

THIRUKKURAL

Shows the correct path in all aspects of human life and how to remain a human being as to be of credit to the saying of the great “AVVAYAR”

“It is really rare indeed to be born a human being. Rarer, indeed to be born without any physical or mental disabilities.”

SELECTED TOPICS

AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR

- *Praise of God* 01
- *On Learning* 40
- *The Excellence of Rain* 02
- *The Power of Virtue* 04
- *The Domestic State* 05
- *The Virtue of a Wife* 06
- *On Obtaining Children* 07
- *On Love* 08
- *On Hospitality* 09

SELECTED TOPICS

AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR CONTD.....

- *On Sweetness of Speech* 10
- *On Gratitude* 11
- *On Equity* 12
- *On Self Control* 13
- *Propriety of Conduct* 14
- *On Patience* 16
- *Against Envy* 17
- *Against Backbiting* 19
- *On the Fear of Sin* 21

SELECTED TOPICS

AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR CONTD.....

- ***On Praise*** **24**
- ***On Mercy/Kindness*** **25**
- ***Abstinence from Flesh*** **26**
- ***On Inconsistent Conduct*** **28**
- ***Against Fraud*** **29**
- ***On Truthfulness*** **30**
- ***Against Anger*** **31**
- ***Against Inflicting Suffering*** **32**
- ***Against Destroying Life*** **33**

SELECTED TOPICS

AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR CONTD.....

- *True Knowledge* 36
- *The Destruction of Desire* 37
- *On Fate* 38
- *On Kingly Excellence* 39
- *On Learning* 40
- *On the Neglect of Learning* 41
- *On Hearing (Instruction)* 42
- *On Wisdom* 43
- *On the Correction of Faults* 44

ONE KURAL SELECTED FROM EACH TOPIC AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR

- *What profit have those derived from learning who worship not the good feet of him who is possessed of pure knowledge. 1.2 2*
- *Let a man learn thoroughly whatever he may learn, and let his conduct be worthy of his learning. 40.1 391*
- *If the cloud withholding rain deceives (OUR HOPES), hunger will long give distress in the sea-surrounded spacious world. 2.3 13*
- *Virtue will confer heaven and wealth, what greater source of happiness can man possess? 4.1 31*
- *He will be said to flourish in domestic virtue who aids the forsaken, the poor and the dead. 5.2 42*
- *The excellence of a wife is the good of her husband, and good children are the jewels of that goodness. 6.10 60*
- *Men will call their offspring their wealth, because it flows to them through the deeds which they perform on their behalf. 7.3 63*
- *The unloving belong to themselves but the loving belong to the others to their very bones. 8.2 72*
- *The family of a man that daily entertains the guests who come to him shall not be laid waste by poverty. 9.3 83*

ONE KURAL SELECTED FROM EACH TOPIC AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR CONTD.....

- *Humility and sweetness of speech are the ornaments of man: all others are not (ornaments) 10.5 95*
- *He who has killed every virtue may escape, there is no escape for him who has killed a benefit. 11.10 110*
- *The upright and the crooked may be known by (the character of) their offspring. 12.4 114*
- *The wound which has been burnt in by fire may heal, but a wound burnt in by the tongue will never heal. 13.9 129*
- *Propriety of control leads to eminence, therefore it should be preserved more carefully than life. 14.1 131*
- *Those who bear with the uncourteous speech of the insolent are purer than ascetics. 16.9 159*
- *Never have the envious become great, never have those who are free from envy been without greatness. 17.10 170*
- *The character of the faults of that man who publishes abroad the faults of others will be sought out and published. 19.6 186*
- *Destruction will dwell at the heels of those who commit evil even as their shadow that leaves them not. 21.8 208*

**ONE KURAL SELECTED FROM EACH TOPIC AS PER THE NEED
OF THE HOUR CONTD.....**

- *Those live who live without disgrace. Those who live without fame live not. 24.10 240*
- *They will never enter the world of darkness and wretchedness whose minds are the abode of kindness. 25.3 243*
- *All creatures will join their hands together, and worship him who has never taken away life, nor eaten flesh. 26.10 260*
- *There is no use of a shaven crown, nor of tangled hair, if a man abstains from those deeds which the wise have condemned. 28.10 280*
- *Even the body will fail the fraudulent, but even the world of the Gods will not fail those who are free from fraud. 29.10 290*
- *He, who speaks truth with his heart, is superior to those who make gifts and practice austerities. 30.5 295*
- *Anger is bad, even when it cannot injure: when it can injure, there is no greater evil. 31.2 302*
- *If a man inflicts sorrow upon others in the morning, sorrow will come upon him in the evening, unsought. 32.9 319*
- *Let no one do that which would destroy the life of another although he should lose his own life. 33.7 327*

ONE KURAL SELECTED FROM EACH TOPIC

AS PER THE NEED OF THE HOUR CONTD.....

- *Heaven is nearer than earth to those men of purified minds who are freed from doubt. 36.3 353*
- *There is in this world no excellence equal to freedom from desire: and even in that world, there is nothing like it. 37.8 363*
- *Although a man may study the most polished treatises, the knowledge which fate has decreed to him will still prevail. 38.3 373*
- *Never to fail in these four things; fearlessness, liberality, wisdom and energy: this is the kingly character. 39.2 382*
- *Letters and the numbers are the two eyes of man. 40.2 392*
- *The self-conceit of an unlearned man will fade away as soon as he speaks in an assembly (of the learned). 41.5 405*
- *Wealth gained by the ear is wealth of wealth, that wealth is the chief of all wealth. 42.1 411*
- *The wise are those who know beforehand what will happen; those who do not know this are the unwise. 43.7 427*
- *Truly great is the excellence of those (kings) who are free from pride, anger and lust. 44.1 431*

On Unjust Government

- *More cruel than the man who lives the life of a murderer is the king who gives himself to oppress and act unjustly (towards his subjects) 56.1 551*
- *The country of the king will daily fall to ruin, who does not daily examine into and punish (crimes). 56.3 553*
- *If the king acts contrary to justice, rain will become unseasonable, and the heavens will withhold their showers. 56.9 559*
- *If the guardian (of the country) neglect to guard it, the produce of the cows will fall, and the men of six duties will forget their sacred book. 56.10 559*
- *The king, who, without reflecting (on its evil consequences), perverts justice, will lose at once both his wealth and his subjects. 56.4 554*
- *Righteous governance gives permanence to the fame of kings; without that their fame will have no endurance. 56.5 556*
- *As is the world without rain, so live a people whose king is without kindness. 56.7 557*

On Just or Upright Government

- *In guarding his subjects (against injury from others) and in preserving them himself, to punish crime is not a fault in a king, it is his duty. 55.9 549*
- *It is not the javelin that gives victory: but the king's scepter, if it does no injustice. 55.6 546*
- *Rain and plentiful crops will ever dwell together in the country of the king who sways his scepter with justice. 55.5 545*
- *When there is rain, the world enjoys prosperity: and when the king rules justly, his subjects prosper. 55.2 542*
- *The king defends the whole world: and justice, when it is administered without defect, defends the king. 55.7 547*
- *For a king to punish criminals with death, is like pulling up the weeds in the green corn. 55.10 550*
- *The world will constantly embrace the feet of the great king who rules his subjects with love. 55.4 544*

On The Greatness of A Kingdom

- A kingdom is that which continues to be free from excessive starvation, irremediable epidemics, and destructive foes. 74.4 734*
- Freedom from epidemics, wealth, produce, happiness and protection (to subjects): these five, the learned say, are the ornaments of a kingdom. 74.8 738*
- The learned say that those are kingdoms whose wealth is labored for, and those not, whose wealth is only obtained through labour. 74.9 739*
- The constituents of a kingdom are the two waters (from above and below), well situated hills and an indestructible fort. 74.7 737*
- A kingdom is that which is without various (irregular) association, destructive internal enemies, and murderous savages who (sometimes) harass the sovereign. 74.5 735*
- A kingdom is that in which those who carry on a complete cultivation, virtuous persons, and merchants with inexhaustible wealth, dwell together. 74.1 731*
- Although in possession of all the above mentioned excellences, these are indeed of no use to a country, in the absence of harmony between the sovereign and the subjects. 74.10 740*

For Attention of Men Only

- The actions of elegant braceleted(ladies) who desire a man not for affection but from avarice, will cause sorrow. 92.1 911*
- The false embraces of wealth-loving women are like hired men embracing a strange corpse in a dark room. 92.3 913*
- Those who are destitute of a perfectly reformed mind will covert the shoulders of those who embrace (them) while their hearts covert other things. 92.7 917*
- He who fears his wife will always be afraid of doing good deeds even to the good. 91.5 905*
- Those who yield to the wishes of their wives will neither relieve the wants of their friends nor perform virtuous deeds. 91.8 908*
- The undertaking of one, who fears his wife and is therefore destitute of bliss, will never be applauded. 91.4 904*

Farming or Agriculture

- They alone live who live by agriculture; all others a cringing, dependent life. 104.3 1033*
- Agriculturalists are (as it were) the linchpin of the world, for they support all other workers who cannot till the soil. 104.2 1032*
- If the farmer's hands are slackened, even the ascetic state will fail. 104.6 1036*
- If the land is dried so as to reduce a handful of earth to a quarter, it will grow plentifully even without a handful of manure. 104.7 1037*
- If the owner does not (personally) attend to his cultivation, his land will behave like an angry wife and yield him no pleasure. 104.9 1039*
- Manuring is better than ploughing; after weeding, watching is better than watering (it). 104.8 1038*

Against Idleness

- *Let those, who desire that their family may be illustrious put away all idleness from their conduct. 61.2 602*
- *Family (greatness) will be destroyed, and faults will increase, in those men who give way to laziness, and put forth no dignified exertion. 61.4 604*
- *The (lustre of the) family of the ignorant man, who acts under the influence of destructive laziness, will perish even before he is dead. 61.3 603*
- *Procrastination, forgetfulness, idleness and sleep, these four things, are the ornaments desired by those whose nature leads them to destruction. 61.5 605*
- *The king who never gives way to idleness will obtain entire possession of the space passed over by him who measured (the worlds) with his foot. 61.10 610*
- *If laziness takes up its abode in a family, it will make them the slaves of their enemies. 61.8 608*

On Wisdom

- *Wisdom is a weapon to ward off destruction, it is an inner fortress which enemies cannot destroy. 43.1 421*
- *Not to permit (the mind) to go where it lists, to keep it from evil and to employ it in good, this is wisdom. 43.2 422*
- *To discern the truth in everything, by whomsoever spoken, this is wisdom. 43.3 423*
- *The wise are those who know beforehand what will happen, those who do not know this are the unwise. 43.7 427*
- *No terrifying calamity will happen to the wise, who (foresee and) guard against coming evils. 43.9 429*
- *Those who possess wisdom, possess everything; those who have no wisdom, whatever they may possess, have nothing. 43.10 430*

On Self Confidence before an Audience

- *Many indeed may (fearlessly) die in the presence of (their) foes; (but) few are those who are fearless in the assembly of the learned. 73.3 723*
- *In order to reply fearlessly before a foreign court, (ministers) should learn logic according to the rules (of grammar). 73.5 725*
- *They who, though they have learned and understood, are yet afraid of the assembly of the good are said to be inferior even to the illiterate. 73.9 729*
- *Those who can agreeably set forth their acquirements before the learned will be regarded as the most learned among the learned. 73.2 722*
- *What have they to do with a sword who are not valiant, or they with learning who are afraid of an intelligent assembly. 73.6 726*
- *Those who cannot agreeably speak good things before a good assembly are indeed unprofitable persons in spite of all their various acquirements. 73.8 728*
- *Those who through fear of assembly, are unable to set forth their learning in an interesting manner, though alive, are yet like the dead. 73.10 730*

On Evil Friendship

- *The hatred of the wise is ten million times more profitable than the excessive intimacy of the fool. 82.6 816*
- *Solitude is more to be desired than the society of those who resemble the untrained horses which throw down (their riders) in the fields of battle. 82.4 814*
- *The friendship of those whose actions do not agree with their words will distress (one) even in (one's) dreams. 82.9 819*
- *Gradually abandon without revealing (beforehand) the friendship of those who pretend inability to carry out what they really could do. 82.8 818*

