creeper,  
 carry a shining fish-banner  
 in your right hand.

Your divine mouth is as lovely as coral.  
 Grant us moksha.

#### 50. The Flag and the Wheel of the Goddess.

O goddess,  
 your front yard is filled  
 with a pile of gold given as tribute  
 by enemy kings of many countries  
 after they retreated fighting with your army  
 that blows its conches of victory  
 as loud as the waves of the ocean.

The garlands of enemy kings from many directions

fall on the floor and mingle with each other.

The fish-banner of the mischievous Kama  
 who wanders around with his terrible flower arrows  
 swarming with bees,  
 and your victorious fish-banner  
 fly together in the silver hills of Kailasa.

As your majestic rule spreads  
 over all the lands that are surrounded  
 by the rising, sounding oceans,  
 it is like the wheels of the chariot of the sun  
 going over mountains and oceans.

O princess of the Pandyan king,  
 your scepter takes away the suffering of all lands.

O goddess,  
 your divine mouth is as lovely as coral. Grant us moksha.  
 You, a beautiful creeper,  
 carry a shining fish-banner in your right hand.  
 Grant us moksha.

#### 51. The Trees and Drums of Madurai

When a jack fruit that has grown  
 on the large trunk of a jack tree  
 breaks, its juice as sweet as honey  
 flows onto the earth  
 as if a pot filled with palm wine had been broken.  
 O goddess, your Madurai city  
 is filled with such fertile jack fruit trees.

The lovely branches of the kamugu tree  
 shake and fall to the ground  
 when the sura fish leaps and hits it  
 from the fields where the paddy plants  
 are heavy with paddy.

The rutting elephant trumpets loudly  
 drinking from a pond  
 where the water is filled to the brim  
 as if it were an ocean.

The beating of the three drums  
 in Madurai protected by you  
 sound twice as loud  
 as the thundering of the clouds.

Such is flourishing Madurai.  
 You protect it.  
 You, a lovely parrot raised in Madurai,  
 grant us moksha.

You are the precious jewel of the Pandyan dynasty  
 that rules the entire world.  
 Grant us moksha.

## 52. Praise of the Goddess

In the world surrounded by ocean,  
 where the sun rises  
 and removes deep darkness  
 and spreads his rays everywhere,

you, lovely as a young elephant,

grant your aid with your kind glances  
to the goddess Lakshmi who lives on a red lotus  
thick with petals and swarming with bees,  
and to the goddess Saraswathi  
who stays on a white lotus  
blooming with a hundred petals,  
so that they help your good devotees  
who worship you and serve only you.

O goddess,  
your face is beautiful like a lotus,  
your neck shines like a conch,  
your face is cool as the crescent moon  
and your words are as sweet as honey.

You, a brilliant goddess,  
plunge into the ocean of ancient Tamil.  
Grant us moksha.

You are the precious jewel  
of the Pandyan dynasty  
that rules the entire world.  
Grant us moksha.  
Chapter VI. The Baby Goddess Walks.

### 53. Walking with Lovely Ringing Anklets

You walk with your small lovely feet  
stepping slowly  
as your beautiful anklets ring  
with the kinkini bells  
strung on them.

The fragrance from the red paste  
that decorates your toes  
spreads into the lovely  
crescent-moon-like ornaments  
the heavenly women wear on their hair  
when they bow at your feet  
and it spreads into the young, waxing crescent moon  
that shines on our father Shiva's Jata.

Swans with beautiful wings  
follow the gods and goddesses  
who worship at your lovely feet  
and follow you with them.

The swans follow you  
together with the group of heavenly women.  
Is that because they like the soft sound  
of your precious diamond-studded anklets?  
Or they want to learn your lovely gentle walk?

Do the bells  
of your shining waist ornament ring,  
because they feel pity for your small thin waist?  
You live in my lotus heart  
because it is a divine temple for you  
and in Kudal where Tamil flourishes  
with its wonderful poems.

You, a beautiful blooming creeper,  
and the queen of Kudal city,  
come to us.

O fish-eyed goddess!

you shine in the karpaga and kadamba forests.  
Come to us.

#### 54. Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Parvathi

Lakshmi decorated with fragrant garlands,  
emerged from the deep milky ocean  
when it was churned by the gods,  
and Saraswathi the goddess,  
the scholar of sweet Tamil literature  
who walks softly like a beautiful female elephant  
and whose hair is lovely,  
both entered into lotus blossoms swarming with bees  
and live there.

But you, a precious diamond creeper  
enter and live in the hearts of your devotees  
that are like blooming ponds of fragrant devotion,  
golden temples for Shiva and you.

On tall flourishing sweet sugarcane trees  
bunches of heavy flowers bloom  
bending the highest branches as they touch the sky  
and they resemble Kama as he took endless, timeless forms, to fight battles of  
love  
with his flower arrows and sugarcane bow,  
wandering with his wife Rathi, lovely as a peacock,  
whose forehead shines like the crescent moon.  
Such is the beauty of the groves of Kudal city.

You are beautiful as a peacock with lovely tail  
and you stay in Kudal city  
that flourishes with forests of sugarcane.

Come to us!  
 O fish-eyed goddess! Queen of Kudal city!  
 You shine in the karpaga and kadamba forests.  
 Come to us.

#### 55. The Kayal Fish and the Goddess's War.

A jackfruit tree covered with thorns  
 and circled with screwpine plants  
 shines as the crescent moon pours its rays.

A kayal fish leaping through the juice of the jackfruit,  
 jumping over the coconut tree and shaking it,  
 makes the coconut break, and the juice pours from it.

The fish-eyed goddess with her strong army  
 large as the ocean  
 conquered not only the groves of one land  
 but also the seven worlds,  
 breaking the walls of the forts, surrounding the cities.  
 Then, going to the worlds of the gods  
 she fought in all the directions  
 making the battlefield bloody.

Kayal fish leap high  
 all over the flourishing paddy fields  
 encircled by banks  
 and the fish look like the divine fish banners  
 of the goddess that were raised everywhere,  
 flying and touching the sky  
 when she conquered all the worlds.  
 Such is the beauty of Madurai  
 surrounded with flourishing paddy fields.

O fish- eyed goddess,  
you are the daughter  
of the king of Tamil Madurai.  
You shine in the karpaga and kadamba forests.  
Come to us.

56. Ganesa, her Baby Elephant

Ganesha, the elephant god, drinks the sweet nectar  
that flows from your round breasts  
adorned with diamond ornaments.

His tusks are white like the lustrous moon  
that pours light as white as a waterfall.  
He broke mountains with his tusks  
decorated with their kimpuri ornament.

Kumkum and the yellow pollen  
falling from his garlands  
make his forehead look like a golden pot of kumkum.

He takes water from all the seven oceans  
with his large trunk  
and fills his ears to use it for ichor.

He touches the crescent moon in the sky  
with his trunk thinking that it is his angusa weapon.

The pearl-studded ornament on his forehead  
looks like the blue sky, shining with stars.

He, a young baby elephant

drips ichor and his eyes are small.  
 He is murderous.  
 You, as a female elephant, gave birth  
 to that baby elephant.  
 Come to us.

O fish-eyed goddess! you shine in the karpaga  
 and kadamba forests. Come to us.

#### 57. The Moon, the Ganges and Kudal City

The young white moon  
 on the Jata of Shiva that drips nectar  
 becomes red touching  
 your shining lotus-like feet decorated with red paste.

The water of the great Ganges  
 that flows on the jata of Shiva  
 with shining waves dashing on its banks  
 becomes red as it mixes with the red paste  
 on the feet of the goddess.

You are the green goddess as lovely as a creeper  
 and your feet touch the Jata on Shiva's head.

The fragrant breeze blowing through the branches  
 of the tall green kamugu trees  
 cools Indrani, the wife of Indra, king of the gods  
 when she rides on the back  
 of Indra's elephant Iravadam in the wide sky  
 where the bright stars shine.

Such is Kudal city

where fragrant groves  
bloom with lovely flowers and fragrant breezes blow.

You were raised in that Kudal city.  
O daughter of Pandyan king,  
come to us.

O fish-eyed goddess,  
you shine in the karpaga and kadamba forest.  
Come to us.

#### 58. The River Vaikai

The Vaikai river gathers  
the jewels heaped in it  
by bathing young girls  
who have mountain-like breasts  
adorned with garlands and kumkum paste,  
and rises to the sky  
and blocks the heavenly rivers.

Because the heavenly rivers are blocked,  
the sun loses its path  
and floats like a lustrous golden parisil boat.  
The joyful white crescent moon  
floats like a paddle boat  
and cannot tell where it is going.  
The abundant bright stars  
float like small midappu-boats,  
shining like the jewels swept down by the Vaikai.

The Vaikai crosses the ichor that flows like a river  
from the four-tusked elephant Iravadam

and the flooding water of the Ganges  
flowing in its path.

The Vaikai river flows across the bright sky  
and the blooming karpaga forest  
and reaches the flourishing Pandyan land  
and its waves dash on its cool banks.

You are the queen of great Madurai city  
nourished by the Vaikai river.  
You are our precious life.  
You, the daughter of Malayaduvajan, come, come.

#### 59. The Beauty of the Fields of Madurai

The six-legged bees,  
opening the fresh petals of the flowers  
dripping with pollen  
play in the honey-like water of the falls.

The bees open the beautiful cool lotus  
and the goddess Lakshmi lives there happily  
making it her temple.  
Seeing that, the Marudam land, as if it were a carpenter,  
created for Lakshmi many lovely lotuses  
in the ponds of Kudal city  
so that she could live in all of them if she wished.

Large fragrant groves  
are filled with canopy-like kamuga trees  
whose lovely branches  
hang with ripened fruits.

The paddy plants  
 with bunches of many-colored crops  
 grow so high that they make the clouds look  
 like a cloth studded  
 with shining jewels.

You are the queen of Madurai city  
 flourishing with its colorful paddy fields  
 in the Marudam land.

You are our precious life.  
 You, the daughter of Malayaduvajan,  
 come, come.

#### 60. The Beauty of Three Goddesses

The fragrance of oil  
 and the fragrance of incense  
 from the divine women's hair  
 enter the long trunks of the elephants  
 of all the eight directions and make them dizzy.

The waists of those divine women  
 are small and thin.

Their mountain-like breasts  
 are smeared with sandal paste.

The gentle breeze that comes  
 from the fans that they wave  
 with their lovely hands  
 hurts their waists.

The goddess Lakshmi beautiful as a creeper  
 and Saraswathi, goddess of all the arts,  
 live on lotuses

where bees drink honey and sleep.  
 You give your grace to those goddesses  
 smiling at them with your bright moon-like teeth.

O you lovely young deer with a green body,  
 dark eyes and a sweet red mouth, come.  
 You are our precious life.  
 You are the daughter of Malayadvajan,  
 come, come.

#### 61. Praising the Daughter of Malayadvajan

You yourself are the reward  
 for the poets who composed  
 ancient divine everlasting songs  
 to adorn you.

You are the fragrant taste of Tamil,  
 sweet as a ripened fruit  
 and flourishing  
 with its prose, poetry and drama.

You are the lamp that is lighted  
 in the temple-like hearts of your devotees  
 who have rooted out all traces of ego.

You are a young soft female elephant  
 that plays in the hills  
 of the tall-peaked Himalayas.

The god Shiva, the unique one,  
 transcends this earth  
 surrounded by oceans with breaking waves.

He has drawn you in his divine heart  
 as a living picture  
 and looks at you always.

You are a lovely vanji creeper.  
 Bees drinking sweet honey  
 swarm around your thick forest-like hair,  
 come, come

You are our precious life.  
 You are the daughter of Malayadvajan, come, come.

## 62. Praising the Daughter of Malayadvajan

You, a lovely young female elephant, come.  
 Around your fragrant hair  
 honey-drinking bees swarm, come.

You, the abundance of wisdom, come.  
 You are an excellent feast  
 given to the bright three-eyed god  
 who wears the crescent moon on his Jata, come.

You, the origin of all the three gods,  
 Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, come.  
 You, the highest joy that has no origin, come.

You, the meaning  
 of the ancient Vedas, come.

You are a creeper  
 ripening with compassion, come.

You take away the births  
of your devotees who plunge  
into the flood of your grace  
by showing your sidelong glance of love.

You, a lovely green parrot  
that babbles sweetly like a baby, come.

You are our precious life, come.  
You the daughter of Malayadvajan,  
come, come, come.

Chapter VII. Calling the Moon to Play with the Baby Goddess.

### 63. The Jealous Moon.

O moon, why won't you come to play with her?

The books of the arts say  
that she is as lovely as a green parrot  
and her words are as sweet as rock candy  
and complain  
that you are not as beautiful as she.  
Are you worried about what the books say?  
Is that the reason why you don't come  
to play with her?

Are you unwilling to come  
because you know  
that she is the wealth of all arts?

Are you jealous that she belongs  
to the line of the moon  
of the Pandyan kings

who wear lovely garlands swarming with bees?  
Is that the reason why you don't come  
to play with her?

Are you angry with her  
because our father Shiva keeps you  
as a fragrant cool garland on his Jata  
and her as a part of him?

Are you upset because she was born  
with Lakshmi in the deep ocean of milk  
where you were also born with Lakshmi,  
your dear friend.

She, the princess, calls you saying, "Come, hurry!"  
Even though are not fit to play with her,  
still she calls you.  
O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
she embraces Shiva  
who carries a strong golden bow.  
O moon, come to play with her.

#### 64. The Blemishes in the Moon

O moon,  
some of the gods received nectar from the milky ocean,  
squeezed it out, poured and drank it.  
You received what was left of that nectar  
after they had spit it out.

You suffered because the two fire-spitting snakes

Raagu and Ketu swallowed you and spat you out.

Your bright white body is marked by black blemishes  
in the shape of a rabbit.

People mock you saying  
no one should see you  
on the fourth day of the growing moon.  
You are just one of many stars  
that wander through the sky.

Surely there is no refuge for one  
who moves like you other than this Madurai  
that removes all great sins.

The fish-eyed goddess,  
beautiful as a female elephant,  
stays on the bank of the Vaikai river  
that flows with its abundant rising water  
that shakes the karpaga trees.  
O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
she embraces Shiva who carries a strong golden bow.  
O moon, come to play with her.

#### 65. The Moon Steals the Goddess's Beauty

O moon,  
you steal the beauty of her shining forehead  
and become bright  
when you are a crescent moon.

Women with wide fish-like eyes  
bow to you, putting down dried cow dung  
as they worship the goddess.

You steal the lustrous beauty of her face  
when you become full, bright and white,  
sprinkling nectar on the earth.  
And that is not all.

With the Ganges that is her rival,  
you stay on the Jata of her lover Shiva,  
yet she forgets her jealousy and calls you.  
How can words do justice to  
her great compassion?

She is the princess of the Pandyan country  
protected by Maladuvaja Pandyan  
who rules the whole world  
bearing it on his strong shoulders.  
O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
she embraces Shiva  
who carries a strong golden bow.  
O moon, come to play with her.

#### 66. The Goddess Saves the Moon as it Seeks Refuge from Raahu.

Even though you shine everywhere in the sky  
and make it bright,  
you suffer when your cruel enemy  
the snake Raahu  
swallows you and spits you out.

If you enter  
the hot shining world of the sun for refuge,  
your brightness will fail  
and you will become dim.

Even though our father Shiva  
holds you in his forest-like jata,  
you cannot close your eyes and sleep  
because you are afraid of the snake  
that encircles Shiva's jata.

The small feet of the fragrant-haired goddess  
who is on Shiva's Jata  
might kick you  
and injure your stomach.

If you take refuge in our princess  
you will receive this universe  
and everything beyond it.  
O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
she embraces Shiva  
who carries a strong golden bow.  
O moon, come to play with her.

#### 67. The Fame of the Goddess

Her boundless fame  
transcends all the worlds  
and shines like a large moon.

Taking only a sesame-seed's measure  
of light from her brightness  
you shine as the white moon.

You plunge into the flood-like compassion  
that her glances pour on you  
and give your cool light to the earth.

Only the power that she gives you  
enables you to give cool light to the earth  
and make crops flourish

O moon god of beauty,  
you have no power of your own,  
only what she gives you,  
and you know that is true.

She is the princess of the majestic king  
who rides on a joyful elephant.  
O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
she embraces Shiva  
who carries a strong golden bow.  
O moon come to play with her.

#### 68. The Excellence of the Pilgrimage to Madurai.

The terrible curse that Indra  
the king of gods received,  
and the curse put on the angry elephant Iravadam,  
and the fever and the bent back  
of the Pandyan king who nourished

all three ancient branches of Tamil—  
 all these were removed by pilgrimage to Madurai.  
 O moon, don't you understand  
 the greatness of this place?

The pilgrimage to Madurai, the kingdom of Shiva,  
 the place of absolute peace,  
 gives moksa to devotees.

Look, if you go on this pilgrimage,  
 the sin that you have done  
 against Guru viyaazhan,  
 the curse that Daksha gave you,  
 and your waning and waxing, becoming old,  
 getting gray hair and a bent back,  
 all these things will be removed.

She is as sweet as honey  
 and she gives her loving grace  
 to the devotees who worship her  
 with their bones melting.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
 she embraces Shiva  
 who carries a strong golden bow.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

#### 69. The Compassion of the Goddess for the moon

O moon, you stay on the Jata of Shiva  
 who wears the skin  
 of a rutting elephant.

When beautiful women pick flowers,  
 you rub their hands soft as tender leaves  
 with your rays and scratch them.

When those lovely women decorate  
 their little feet with red paste,  
 their hands hurt  
 and they become nervous,  
 thinking that your scratches,  
 red as if caused by fire, are boils.  
 You are the reason they are scared.

You are the umbrella for Kama  
 the son of Narasimha, half lion and half man,  
 and you give him shade  
 even though he has the same sugarcane bow  
 and the same five kinds of flower arrows  
 and the same fish-banner as the goddess.  
 Yet she was not angry with you  
 even though you did all those things,  
 but calls you to come to play with her.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
 she embraces Shiva  
 who carries a strong golden bow.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

#### 70. The Goddess and the Moon of the Same Lineage

O moon,  
 you were born in the Pandyan family  
 to nourish that ancient tradition,

pouring sweet nectar-like brightness with your rays  
as white as waterfalls

And she, soft as a tender shoot,  
a princess of the Pandyan family,  
was born to nourish that tradition.

You see that you were born in the same family as she,  
yet you did not make her your friend  
feeling happy in your mind  
and gazing at her joyfully.  
You stay in the sky without coming down  
to speak and play with her.

You gave up your food, nectar and beauty  
and wandered with Shiva  
who carried a mud pot for porridge  
and went and begged with him.  
Is that why you have a black mark on your body?

But more than that,  
there is another just like you  
who shines in the clear sky in the day.  
You swallow the rays of light that he emits  
after he has finished with them,  
and you take that light  
and in the deepest darkness of night  
you move shining with it.  
How could you humble yourself so?

She is divine  
and her hair is decorated with flowers  
swarming with buzzing bees.

O moon, come to play with her.

Shining like a diamond creeper,  
 she embraces Shiva  
 who carries a strong golden bow.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

#### 71. How We Saved You from her Anger

When the goddess who has dark cloud-like hair  
 called you, you did not come  
 and she became angry.

We said, "Perhaps the moon  
 did not come quickly  
 because he was ashamed  
 to come before your radiant face,  
 and he may have hid instead.  
 Or perhaps he was worried  
 that the snakes Raahu and Kethu  
 would follow him and hurt him."  
 We made these excuses for you  
 and somehow saved you from her anger.

But now, if she grows angry at you again,  
 there is no way to save you.

The divine apsarasas who live in the sky  
 and who wear lovely garments  
 decorate the goddess's beautiful long hair,  
 wipe the sweat from her forehead  
 and then, moon, they call for you to come,  
 saying this is a good time

for you to play with her.

O moon, come to play with the queen of Madurai  
surrounded by large forts.

Shining like a diamond creeper, she embraces Shiva  
who carries a strong golden bow.

O moon, come to play with her.

## 72. The moon on the Shiva's Jata

O moon, the goddess rules  
from above all the Vedas  
that have never been written down.  
Her divine feet abide and shine in your heart.

Shiva acts out his drama in this world  
with his five-fold actions—creating, protecting,  
destroying, veiling and giving grace.  
Doesn't he place you in his Jata  
together with the river Ganges  
because he thinks  
that the feet of the goddess  
that shine in his heart also shine in yours?

If she is pleased with you in her divine heart,  
then there is nothing more for you to achieve  
even if you do the most excellent tapas.

Listening to the sweet music  
that the beautiful women play on yaazs shaped like makara fish,  
plucking the strings with their lovely fingers,  
the kunguma trees shed lovely flowers soft as thin cloth.

The flourishing kongu trees bloom  
 with clusters of golden flowers like bundles of gold.  
 Such is the beauty of Madurai  
 blooming with kunguma and kongu blossoms.

O moon, come to play  
 with the beautiful girl of Madurai.  
 Shining like a diamond creeper, she embraces Shiva  
 who carries a strong golden bow.  
 O moon, come to play with her.

Chapter VIII. The Goddess Plays Ammaanai balls.

### 73. The Goddess Throws the Ammaanai Balls up in the Sky

O goddess, when you play ammaanai,  
 the ammaanai balls  
 look like balls of food  
 that people roll in their hands and give  
 to fill the huge stomach of a male elephant  
 whose cheeks flow with ichor  
 like water poured from pots.

O goddess, when you play ammaanai,  
 the ammaanai balls  
 look like as if someone  
 carried bright pots of nectar  
 and threw them up in the sky  
 to ease the suffering of the great gods  
 when they could not obtain nectar  
 when they churned the ocean of milk.

O goddess, when you play ammaanai

it looks as if a row of balls  
 studded with precious pearls  
 were thrown into the sky.

O goddess, when you play ammaanai,  
 the balls look like  
 a cluster of white swans  
 that wake up and raucously  
 fly up to the sky  
 from beautiful fragrant lotus flowers  
 that open up and spread their petals.

You are the queen of Madurai  
 where the white waterfalls  
 of the Vaikai river  
 look like ground sandal paste  
 against the black hills.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

You are a lovely one  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 74. The Ammaanai Balls Look like Rice Balls and Little Deer

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai  
 the balls look like the bees with six legs and green eyes  
 that hover on the white rice balls  
 that you threw at your wedding at your husband Shiva  
 who wears the crescent shining moon in his long thick Jata.

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai  
 the balls look like young innocent deer  
 jumping on the cool moon, as it rises in the sky.

O goddess,  
 When you and your friends play ammaanai  
 the balls jump and you and your friends look on,  
 your eyes darting like leaping fish.

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai,  
 the young Ganesha plays  
 butting and attacking a group of clouds  
 thinking they are murderous enemy elephants with cruel eyes.

O goddess Abhishekavalli!  
 you carry a bow made of sugarcane whose stems have joints  
 and five arrows of blooming flowers swarming with bees.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

You are a lovely one  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 75. The Ammanai Balls Change Color

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai the balls become red  
 as they are thrown from your sweet hands  
 that are like red lotuses where honey drips.

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai, the balls become black in color  
 when the compassionate glance  
 of your sweet nectar-like dark eyes falls on them.

O goddess,  
 when you play ammaanai the balls become white in color  
 when they are lit by the bright smile  
 on your face that is like the moon without its black marks.

O goddess,  
 the precious pearl balls that you play with, show  
 the three gunas, saatvikam, raajadam and daamadam  
 as they continuously change  
 into three colors, red, black and white.  
 You are the precious honey  
 that springs in your devotees' hearts.  
 They love you and Shiva and their bonds melt  
 as they remain in a state that is neither waking or sleeping.  
 O sweet goddess,  
 play ammaanai and give us your grace.

You are a lovely one  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 76. The jealous sun.

O goddess,  
 when you throw the pearl ammaanai balls  
 from your hands that are as red as kaanthal flowers  
 it looks as if the burning red sun

had grown jealous of the white moon  
 and were chasing him  
 because the moon god  
 always touches his wives, the lotuses  
 in the night with his white rays.

The sounding waterfall  
 carries pearls, diamonds and precious jewels  
 from the highest mountains  
 and the river Vaikai with its rolling waves  
 throws them up on its banks.

Iravadam, the rutting four-tusked elephant  
 trumpets and runs along the banks  
 of the Vaikai river with its breaking waves.

You are a lovely swan with beautiful wings  
 that lives on the banks  
 of the Vaikai in Madurai.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

You are a lovely one  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 77. The Goddess Plays Ammaanai with her Friends

Some of your beloved friends  
 take the pearl ammaanai balls  
 in their beautiful hands  
 and throw them to you  
 one after another, to your left and right.

The thousands of round balls  
 that you catch and throw up in the sky  
 look like rows of worlds  
 that you have created.

Disturbed by the balls as they are thrown up,  
 bees with lines on their body  
 swarm noisily,  
 stirring up fresh pollen in the grove  
 so the pollen rises  
 and makes the sky dark.

The dark pollen  
 looks like the dust  
 that rose on the battlefield  
 when you fought against the cities  
 of Alagapuri, the capital of Kubera,  
 and Amaravathi, the capital of Indra.  
 O queen of Madurai!  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

You are a lovely one  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 78. The Ganges and Lustrous Madurai

The goddess Lakshmi, your friend, as dear to you as life,  
 challenges you to a game of ammaanai.  
 She runs everywhere trying to catch the balls.

Seeing you play ammaanai  
 without running here and there,  
 Shiva, our god, shakes his jata that shines with crescent moon.

The divine Ganges, the beautiful creeper,  
 that on the Jata of Shiva,  
 as she floods and rolls with white foaming waves  
 looks as if she is also playing with pearl ammaanai balls.

The beautiful hillocks of Madurai  
 studded with precious corals  
 and the patios of the palaces  
 studded with pearls  
 shine like the rays of the white moon.  
 Seeing the luster of Madurai,  
 the carpenter of the gods, Devadachan, is jealous and surprised  
 because he did not make Madurai  
 and yet it is so beautiful.

All the elephants that protect Madurai in the eight directions equal Iravadam, the  
 elephant of Indra.  
 O queen of Madurai! Play ammaanai and grant us your grace.

You are a lovely one,  
 who abides in the heart of the unique Shiva  
 and shares the left part of his body.  
 Play ammaanai and give us your grace.

#### 79. The Pearl and Coral Ammaanai Balls

O goddess,  
 the ammaanai balls studded with pearls  
 spread the fragrance of your lotus hands.

The bees that swarm around your hair  
are fascinated with your dark bee-like eyes.

Studded with diamonds, the ammaanai balls  
hear your flute-like voice  
as lovely as the calling of a cuckoo,  
and the sweetness of the sound  
makes them melt and drip  
small drops of dew.

As you plays with your beautiful hands,  
the ammaanai balls studded with corals  
look as if they had stolen the brightness  
of your soft coral-like fingers,  
as they are thrown up and fall, moving randomly.

O goddess,  
you are a living painting drawn in the heart of Shiva.  
Play with the ammaanai balls.  
You are auspicious  
and filled with beauty.  
Play with the ammaanai balls.

80. Pearl and many bright ammaanai balls.

O goddess,  
you are a beautiful creeper  
and your hair is filled  
with bees that sing  
like a yaaz playing the vilari raga.

The pearl ammaanai balls

that you throw to the sky  
 form rows and look like pearl garlands  
 shining with soft rays  
 and decorating  
 the divine chest of Shiva, the sky.

The many bright ammaanai balls  
 studded with many-colored jewels  
 look like a rainbow  
 as they are thrown into the sky.

O goddess, you are a sweet fruit.  
 You give your love  
 and divine grace to your devotees  
 who worship you with the highest joy,  
 melting their hearts.  
 Play with the ammaanai balls.

You are auspicious  
 and filled with beauty.  
 Play with the ammaanai balls.

#### 81. What People Say when they See the Ammaanai Balls

The white pearl ammaanai balls  
 that the goddess throws from her lotus hands  
 become bright and red.  
 Those who see the glow of the balls  
 stand speechless.

Some say, "Even though these balls are made of rubies,  
 they do not know that  
 and become more red

because they are thrown from the lotus hands of the goddess.”

Some say, “Even though these balls are made of dark jewels,  
they do not know that  
and they steal the darkness of the glance  
of the eyes of the goddess  
to become more dark.”

They all say whatever they feel.  
They are like those  
who belong to other religions  
and babble  
without a feeling of belonging anywhere.

O goddess,  
you, the wife of Shiva,  
are the mother of all the gods  
who proudly claim  
that they are the origin of all creatures.

Play with the ammaanai balls.  
You are a beautiful, auspicious queen.  
Play with the ammaanai balls.

## 82. The Goddess Sending Birds as Messengers to Shiva

O goddess,  
your ammaanai balls  
made of lustrous emeralds,  
dark sapphires  
and precious pearls shine bright.

When the goddess whose dark hair

is decorated with lovely flowers  
 dripping with honey,  
 throws the matchless balls to the sky  
 they go to the three-eyed lord.

As your hands throw  
 the emerald, sapphire and pearl ammaanai balls  
 into the sky, it looks as if you are sending  
 the green parrot  
 that you keep upraised in your hand,  
 lovely dark cuckoo birds,  
 and white baby swans,  
 one after another, as messengers  
 to Shiva to tell him of the abundant love  
 you have for him.

You are the queen of rich Madurai  
 where the king swan sleeps  
 embracing his mate  
 on the wet fertile mud field.

Play with the ammaanai balls.  
 You are a beautiful, auspicious queen.  
 Play with the ammaanai balls.

Chapter IX. The Baby Goddess Bathes

### 83. The Goddess Plays in the Water

O goddess,  
 when you bathe,  
 the sound of the ocean conches  
 with high rolling waves

mixes with the tinkling sound of  
the golden conch bangles  
that decorate your beautiful hands.

When you bathe,  
your thick lined fish-like eyes  
move like the kayal fish  
that frolic in the waves.

When you bathe,  
your thick hair swarming with bees  
that drink honey  
from the pollen of the flowers  
looks like green moss floating in the water.

Your great bull elephant  
has huge mortar-like feet  
small eyes and a large trunk.  
When you make him fight with the elephant Iravadam,  
who is white and in rut,  
it is as if relatives  
were meeting and embracing each other.

You play with the rutting elephants  
of the eight directions using them as balls.

O goddess, play,  
plunging into the new flood of water  
of the Vaikai river with cool banks  
and grant us your grace.

O goddess,  
you are a lovely creeper,

you gave your fish-banner  
to Shiva who carries a bull banner.  
Play in the flood of water  
and grant us your grace.

#### 84. The Goddess Plunges into the Vaikai and Plays

O Goddess,  
as you plunge into the water  
that foams with waves  
the white bangles  
that decorate your red hands  
sing beautifully  
as they hit against one another.

As you plunge into the water  
your bright white teeth  
shine like the moon  
and they change  
your coral lips to a pale color.

As you plunge into the water  
your eyes dark as kuvalai blossoms  
become red like kuvalai flowers.

As you plunge into the water  
your curly thick hair  
that is like black sand  
becomes loose.

As you plunge and play  
in the cool beautiful water with rolling waves,  
it looks as if the Ganges with rising waves

sprayed small drops of water,  
 playing happily with Shiva,  
 the ocean of the highest joy.

When young women from the fertile fields  
 bathe in the Vaikai river,  
 the sandal paste  
 that decorates their breasts  
 dissolves, mixes with the dark mud  
 and makes it red.

The waves of the Vaikai,  
 spread the fragrance of sandal  
 on the banks of the river.

O goddess, play,  
 plunging into the new flood of water  
 of the Vaikai river with cool banks  
 and grant us your grace.

O goddess,  
 you are a lovely creeper,  
 you gave your fish-banner  
 to Shiva who carries a bull banner.  
 Play in the flood of water  
 and grant us your grace.

#### 85. The Emerald Color of the Goddess

O goddess, you are like a lovely doll.  
 Your voice is as sweet as a singing parrot's.

Because your green body spreads

its beautiful green color over the earth,  
 the soft, flourishing creepers of coral lose their red color  
 and look like green emerald creepers,  
 the huge white pearls in the water look like emeralds,  
 and the swans with lovely white wings  
 that wander on the cool banks of the Vaikai  
 look like happy peacocks.  
 Knowing this the four Vedas proclaim,  
 "O Goddess, every form on the earth is yours."

After mixing with the water of the divine rivers  
 Saraswathi, Jamuna and Ganges,  
 the new flood of the Vaikai flows along the earth  
 spreading the fragrances  
 of red sandal paste, dark musk and white camphor  
 that bathing women  
 have smeared on their round breasts  
 as bees swarm near their hair  
 that is fragrant with the pollen from the flowers they wear.

O goddess, play, plunging into the new flood of water  
 of the Vaikai river with cool banks and grant us your grace.

O goddess,  
 you are a lovely creeper,  
 you gave your fish-banner  
 to Shiva who carries a bull banner.  
 Play in the flood of water, and grant us your grace.

#### 86. Sprinkling Yellow Powders

Six-legged bees with beautiful wings  
 sleep on your lovely hair, decorated with blossoms.

When your beloved friends fan you,  
 the cool drops of fragrant water  
 mix with kumkum paste, they flow all over.  
 They redden the blue sky,  
 which is the body of Shiva  
 who bent the mountain as a bow,  
 and as the red of the drops  
 and blue of the sky come together,  
 they turn yellow  
 and it looks as if you were playing  
 the game of sprinkling yellow water  
 with your beloved Shiva.

An angry elephant caught  
 in the middle of the wild flood  
 flowing from a mountain waterfall  
 is entangled by a snake  
 and looks like Mandara mountain  
 when it was used as a churning stick  
 encircled by the snake Adishesha for the rope  
 when the milk ocean was churned.

O goddess, play, plunging into the new flood of water  
 of the Vaikai river with cool banks and grant us your grace.

O goddess, you are a lovely creeper,  
 you gave your fish-banner  
 to Shiva who carries a bull bannert.  
 Play in the flood of water and grant us your grace.

87. The Goddess and her Friend Saraswathi.

Your friend Saraswathi,  
 lovely as a creeper,  
 the goddess of the ancient Vedas, of the arts  
 and all the branches of Tamil,  
 plunges and plays hiding in the water.

Wishing to find her  
 you run after her  
 and it looks as if you are running behind a swan  
 because it stole your lovely walk  
 and the pretty sound of your bright anklets.

The Vaikai river scattering pearls and diamonds  
 seems as if it were gambling,  
 throwing pearl and diamond balls  
 and calling the Ganges  
 to come and play with her.

O goddess, play,  
 plunging into the new flood of water  
 of the Vaikai river with cool banks  
 and grant us your grace.

O goddess,  
 you are a lovely creeper,  
 you gave your fish-banner  
 to Shiva who carries a bull banner.  
 Play in the flood of water  
 and grant us your grace.

#### 88. The Beauty of Madurai and its Women

As six-legged bees swarm above

their thick, forest-like hair, your friends  
 whose breasts are as lovely as golden pots  
 play swimming in the pure water of the Vaikai  
 throwing golden yellow powder all around.

As your beautiful dark bee-like eyes  
 gaze at the divine body of Shiva with love  
 they grow red with pleasure and blazing passion,  
 like the eyes of young men when they gaze at young women.

Seeing the passion in the eyes of young men,  
 lovely women light incense  
 so its fragrant smoke can perfume their soft thick hair  
 and the smoke that spreads from it  
 makes the bunches of bananas  
 on the tops of trees in Madurai  
 ripen and grow sweet as honey.

You are the queen of Madurai  
 where the fragrance of ripe bananas spreads everywhere.  
 Such is the beauty of Madurai.

You are the great queen of Madurai.  
 Bathe in the new water  
 and give us your grace.

You are the precious daughter  
 of the Pandyan king  
 of the city on the bank of Porunai river.  
 Bathe in the new water  
 and give us your grace.

Saraswathi, the goddess of the arts  
who lives on a white lotus, said to you, "This is the cool bank  
of the river Vaikai where our lord Shiva  
carried sand for Vanthi to get pittu."

When you heard this  
your heart melted, your eyes grew red  
and you shed a flood of joyous tears.

O goddess,  
if your tears flow in a flood  
Shiva may need to stop it  
as he did for Vanthi.  
Wouldn't that be too much for him to do?

You shine in Kudal city  
flourishing with groves  
where honey drips like a waterfall  
and where Indra's elephant, Iravadam,  
whose tusks are as bright as the crescent moon  
plunges in the soft pollen  
of blossoms dripping with honey  
in the karpaga garden  
and plays with his mates.

Bathe in the new water and give us your grace.  
You are the precious daughter  
of the Pandyan king  
of the city on the bank of Porunai river.  
Bathe in the new water  
and give us your grace.

## 90. Shiva Carries Sand to Get Pittu

O goddess,  
you are the wife of Shiva  
who carried sand in a basket  
on the banks of the Vaikai  
where waves of cool water rise.

If you plunge and bathe  
in the pure water by the banks of the Vaikai  
where Vanthi gave white pittu to Shiva  
and where the Pandyan king hit him,  
the fragrant kumkum paste  
that adorns your round, golden breasts  
decorated with diamonds  
will dissolve and mix with the sand.

If Shiva wishes to come  
and carry that fragrant sand  
mixed with your kumkum paste  
as he did for Vanthi,  
the Ganges will be jealous  
and may not wish to stay on his jata.

You raised your fish banner  
on the golden peak of Himalayas.  
Bathe in the new water  
and give us your grace.

You are the precious daughter  
of the Pandyan king  
of the city on the bank of Porunai river.  
Bathe in the new water

and give us your grace.

### 91. Saraswathi and Indrani Decorate the Goddess

Saraswathi, beautiful as a creeper, goddess of art,  
and Lakshmi, lovely as a creeper, who stays on a lotus,  
string a fragrant garland for you.

Indirani, the beautiful wife of Indra,  
puts a dot on your forehead,  
and your shining breasts  
are decorated with drawings  
made of kumkum.

When you plunge into the water  
it is a lovely feast for the eyes of Shiva, our lord.

Your eyebrows are lovelier  
than the sugarcane bow of Kama  
who raises his fish banner  
with his beautiful wife Rathi,  
they are lovelier than the rainbow,  
and they all bow to you.

O goddess,  
you shine as a golden creeper.  
You are the lovely  
daughter of the king of the Himalayas.

Bathe in the new water and give us your grace.

You are the precious daughter  
of the Pandyan king

of the city on the bank of Porunai river.  
Bathe in the new water  
and give us your grace.

## 92. The Beauty of Madurai and the Goddess

O goddess,  
you are as beautiful  
as a young female elephant  
born in the Himalayas  
that plunges and bathes  
in the white waterfalls  
that descend with abundant water.

You are as lovely as a female swan  
that swims spreading its wings  
on the banks of the river in Korkai city.

You are like Lakshmi,  
the sweet cuckoo bird  
who stays on a red lotus flower  
growing in the center of  
the sweet ocean of milk.

As you stay on the jata of Shiva with the Ganges,  
you look like a precious red creeper of coral  
growing in the divine Ganges  
with rolling waves.

Madurai is filled with blooming groves  
where male bees, their bodies lined,  
learn flute music from women who sing,  
swarm on their hair dripping with honey,

and then embrace lovely female bees  
that are drunk on the honey  
from the golden karpaga garden.

Such is the beauty of Madurai  
filled with blooming groves.  
You are the queen of Madurai.  
Bathe in the new water of the Vaikai.

You are the queen of the land  
on the banks of Porunai and Kumari rivers.  
Bathe in the new water of the Vaikai  
and give us your grace.

#### Chapter X. The Goddess Plays on a Swing

##### 93. The Lustrous Swing of the Goddess.

O goddess,  
you play on a swing  
tied between strong pillars  
studded with shining corals and lustrous diamonds,  
hanging from the roof.  
The swing is tied with chains made of precious pearls  
that look like the bright rays of the cool moon.  
When you sit on the seat made of rubies  
and play on the swing,  
you appear like the bright sun  
moving through the sky.

You, a lovely creeper,  
enter the lotus hearts of your proud devotees

who bloom and melt  
 with sweet nectar-like devotion for you  
 and plunge into the ocean of happiness  
 where ancient songs of devotion  
 are always heard.  
 Play on the golden swing and  
 give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
 You are as divine and beautiful  
 as your beloved Shiva,  
 whose body you share.  
 Play on the golden swing  
 and give us your grace.

#### 94. The Goddess as Divine Doll

O goddess,  
 when you swing beautifully  
 on the swing made of white pearls  
 wearing shining ornaments  
 you look like the moon  
 spreading its soft rays.

When you swing on the pearl swing  
 you look like Saraswathi  
 goddess of ancient, beautiful song  
 who stays on a white lotus.

When you swing  
 you look like the moon  
 that shines with bright rays  
 and sprinkles sweet nectar

You are the divine doll  
 of Madurai surrounded  
 by golden walls  
 where the rain clouds creeping  
 above the tops of palaces  
 studded with sapphires  
 look like the pretty daughters  
 of the shining sun  
 sitting on his lap and playing.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
 You are as divine and beautiful  
 as your beloved Shiva,  
 whose body you share.  
 Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

95. The asoka tree, Kama and the palaces of Madurai

O goddess,  
 you kick and play on the golden swing  
 and its light is so bright  
 that it looks like the sparkling rays of the sun.

When you pump the swing  
 with your feet that are as soft as shoots,  
 you kick an asoka tree  
 and it sheds flowers dripping with honey.  
 The asoka tree looks like Kama, the thief,  
 discovering the disguised Shiva  
 enjoying your beauty,  
 and shooting ceaselessly his flower arrows  
 from his sugarcane bow

because he felt this was a perfect time  
to disturb the god.

The crescent moon throwing  
his soft bright rays on the beautiful hillocks  
by the palaces studded with lustrous rubies,  
looks like, as if the moon, wishing  
to possess the beauty of your divine face,  
was doing tapas standing on a red fire.

You are the lovely parrot of beautiful Madurai.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva,  
whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

96. The Joyful Goddess Swings in Flourishing Madurai.

The happy heart of Shiva  
who wears the Ganges in his Jata  
sways and dances seeing  
you swinging on the golden swing.

Seeing the loving look of your beloved Shiva,  
your heart melts  
and you send him sidelong glances  
so he melts with your love.

As you swing  
it looks as if you were on a golden swing

in the divine mind of Shiva  
who rides on a red- eyed bull.

O goddess,  
you are the queen of sweet Madurai  
flourishing with blooming groves  
of large jack trees whose pot-like fruits  
are sweet inside  
as they ripen on the roots,  
and their sweet honey-like juice  
oozes from them and flows like a waterfall,  
running through  
all the seven underworlds.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva,  
whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

#### 97. Women of Madurai Drying Their Hair.

O goddess,  
as you swing on the divine golden swing  
and your friends sing sweet nectar-like songs,  
Shiva's jata dances to your music.

The red-eyed king of snakes Adishesha  
who carries the earth shakes his head  
and all the earth, the underworld,  
and creatures living and non-living  
swing together.

In lovely Madurai,  
when the women dry  
their dark cloud-like hair, decorated with flowers,  
the fragrant smoke from the pots they use  
goes up to the sky  
and covers the land of the sun  
making the whole sky dark.

O goddess,  
you are a lovely parrot of Madurai city.  
Play on the golden swing and  
give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva,  
whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

98. The Goddess and Shiva on the Battlefield.

When you came onto the battlefield  
riding on a chariot  
to fight with Shiva,  
he grew angry,  
but when he saw your beauty,  
blazing passion arose in the heart  
of that highest god  
decorated with fragrant garlands  
and he lost his determination to fight.

Because of his enormous passion,  
nothing he brought to the fight  
helped him.  
His bow, magnificent as a golden hill,  
melted and bent, useless.  
Even though the bright moon on his Jata  
gave so much light,  
it was of no use.

His white bull Nandi,  
with its shining bells  
came to the battlefield  
but could not help him.

He, with his dark cloud-like throat,  
stood confused and unable to fight  
on the battlefield where red blood flows.

O goddess,  
you stood on the battlefield  
with your arrow-like eyes  
and dark eyebrows like bows  
and you bent your bow  
ready to fight with Shiva.  
And the way you started to fight  
made it seem you were already prepared to marry him.

O goddess, you are a lovely bride.  
Play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful

as your beloved Shiva,  
 whose body you share.  
 Play on the golden swing  
 and give us your grace.

99. The Monkeys of Madurai.

In the large groves  
 vigorous monkeys with deep-set eyes  
 are frightened when a long branch  
 of a jack tree breaks  
 and hits the large pot-like jackfruits covered with thorns,  
 and they swim in the juice that floods out.

The hunched-backed female monkeys  
 with dark sharp nails on their dark fingers  
 scatter and jump into the sky  
 frightened by the flood of juice that flows swiftly.

As the monkeys jump,  
 the branches they are on spring up  
 and tear the body of the lovely moon,  
 and the nectar from the moon descends as a waterfall.

It was like when Vishnu  
 adorned with a thulasi garland swarming with bees  
 grew into the sky tearing it  
 and making the heavenly Ganges flood  
 and descend as a white waterfall.  
 Such is the beauty of Madurai.

O goddess,  
 you are the queen of Madurai.

Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
 You are as divine and beautiful as your beloved Shiva,  
 whose body you share.  
 Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

100. Saraswathi teasing the goddess.

O goddess,  
 The bees swarm around your soft hair,  
 feel sorry for your small waist thin as a creeper,  
 buzz and fly away.

When you swing on the golden swing,  
 Lakshmi, the goddess who stays on a lotus,  
 seeing a mark shaped like the crescent moon  
 made by Shiva when he embraced your body,  
 smiled and teased you, saying,  
 "Is this a mark of a valampuri conch?"  
 You felt shy and bent your head  
 that had never bowed to anyone.

The women perfume their hair,  
 with fragrant smoke  
 because they think the cold dew will harm their hair  
 and the pretty male bees,  
 happily swarming around their hair,  
 see the female bees trembling in the dew  
 and embrace them.

Such is the beauty of Madurai flourishing with paddy fields  
 where bees swarm.

O goddess, you are the queen of Madurai.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva, whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing and give us your grace.

#### 101. How Shiva Loves You

O goddess,  
when the divine apsaras see you  
on the beautiful swing  
studded with precious diamonds  
they sing, praising you.

As Shiva, the god of gods,  
enjoys your smile,  
he becomes a sahara bird  
that drinks the light  
of the rays of the moon,

and he becomes one of the bees  
that sing as sweetly as children  
and swarm around  
your thick beautiful hair

and he becomes the sweet parrot  
that you raised and now stays  
on your beautiful arms.

Shiva the highest god,

becomes a bird, a bee and a parrot  
showing that  
all creatures are only himself.

A white male elephant  
bathes in the waterfall  
where water flows swiftly,  
mixed with fragrant red kumkum paste  
from the women glistening like lighting  
who bathe there,  
and he turns red.

Worried that his gentle, naive mate  
might be distressed by his red color,  
he remains outside the golden palaces  
that fill Kudal city  
so his color will be only golden-gray  
that she will not be scared.

O goddess, you are  
the queen of lovely Kudal city,  
Play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva,  
whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

## 102. The Beauty of the Goddess

O goddess,

your two divine feet are decorated  
with anklets filled with large diamond-studded bells  
that tinkle softly and it seems  
they are complaining.

Your mekalai waistband worries and says,  
“Her waist will break, break.”

Your lovely waist is decorated  
with fine silk woven with golden thread.

A shining golden ornament  
circles your lovely belly  
and makes it beautiful.

You carry a lovely green parrot  
on your soft right hand.

Your divine breasts shine  
decorated with a cloth,  
studded with pearl ornaments.

Your auspicious thali hangs  
beautifully on your neck.

Your moon-like face  
gives grace to all  
and your sweet smile shines brightly  
like the rays of the moon.

Your fish-shaped eyes  
have plunged into the

ocean of knowledge and joy.

Your long eyes touch your ears  
decorated with emerald rings,  
and it seems they would fight with them.

You bloom with beauty.  
O Sundaravalli,  
play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

O goddess, a lovely creeper,  
You are as divine and beautiful  
as your beloved Shiva,  
whose body you share.  
Play on the golden swing  
and give us your grace.

Subham.

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