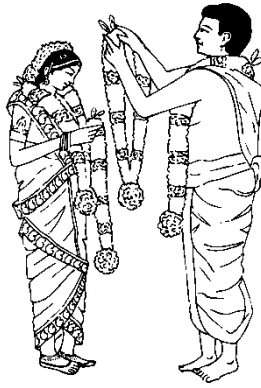


திருமணம்
THIRUMANAM
DIVINE FRAGRANCE
(MARRIAGE)



UNION OF TWO SOULS

CONVERSATIONS WITH AYYAA
THE MASTER

தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு - TAMIZHP PANNPAADU
TAMIL CULTURE
Volume 3

அடியார்க்கு அடியேன் உலகநாதன் சொர்ணம்
ADIYAARKKU ADIYEAN LOGANADEN SORNUM

திருமணம்

THIRUMANAM

DIVINE FRAGRANCE

(MARRIAGE)

தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு – TAMIZHP PANPAADU

TAMIL CULTURE

Volume 3

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Author: Loganaden Sornum

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Mareisha Sornum

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படையல் – PADAIYAL - OFFERING

Humbly dedicated to the memory of



தோற்றம்
Thohitram
Birth
15 Oct 1912



மறைவு
Maraivu
Passed Away
7 Sep 1987

<THE LAMP REMAINS BUT THE FLAME IS OUT>

தமிழ்த் தொண்டர் ஐயா இராச இரத்தனம் சங்கிலி
Tamizht Thondar Ayyaa Rajaretnum Sungeelee

A true selfless Reformer

A humble social worker and volunteer teacher for the
development of Tamil language



He rightly deserves the நன்றி கடன் – *Nandri Kadan* –
Gratitude of அன்பர்கள் – *Anbargal* – Friends of அறிவகம்
- *Arivagam* and அருளகம் - *Arulagam*.

நிறை மொழி மாந்தர் பெருமை நிலத்து
மறை மொழி காட்டி விடும்

- திருக்குறள், அதிகாரம் 3, குறள் 28.

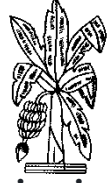
Nirai mozhi maandhar perumai nilatthu
Marai mozhi kaatti vidum

Greatmen whose words are full of wisdom and glory are
reflected in the scriptures of the land

- **Thirukkural, Adhigaaram 3, Kural 28.**



வாழ்த்துரை – VAAZHTHURAI WORDS OF BLESSING



இல்வாழ்வான் என்பான் இயல்புடைய மூவர்க்கும்
நல்லாற்றின் நின்ற துணை

- திருக்குறள், அதிகாரம் 5, குறள் 41

*Ilvaazhvaan enbaan iyalbudaiya muuvarkkum
Nallaattrin ninra thunai*

Family life is the best protection to aid one's parents,
spouse and children.

- **Thirukkural, Adhigaaram 5, Kural 41**

It is with profound gratitude and absolute joy that I am penning down a few words in Ayyaa Sornum's book “திருமணம்-Thirumanam”, which offers a wealth of wisdom that current and future generations will hopefully be proud to treasure.



**Ammaa Danisha & Annaa
Vehmben Sornum**

Wedding Date: 10 Nov 2009

The book is timely. Many of us are curious, eager to learn the தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு - Tamizhp Pannpaadu - Tamil culture, but we are more often than not faced with unanswered questions and doubts that shake our faith.

“திருமணம்-Thirumanam” digs into the *raison d'être* of our age-old rituals in marriage, such as the மாலை மாற்றல் - *maalai maattral* - exchange of flowers, the இட மாற்றல் - *ida maattral* - swapping of seats during the ceremony, and



the act of showing reverence to the grind stone. Reading through the different chapters, I realized that purpose of act is inbuilt in our Tamil culture. There is an underlying intelligence that drives acts that may look or sound mundane, or meaningless. We all stand to benefit if we can gauge and assimilate the fulness of such ஞானம் - *gniaanam* -wisdom.

Acceptance is a leitmotiv in the book. In my profession as a lawyer, I have assisted numerous couples in the process of divorce. Divorce is undoubtedly painful and creates dents in the family structure. Challenges and pressures of the modern society that is evolving at an unbelievably fast pace can have its own toll on families. While not all marriage issues may be successfully resolved through பேச்சு வார்த்தை - *peachu vaartthai* - dialogue and understanding, especially in the context of disrespect and violence, be it verbal, physical or otherwise, cultivating emotional intelligence can help us navigate the ups and downs of this “partnership for life”. Suspending our judgment and truly listening to the other; accepting the other for who they are; accepting the other as an equal human being; rising above the mere transactional nature of things to embrace the other with unconditional love- it is a lifelong learning curve. I believe this book contributes towards building and sustaining the support system that we all need to live well.

To all readers, much அன்பு - *anbu* -love from my heart to yours. Together, we can create ripples of சீர்திருத்தம் - *sīrthiruttham* / மாற்றம் - *maatthram* - change for the better.

அன்புடன் - *Anbudan*,
தனிசா சொர்ணம் - *Danisha Sornum*





நன்றியுரை NANRIYURAI ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



செய்யாமல் செய்த உதவிக்கு வையகமும்
வானகமும் ஆற்றல் அரிது

-அதிகாரம் 11, குறள் 101

*Seiyaamal seidha udhavikku vaiyagamum
Vaanagamum aattral aridhu*



Voluntary contribution (of any kind) from unseen quarters done without any obligation: even the heavens and earth are too poor to repay it.

– **Thirukkural, Adhigaaram 11, Kural 101**

I am truly honoured and humbled by the recognition received by our previous publications, namely ‘விடியல் – Vidiyal – Dawn’ and ‘அருள் தேடல் – Arul Theadal – Seeking Grace’. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to our dear readers whose continued engagement has nurtured a shared journey of learning, sharing and caring for us at அறிவகம் – Arivagam and அருளகம் – Arulagam. Thank you for being an integral part of this evolving collective.

I record my sincere நன்றி – *nandri* – gratitude and appreciation to our highly dedicated அன்பர்கள் – *anbargal* – sincere friends whose unwavering commitment to அறிவகம் – Arivagam and அருளகம் – Arulagam continues to serve a greater purpose. Their vision for the younger generation and the valuable knowledge they share have truly expanded the horizons of our common understanding. They have played their parts in the conversations and have kept me growing. Even their

supposedly insignificant contributions have their indispensable place in திருமணம் – *Thirumanam* - Divine Fragrance, third volume of தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு – *Tamizhp Panpaadu* – Tamil Culture.

Before ending, let me convey my anticipated thanks to our அன்புள்ள வாசகர்கள் – *anbulla vaassagargal* - dear readers who will play their part again in the next edition. I have highly appreciated their sms, personal messages and hearing their sweet voices.

My nandri goes to the President and members of the Tamil League too. As goes the தமிழ் பழமொழி – *tamizh pazhamozhi* - Tamil proverb:

<ஒன்று பட்டால் உண்டு வாழ்வு>

<*Onru pattaal unndu vaazhvu*>

<There is mutual progress when we are together>



This graceful unity in diversity - வேற்றுமையில் ஒற்றுமை – *veatthrumaiyil ottrumai* at அறிவகம் – *Arivagam* and அருளகம் – *Arulagam* has been the bedrock for the successful publication of our 3rd volume of தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு – *Tamizhp Panpaadu* – Tamil Culture.

I would fail in my கடமை – *kadamai* – duty if I did not confess that I am very fortunate to have the support of அன்னை ஜெயா – Mother Jaya Ellapen and her குடும்பம் – *kudumbam* - family, whose contribution and தொண்டு – *thondu* - social service have been of great assistance in the production of this book.

Our special நன்றிகள்-nandrigal are due to Mr and Mrs Armoogum (Nouren) Gopaulen, owners of Veerus ltd, for getting our 3rd volume printed in record time.



அறிமுகம் – ARIMUGAM - PREFACE

தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு – *Tamizhp Pannpaadu* – Tamil Culture is one of the oldest classic civilizations with customs and traditions dating back 3000 years B.C.E, or even well before say many scholars and researchers.

This 3rd volume of Tamil Culture is on திருமண சடங்கு முறை – *Thirumana sadangu murai* – marriage ritual processes, which did not exist millenia ago. அன்பு வாழ்க்கை or காதல் வாழ்க்கை – *anbu vaazhkkai* or *kaadhal vaazhkkai* – divine love-life was the only one which prevailed.

திருமண முறை – *Thirumana murai* – wedding process came about only after invaders/foreign civilizations entered Tamil lands as soldiers/conquerors/cultural invaders. They did not bring their life partners with them during the invasions. As they easily got local partners, they imposed their languages, customs and traditions and rules too.

Books of the Sangam period 300 BCE until 200 CE reflect the importance of marital alliances in society, emphasizing love, valour and relationship. Since then தமிழ்த் திருமணம் – *Tamizht Thirumanam* – Tamil wedding has evolved significantly through different time periods, influenced by various historical, social, cultural and religious factors.

I felt the need to shed some light upon what was known as களவியல் – *kalaviyal* – pre marital love discipline and கற்பியல் – *kattrpiyal* – post marital love discipline. These two ஒழுக்கங்கள் – *ozhukkanggal* – disciplines which are well defined in the தொல்காப்பியம் – *Tholkaappiyam* and திருக்குறள் – *Thirukkural* and seen to be simple life itself. But these have been buried in the sand of time by different invaders at different periods of time.

தமிழ்-*Tamizh*-Tamil is a language which is both classical and modern, with an antiquity greater than that of Latin and Greek. It is a language still spoken by 60 million people in Tamil Nadu itself. Tamil language has a long documented history dating back to 700 BCE to 300 BCE while records for Sanskrit, also a very ancient language, are dated to the second century BCE.

Pure Tamil words like கடி-*kadi*, மன்றல்-*manral*, வதுகை மணம் - *vadhugai manam*, வரைவு-*varaivu* etc meaning marriage have been discarded long back by the cultural invaders.

The purpose of this book is to outline what should be understood by திருமணம் - *Thirumanam* - marriage. It offers a long overdue tool to the younger generations as a response to their quest, both conscious and unconscious, regarding the increasing number of temporary or permanent பிரிதல் - *piridhal* - separations and மணவிளக்கு - *manavilakku* - divorces.

Today, in our multilingual and multicultural society, the Tamil people have their own unique தமிழ்த் திருமண முறை - *Tamizht Thirumana murai* - Tamil wedding processes which have evolved and developed over centuries that help them preserve reasonably their rich heritage and stay true to their roots.

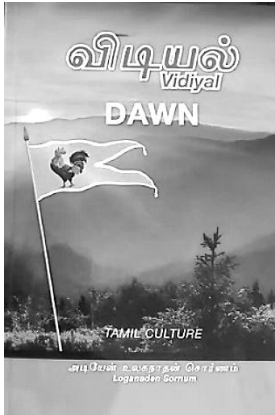
The general function of திருமணம் - *Thirumanam* - Divine Fragrance is to cover most aspects of the marriage life as well. These have been symbolically suggested but not thoroughly described in transparent prose. The above, conveyed through symbols, is being better clarified to become more eloquent. Most of them have been briefly interpreted. This may help those who are not well-versed in Tamil language to have a clear picture of Tamil wedding to a certain extent. I am fully aware that practically felt knowledge is the best proof for their validity and pragmatic utility.

I am confident that lovers of Tamil language and Tamil Culture will perceive and interpret explained marriage patterns easily. I also hope that the insights presented in this book do not trigger any unnecessary discomfort and resistance.

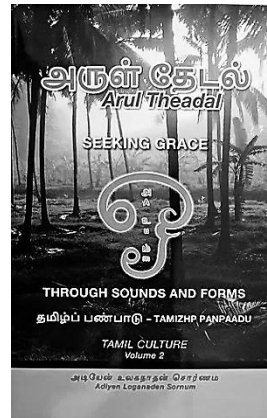
As usual, I am available along with our Anbargal for clarifications of doubts. Your eventual precious contributions for the preservation and proper propagation of Tamil Culture is yearned.



**திருமணம் - Thirumanam - Divine Fragrance
is the 3rd volume
in a series of publications
on Tamil Culture**



Volume 1
விடியல்
Vidiyal
Dawn



Volume 2
அருள் தேடல்
Arul Theadal
Seeking Grace

அன்புள்ள வாசகர்களுக்குக் குறிப்பு
ANBULLA VAASAGARGALUKKUK KURIPPU
NOTE TO DEAR READERS



திருமணம் - *Thirumanam* - Divine Union, the third volume of தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு - *Tamizhp pannpaaddu* - Tamil Culture has taken birth after ten lunar months of very long conversations, discussions and sharing, like the delivery of the baby which the mother has been carrying patiently in her womb for a period of 9 solar months. Finally, திருமணம் - *Thirumanam* - Divine Fragrance - marriage is in your lucky hands.

You will notice names and photos of ours, Anbargal, with cell phone numbers as well in some cases, at the end of every topic. We, Anbargal, would be very grateful to respond to your call whenever you need any clarification or clearing any doubt about any respective topic. When we have made our best efforts, and now you young people, who are going to embrace the domestic life, will be the நடுவர் - *naduvar* - judge.

For any proper understanding without any hesitation, you may also join us at அறிவகம் - *Arivagam* - Centre d'Excellence, Tamil League or @ அருளகம் - *Arulagam* online every Wednesday from 1 P.M to 3:30 PM.

You may as well send us your suggestions. We will certainly incorporate all positive and genuine elements in our subsequent edition, after clearance from Ayyaa.

நன்றிகள் பல - *Nandrighal pala*
Lots of Thanks
For your support and collaboration
From
Ayyaa and Anbargal



நம் கடன் பணி செய்து கிடப்பதே
Nam kadan pani seidhu kidappadea
We do our duty humbly and rest content

தங்கடன் அடியேனும் தாங்குதல்
Thangadan adiyeanum thaanggudhal
Your (readers') duty is to support us



நம் நல்லதொரு குடும்பம் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
Nam nalladhoru kudumbam palgalai kazhagam
Our good family is the university



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