

Sri Paamban Swamigal's  
**SHANMUGA KAVASAM**

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By VN Soundararajan

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Shanmuga Kavasam is a powerful hymn of 30 verses composed by Paamban Swami in 1891 for the benefit of Lord Murugan's devotees to protect them from illness of body and mind as well as from foes, wild beasts, poisonous creatures, demons, devils and biting insects. Several instances prove that this Shanmuga Kavacam verses effective in this respect. If you recite it with heart and soul to Lord Murugan, the results will be swift and miraculous.

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ஸ்ரீ பாம்பன் குமரகுருதாச சுவாமிகள் அருளிய  
சண்முக கவசம்

அறுசீர் அடி ஆசிரிய விருத்தம்

அண்டமாய் அவனி யாகி  
அறியொணாப் பொருள தாகித்  
தொண்டர்கள் குருவு மாகித்  
துகளறு தெய்வ மாகி  
எண்டிசை போற்ற நிற்ற  
என்னருள் ஈச னான  
திண்டிறல் சரவ ணத்தான்  
தினமும்என் சிரசைக் காக்க. 1

ஆதியாம் கயிலைச் செல்வன்  
அணிநெற்றி தன்னைக் காக்க  
தாதவிழ் கடப்பந் தாரான்  
தான்ரு நுதலைக் காக்க !  
சோதியாம் தணிகை யீசன்  
துரிசிலா விழியைக் காக்க !  
நாதனாம் கார்த்தி கேயன்  
நாசியை நயந்து காக்க ! 2

ருசெவி களையும் செவ்வேள்  
யல்புடன் காக்க ! வாயை  
முருகவேல் காக்க! நாப்பல்  
முழுதுநல் குமரன் காக்க !  
துரிசறு சுதுப்பை யானைத்  
துண்டனார் துணைவன் காக்க !  
திருவுடன் பிடரி தன்னைச்  
சிவசுப்ர மணியன் காக்க ! 3

ஈசனாம் வாகு லேயன்  
எனதுகந் தரத்தைக் காக்க !  
தேசுறு தோள்வி லாவும்  
திருமகள் மருகன் காக்க !  
ஆசிலா மார்பை ஈராறு  
ஆயுதன் காக்க; என்றன்  
ஏசிலா முழங்கை தன்னை  
எழில்குறிஞ் சிக்கோன் காக்க ! 4

உறுதியாய் முன்கை தன்னை  
உமையிள மதலை காக்க;  
தறுகண் ஏறிடவே என்கைத்  
தலத்தைமா முருகன் காக்க;  
புறங்கையை அயிலோன்காக்க;  
பொறிக்கர விரல்கள் பத்தும்  
பிறங்குமால் மருகன் காக்க;  
பின்முது கைச்சேய் காக்க. 5

ஊண்நிறை வயிற்றை மஞ்ஞை  
ஊர்தியோன் காக்க; வம்புத்  
தோள்நிமிர் கரேசன் உந்திச்  
சுழியினைக் காக்க; சூய்ய  
நாணினை அங்கி கெளரி  
நந்தனன் காக்க; பீஜ  
ஆணியைக் கந்தன் காக்க;  
அறுமுகன் குதத்தைக் காக்க. 6

எஞ்சிடாது டுப்பை வேலுக்கு  
றைவனார் காக்க காக்க;  
அஞ்சகனம் ஓரி ரண்டும்  
அரன்மகன் காக்க காக்க;  
விஞ்சிடு பொருட்காங் கேயன்  
விளரடித் தொடையைக் காக்க;  
செஞ்சரண் நேச ஆசான்  
திமிருமுன் தொடையைக் காக்க. 7

ஏரகத் தேவன் எந்தாள்  
ருமுழங் காலும் காக்க;  
சீருடைக் கணைக்கால் தன்னைச்  
சீரலை வாய்த்தே காக்க;  
நேருடைப் பரடு ரண்டும்  
நிகழ்பரங் கிரியன் காக்க;  
சீரிய குதிக்கால் தன்னைத்  
திருச்சோலை மலையன் காக்க. 8

ஐயுறு மலையன் பாதத்  
தமர்பத்து விரலும் காக்க;  
பையுறு பழநி நாத  
பரன்அகம் காலைக் காக்க;  
மெய்யுடல் முழுதும் ஆதி  
விமலசண் முகவன் காக்க;  
தெய்வ நாயக விசாகன்  
தினமும்என் நெஞ்சைக் காக்க. 9

ஒலியெழ உரத்த சத்தத்  
தொடுவரு பூத ப்ரேதம்  
பலிகொள் ராக்க தப்பேய்  
பலகணத்து எவையா னாலும்  
கிளிகொள எனைவேல் காக்க;  
கெடுபரர் செய்யும் சூன்யம்  
வலியுள் மந்த்ர தந்த்ரம்  
வருந்திடாது அயில்வேல் காக்க ! 10

ஓங்கிய சீற்ற மேகொண்டு  
உவணிவில் வேல்சூ லங்கள்  
தாங்கிய தண்டம் எஃகம்  
தடிபரசு ஈட்டி ஆதி  
பாங்குடை ஆயுதங்கள் பகைவர்  
என் மேலே ஓச்சின்  
தீங்குசெய் யாமல் என்னைத்  
திருக்கைவேல் காக்க காக்க ! 11

ஒளவியம் உளர், உண் உண்போர்  
அசடர், பேய், அரக்கர், புல்லர்,  
தெவ்வர்கள் எவரா னாலும்  
திடமுடன் எனைமல் கட்டத்  
தவ்வியே வருவார் ஆயின்  
சராசரம் எலாம்பு ரக்கும்  
கவ்வுடைச் சூர சண்டன்  
கைஅயில் காக்க காக்க ! 12

கடுவிடப் பாந்தள் சிங்கம்  
கரடிநாய் புலிமா யானை  
கொடிய கோள்நாய் குரங்கு  
கோலமார்ச் சாலம் சம்பு  
நடையுடை எதனா லேனும்  
நாண்டர்ப் பட்டி டாமல்  
சடுதியில் வடிவேல் காக்க;  
சானவி முளைவேல் காக்க ! 13

ங்கர மேபோல் தமீ  
ஞானவேல் காக்க ! வன்புள்  
சிகரிதேள் நண்டுக் காலி  
செய்யன்ஏறு ஆலப் பல்லி  
நகமுடை ஒந்தி பூரான்  
நளிவண்டு புலியின் பூச்சி  
உகமிசை வற்றால் எற்குஓர்  
ஊறிலாது ஐவேல் காக்க. 14

சலத்தில்உய் வன்மீன் ஏறு  
தண்டுடைத் திருக்கை மற்றும்  
நிலத்திலும் சலத்தி லும்தான்  
நெடுந்துயர் தரற்கே யுள்ள  
குலத்தினால் நான்வ ருத்தம்  
கொண்டிடாது அவ்வவ் வேளை  
பலத்துடன் ருந்து காக்க;  
பாவசி கூர்வேல் காக்க. 15

ஞமலியம் பரியன் கைவேல்  
நவக்கிர கக்கோள் காக்க;  
சுமவிழி நோய்கள் தந்த  
சூலை ஆக்கிராண ரோகம்  
திமிர்கழல் வாதம் சோகை  
சிரம்அடி கர்ண ரோகம்  
எமையணு காம லேபன்  
னிருபுயன் சயவேல் காக்க. 16

டமருகத்து அடிபோல் நைக்கும்  
தலையிடி கண்ட மாலை  
குமுறுவிப் புருதி குன்மம்  
குடல்வலி ஈழை காசம்  
நிமிரொணாது ருத்தும் வெட்டை  
நீர்ப்பிர மேகம் எல்லாம்  
எமையடை யாம லேகுள்  
நெறிந்தவன் கைவேல் காக்க. 17

ணக்கம் ல்லாத பித்த  
எரிவுமா சுரங்கள் கைகால்  
முணக்கவே குறைக்கும் குட்டம்  
மூலவெண் முளைதீ மந்தம்  
சணத்திலே கொல்லும் சன்னி  
சாமென் றறையும் ந்தப்  
பிணிக்குலம் எனைஆ ளாமல்  
பெருஞ்சத்தி வடிவேல் காக்க. 18

தவனமா ரோகம் வாதம்  
சயித்தியம் அரோச கம்மெய்  
சுவறவே செய்யும் மூலச்சூடு  
ளைப்பு உடற்று விக்கல்  
அவதிசெய் பேதி சீழ்நோய்  
அண்டவா தங்கள் சூலை  
எனையும்என் டத்தெய் தாமல்  
எம்பிரான் திணிவேல் காக்க. 19

நமைப்புறு கிரிந்தி வீக்கம்  
நணுகிடு பாண்டு சோபம்  
அமர்த்திடு கருமை வெண்மை  
ஆகுபல் தொழுநோய் கக்கல்  
மைக்குமுன் உறுவ லிப்போடு  
எழுபுடைப் பகந்த ராதி  
மைப்பொழு தேனும் என்னை  
எய்தாமல் அருள்வேல் காக்க. 20

பல்லது கடித்து மீசை  
படப டென்றே துடிக்கக்  
கல்லினும் வலிய நெஞ்சம்  
காட்டியே உருட்டி நோக்கி  
எல்லினும் கரிய மேனி  
எம்படர் வரினும் என்னை  
ஒல்லையில் தார காரி  
ஓம்ஐம் ரீம்வேல் காக்க ! 21

மண்ணிலும் மரத்தின் மீதும்  
மலையிலும் நெருப்பின் மீதும்  
தண்நிறை சலத்தின் மீதும்  
சாரிசெய் ஊர்தி மீதும்  
விண்ணிலும் பிலத்தின் உள்ளும்  
வேறெந்த டத்தும் என்னை  
நண்ணிவந்து அருளார் சஷ்டி  
நாதன்வேல் காக்க காக்க. 22

யகரமே போல்சூ லேந்தும்  
நறும்புயன் வேல்முன் காக்க,  
அகரமே முதலாம் ஈராறு  
அம்பகன் வேல்பின் காக்க,  
சகரமோடு ஆறும் ஆனோன்  
தன்கைவேல் நடுவில் காக்க,  
சிகரமின் தேவ மோலி  
திகழ்ஐவேல் கீழ்மேல் காக்க. 23

ரஞ்சித மொழிதே வாளை  
நாயகன் வள்ளி பங்கள்  
செஞ்சய வேல்கி ழக்கில்  
திறமுடன் காக்க, அங்கி  
விஞ்சிடு திசையின் ஞான  
வீரன்வேல் காக்க; தெற்கில்  
எஞ்சிடாக் கதிர்கா மத்தோன்  
கலுடைக் கரவேல் காக்க. 24

லகரமே போல்கா ளிங்கன்  
நல்லுடல் நெளிய நின்று  
தகரமர்த் தனமே செய்த  
சங்கரி மருகன் கைவேல்  
நிகழெனை நிருதி திக்கல்  
நிலைபெறக் காக்க; மேற்கில்  
கல்அயில் காக்க, வாயு  
வினில்குகன் கதிர்வேல் காக்க. 25

வடதிசை தன்னில் ஈசன்  
மகன்அருள் திருவேல் காக்க;  
விடையுடை யீசன் திக்கில்  
வேதபோதகன்வேல் காக்க;  
நடக்கையில் ருக்கும் ஞான்றும்  
நவில்கையில் நிமிர்கையில் கீழ்க்  
கிடக்கையில் தூங்கும் ஞான்றும்  
கிரிதுளைத் துளவேல் காக்க. 26

ழந்து போகாத வாழ்வை  
ஈயும் முத்தையனார் கைவேல்  
வழங்கும் நல்லாண் உண்போதும்  
மால்விளை யாட்டின் போதும்  
பழஞ்சுரர் போற்றும் பாதம்  
பணிந்து நெஞ்ச அடக்கும் போதும்  
செழுங்குணத் தோடே காக்க;  
திடமுடன் மயிலும் காக்க. 27

ளமையில் வாலிபத்தில்  
ஏறிடு வயோதி கத்தில்  
வளர்அறு முகச்சி வன்தான்  
வந்தெனைக் காக்க காக்க.  
ஒளியெழு காலை முள்ளல்  
ஓம்சிவ சாமி காக்க.  
தெளிநடு பிற்ப கல்கால்  
சிவகுரு நாதன் காக்க. 28

றகுடைக் கோழித் தோகைக்கு  
றைமுன் ராவில் காக்க;  
திறலுடைச் சூர்ப்ப கைத்தே  
திகழ்பின் ராவில் காக்க;  
நறவுசேர் தாள்சி லம்பன்  
நடுநிசி தன்னில் காக்க;  
மறைதொழு குழகன் எம்கோன்  
மாறாது காக்க காக்க. 29

னமெனத் தொண்ட ரோடும்  
ணக்கிடும் செட்டி காக்க;  
தனிமையில் கூட்டந் தன்னில்  
சரவண பவனார் காக்க;  
நனியனு பூதி சொன்ன  
நாதர்கோன் காக்க; த்தைக்  
கனிவொடு சொன்ன தாசன்  
கடவுள்தான் காக்க வந்தே. 30

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

## Sri Paamban Swamigal's **SHANMUGA KAVASAM**

To derive the full benefit of the recital of Shanmuga Kavasam, the following invocation verse composed by Paamban Swamigal has to be recited first and then the kavacham.

OM SHANMUGA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SHUNMATHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SHUDGREEVA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SHUDKREEDA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SHUD KONA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SHUD KOSA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM NAVA NITHI PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SUBHANITHI PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM NARAPATHY PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SURAPATHY PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM NADACHCHIVA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SADAKSHARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM KAVI RAJA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM THAPA RAJA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM YIGA PARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM PUGAZ MUNI PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM JAYA JAYA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM NAYA NAYA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM MANJULA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM KUNJAREE PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM VALLEE PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM MALLA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM ASTHRA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SASTHRA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA

OM SHASHTEE PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM YISHTEE PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM ABHETHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM SUBOTHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM VIYOOHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM MAYOORA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM BOOTHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM VETHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM PURANA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM PIRANA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM BAKTHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM MUKTHA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM AGAARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM VOOGAARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM MAGAARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM VIKAASA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM AATHI PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM BOOTHI PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM AMAARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA  
OM KUMARA PATHEYA NAMO NAMA

## Shanmuga Kavasam

andamaay avani yaaki  
aRiyoNaap poruLa thaakith  
thondarkaL kuruvu maakith  
thukaLaRu theyva maaki  
endisai pOtrra ninRa  
ennaruL eesa naana  
thindiRal sarava Naththaan  
thinamumen sirasaik kaakka. 1

*May my Lord \*Saravanathan, the Almighty, who is pervading all spheres of the Universe (including the Heaven and Earth); Who is the Eternal Truth transcending the Mind, World and Body; the celestial Guru to His ardent devotees; who is flawless and pure; praised by all from the eight directions (of the World) and Who is my ever gracious Lord, Eswara; protect my Head every day.*

*\*Note: Saravanathan Lord Muruga emerged as an Avathar, with His six sacred Faces and twelve mighty Arms. From the six sparks of fire which fleshed out of the central eyes (in the foreheads) of Lord Siva They were carried and left by the Holy Ganges in the cool, fragrant, grassy pond known as Saravana poigai on the Himalayas. Hence our Lord is known as Saravanathan or Saravanabhavan i.e. One Who was born in Saravana poigai.*

aathiyaam kayilais selvan  
aNinetri thannaik kaakka  
thaathavil katappan thaaraan  
thaaniru nuthalaik kaakka !  
sOthiyaam thaNikai yeesan  
thurisilaa viliyaik kaakka !  
naathanaam kaarththi kEyan  
naasiyai nyanthu kaakka ! 2

*May my Lord Muruga Who is the basic Source and Cause of everything and the darling (Son of Lord Siva) of Mount Kailas, protect my lovely Forehead; may the Wearer of the fragrant kadamba garland, protect my Eye-brows; and the glorious effulgent Dely Thanigesan of \*Thiruthanigai, protect my spotless, clear Eyes; the divine Babe and the Lord of the six Karthigai maids (i.e. stars, who fed our Lord with their breast-milk in Saravana poigai) protect my Nose willingly. After vanquishing Surapadma and the Asuras, when His (righteous) wrath against the evil doers was quelled and cooled. our Lord hath come down to Thiruthani (to wed Goddess Valli) and He is seated on this holy hillock (after the wedding) in a quiet and tranquil repose (as denoted by the very name of this place) with His beloved consorts Sri valli and Sri Devasena (Itcha and Kriya sakthees) to confer His perennial Grace on His devotees. Thus Thiruthanigai ranks first and foremost of all the hill temples.*

*\*Note: Thiruthanigai is the fifth of the six Padaiveedoos (Eminent places of worships) of our Lord and it is the crowning jewel of all His hill temples.*

irusevi kaLaiyum sevvEL  
iyalputan kaakka ! vaayai  
murugavEl kaakka! naappal  
muluthunal kumaran kaakka !  
thurisaRu kathuppai yaanaith  
thundanaar thuNaivan kaakka !  
thiruvutan pitari thannais  
sivasupra maNiyam kaakka ! 3

*May my Lord, the Holder of the red, glowing Vel (Who rouses in us the longing for Mukthi) protect my twin Ears to function normally. may Murugavel-the ever-young, all beautiful, Fragrant Lord protect my Mouth; may the benevolent Lord Kumara protect my Tongue and Teeth; and the younger Brother of Lord Ganesh (with His Elephant Face and Trunk resembling the Form of and signifying the basic manthra "Om") protect my spotless Cheeks; May Lord Sivasubramania (a harmonious combination of Siva, the Father and Subramania, the Son; Who are not different but One and the same Divine Entity) protect my rear Neck to keep it lovely!*

eesanaam vaaku IEyan  
enathukan tharaththaik kaakka !  
thEsuRu thOLvi laavum  
thirumakaL marugan kaakka !  
aasilaa maarpai eeraaRu  
aayuthan kaakka; enRan  
Esilaa mulangai thannai  
elilkuRinj sikkOn kaakka ! 4

*May Lord Muruga, the Repository of the wealth of Divine Grace and the darling Child of Karthigai maids protect my Neck; May the \*Son-in-law of goddess thirumagal (Lakshmi) protect my Shoulders and ribs to keep them beaming and brawny; May our Lord with His twin-six weapons (including the Vel) in His twelve hands protect my flawless robust Chest; May the (Old) Chief of the flourishing \*Kurinji (Mountain) Land (in Tamilnadu, the favourite resort of our Lord) protect my Elbows which are unblemished!*

*\*Note: (1) Son-in-law of Thirumagal When the Devas (including Lord Vishnu and Brahma) were teased and tormented by the cruel Surapadma and the Asuras, they approached Lord Siva for succour, Who promised to send His son Kumara (to be born) to vanquish the Asuras and to release the Devas from their tyranny. This consoling assurance brought down two tears of joy from the eyes of Lord Vishnu which got transformed into two lovely maids known as Amirtha-Valli and Sundara-Valli. They vowed to marry none but Lord Muruga and performed penance for several years. Our Lord appeared before them and promised to marry them in the next birth of one of them in Devaloka i.e. as Sri Deivayanai (daughter of Indra) and the other in Booloka i.e. as Sri Valli (daughter of the red deer). He fulfilled His promises to both of them and so, our Lord is aptly styled as the son-in-law of Thirumal and Thirumagal (2) Kurinji land: Most of the shrines of our Lord are located on hills and elevated places in the rocky parts (of South India) known as Kurinji land. Unlike the other Deities seated in temples on the plains, our Lord is enshrined in plates higher above us which signifies that He watches and protects us from above. Hence our Lord is known as the Old Chief of the Kurinji land, though in fact He is a perpetual youth of peerless beauty.*

uRuthiyaay munkai thannai  
umaiyiLa mathalai kaakka;  
thaRukaN ERitavE enkaith  
thalaththaimaa murugan kaakka;  
puRangaiyai ayilOnkaakka;  
poRikkara viralkaL paththum  
piRangumaal marugan kaakka;  
pinmuthu kaichEy kaakka. 5

UNniRai vayitrrai manjnai  
UrthiyOn kaakka; vamputh  
thOLnimir karEsan unthis  
suliyinaik kaakka; kuyya  
naaNinai angi keLari  
nanthanan kaakka; peeja  
aaNiyai kanthan kaakka;  
aRumukan kuthaththai kaakka. 6

*May my Lord, the younger son of Goddess Uma, protect my Fore-arms to keep them strong and sturdy! May Lord Muruga, the \*God Supreme, protect both my Hands in full to keep them mighty and manly; may the holder of the sharp, powerful Vel protect the back portion of my Palms, (which alone is visible when they are joined together during our prayers to our Lord) May the son-in-law of our great and glorious Thirumal protect the Ten fingers of my hands which are indispensable for all handicrafts and manual labour; may the young divine Lord, Kumaresan, protect my Back.*

*May my Lord, the Rider on the blooming multi-coloured \*Peacock protect my Stomach which contains food; may the Lord of Devas with His elevated, fragrant shoulders protect my Navel bud: may the Son (who emerged from the divine sparks) of Goddess Gowri who is our Lord Kanda protect our Private parts; May Arumuga (the six-faced Deity) protect the Anus.*

**\*Note:** Muruga the god supreme: Lord Muruga is held in high esteem and adored as superior even to the Trinity (i.e. Lord Siva, Vishnu and Brahma) for the following reasons:

- i. Our Lord imprisoned Brahma for his failure to explain the import of Pranavam i.e. "Om" and He performed the creative function (till Brahma was released by Him) with great ability, dexterity and rapidity, producing the best specimens of living beings.
- ii. Our Lord was praised and adored by God Vishnu to whom our Lord restored the Chakra and Conch forcibly seized from Vishnu by Tharakasoora but recovered from him by our Lord after vanquishing that Asura (brother of Surapadma).
- iii. Our Lord taught His Father, God Siva, the significance of the holy Pranavam by assuming the role of a Guru. This does not, however mean that Lord Siva did not know the import of Pranavam, This incident was just to disclose to the world the greatness of His beloved son Who is no other than Lord Siva Himself.
- iv. Above all, the lotus Feet of our Lord adorn the heads of the Devas on whom He conferred a fresh and flourishing life after liberating them from the tyrannical bondage of Surapadma.

**\*Note:** Peacock and Cock: After a tough and terrible fight and in the last stage of the battle, Surapadma transformed himself into a mango tree. Our Lord forcibly cast His mighty Vel (with lightning rapidity) which split the tree into two halves, one of which became the Peacock and the other became the Cock. when they surrendered at the lotus Feet of our Lord. He took both of them into His fold with His infinite grace (mahakarunai) even towards His Foe. Thus the Peacock become His Divine carrier and the Cock adorns His banner of Victory to serve our Lord for ever. This shows the magnanimity of our Lord.

**Thus our Lord Muruga is, undoubtedly, superior to all other Deities and rightly styled as the God of Gods or Deva Devan.**

enjsitaathu ituppai vElukku  
iRaivanaar kaakka kaakka;  
anjsakanam Ori randum  
aranmakan kaakka kaakka;  
vinjsitu porutkaang kEyan  
viLaratith thotaiyaik kaakka;  
senjsaraN nEsa aasaan  
thimirumun thotaiyaik kaakka. 7

*May the Lord of the Invincible \*Vel protect my Hip to keep it firm without any slackness or instability; May the beloved Son of God Siva protect my twin lovely Buttocks; May the foster son of Ganges (Kangeyan) and the Embodiment of Eternal Truth protect the twin-split portions of my Back thighs; May my supreme God (and the saviour of my soul) with His red lotus Feet protect the Front portion of my robust Thighs.*

*\*Note: Vel represents the Divine Wisdom (Gnanasakthi) which is conferred on His devotees by Lord Muruga. This divine weapon was given to Him by His Father Lord Siva, (with the blessings of His Mother Sakthi) to vanquish Surapadma and his powerful Asura-force.*

*The Vel is pointed at its top, broad in the middle and thick at its base which signifies the subtlety and sharpness, width and depth of the divine lore. The dazzling Kathirvel, which radiates like the rays of the Sun, dispels the darkness of Ignorance and Illusion, the dismal effects of our Ego and Karma to enlighten us to achieve the ultimate end of Life i.e. salvation.*

Erakath thEvan enthaal  
irumulang kaalum kaakka;  
seerutaik kaNaikkaal thannais  
seeralai vaayththE kaakka;  
nErutaip paratui randum  
nikalparang kiriyan kaakka;  
seeriya kuthikkaal thannaith  
thiruchOlai malaiyan kaakka. 8

*May the Presiding Deity of Thiruyeragam\* (Swamimalai) protect my two Knees; may the Deity of Seer Alaivoi (Thiruchendur) protect my well-set Ankles; May the Lord of the renowned Paramgiri (Thirupparamkundram) protect my two wellformed Heels.*

*\*Note:*

- i. *Thiruyeragam: Otherwise known as Swamimalai which is considered as Hridayakalam (i.e. the seal of divine illumination) is the Fourth Padaiveedu where our Lord taught His lather, God Siva, the import of 'Om', i.e. Pranavam.*
- ii. *Thiruchendur: Otherwise known as Seer Alaivoi (on the sea shore) is the second Padaiveedu where our Lord is seated in his martial grandeur with His victorious Vel after putting an end to Surapadman*

aiyuRu malaiyan paathath  
thamarpaththu viralum kaakka;  
paiyuRu palani naatha  
paranakam kaalaik kaakka;  
meyyutal muluthum aathi  
vimalasaN mukavan kaakka;  
theyva naayaka visaakan  
thinamumen nenjsaik kaakka. 9

oliyela uraththa saththath  
thotuvuru pUtha prEham  
palikoL iraakka thappEy  
palakaNaththu evaiyaa naalum  
kiLikoLa enaivEl kaakka;  
ketuparar seyyum sUnyam  
valiyuLa manthra thanthram  
varunthitaathu ayilvEl kaakka ! 10

*May our beautiful young Lord Kumaresan of the hill-temples\* protect the ten Toes of my feet; May our Lord (Nathaswaroopa) of the green \*\*Palani hill protect Soles of my feet; May the pristine pure Lord Shanmuga, the basic cause for all Beings and things, protect my Entire body; May the god of Devas and the Lord (of His birth-star) Visaka be ever in my mind to protect it from the desires and distractions of the World!*

*May the peerless, powerful Vel of my Lord Muruga terrorize and drive out (from my presence) the ghosts and apparitions which threaten me with their huge noise and uproar, the Raksha Devil which longs for and lives upon animal and human sacrifice and Evil Spirits of all kinds which are apt to cause distress and deadly effects on me.*

**\*Note:**

(iii) Paramgiri: i.e. Thirupparamkudram is the first Padaiveedu where Indra gave in marriage to our Lord his (foster) daughter Sri Deivayanai (Kriya Sakthi) as a token of his gratitude to our Lord for His gracious help in liberating the Devas from the tyranny of Surapadma and for conferring on them a fresh end prosperous Life.

*May the sharp Vel of my Lord protect me from the bad effects of sorcery, witchcraft and the Like, performed by wicked persons and from the powerful effects of their Manthras and Thantras!*

(iv) Solaimalai: is the last end sixth Padaiveedu where our Lord is in a happy and lovely pose amidst the dense cluster of shady trees in a secluded hilly tract (near Madurai) with His beloved consorts, to confer on His devotees the sweet Bliss and ever lasting peace.

**\*\*Note:** Palani is the third Padaiveedu where our Lord revels in His divine pose as an Andi (i.e. Ascetic) with His sacred Body smeared with the holy ash, wearing nothing but a "Kowpeenam". His celestial Hand holding the Mace ( to destroy the evil forces) and to impress on His teeming millions of devotees the need for austerity and a detached frame of mind with a feeling of renunciation of the pleasures of Life so as to attain His lotus Feet and enjoy the Eternal Bliss!

Legend says that this place has been rendered sacred due to the following incident. Sage Narada took a rare mango fruit to be presented to Lord Siva and Uma Devi. Their two sons, Ganesh and Kumar, vied with each other for getting the fruit from their parents. To settle the matter amicably between them, Lord Siva said that who ever of them went round the world First would have the prize of the fruit. Lord Kumara immediately started His flight (with lightning rapidity) on His Peacock. But Lord Ganesha could not do so with His bulging belly and big body. He hit upon a plan. As the entire Creation is in the womb of Goddess Uma and as Lord Siva is the Progenitor of all the world, Ganesh went round them and got the fruit, urging that He fulfilled the mandate of His Father in its spirit and essence.

Lord Muruga who was amazed and upset on seeing the fruit in the hand of His Brother, quietly left Mount Kailas to His lonely Abode at Palni, renouncing His Pomp and Parents. He would not return inspire of the entreaty of His parents and They appropriately praised our Lord that though He did not get the mango fruit, yet He was the Fruit of Divine Wisdom to the World!

Ongiya seetrra mEkondu  
uvaNivil vElsU langaL  
thaangiya thandam eqkam  
thatiparasu eetti aathi  
paangutai aayuthangaL pakaivar  
en mEIE ochin  
theengusey yaamal ennaith  
thirukkaivEl kaakka kaakka ! 11

oLaviyam uLar, Un uNpOr  
asatar, pEy, arakkar, pullar,  
thevvarkaL evaraa naalum  
thitamutan enaimal kattath  
thavviyE varuvaar aayin  
saraasaram elaampu rakkum  
kavvutais sUra sandan  
kaiayil kaakka kaakka ! 12

*May the powerful Vel in the sacred Hand of my Lord protect me from any injury or harm sought to be done to me by my wrathful foes with their fierce weapons of sword, bow, Vel, trident, mace, wheel, stick "Parazu", spear etc. (may His Vel be an impregnable shield to guard me from the onslaughts of my Foes!)*

*May the sacred Vel (which safeguards all the worlds), of my Lord Muruga, Who was a terror to the wicked Surapadma who was ever ready to pounce on his foes, protect and guard me) if those who are jealous, flesh-eaters, mean, devilish, cruel(like Asuras) ignorant and enemical towards me, daringly come to pounce upon, embrace and wrestle with me with a foul and firm determination!*

katuvitap paanthaL singam  
karatinaay pulimaa yaanai  
kotiya kOLnaay kurangu  
kOlamaars saalam sampu  
nataiyutai ethanaa lEnum  
naanitarp patti taamal  
satuthiyil vativEl kaakka;  
saanavi muLaivEl kaakka ! 13

*May the bright, beautiful Vel of my Lord, the foster son of Ganges, come to my aid quickly to protect and prevent any harm to be done to me by the deadly poisonous snakes, lion, bear, dog, tiger, mighty elephant, cruel wolf, monkey, pig, cat, fox and such other quadrupeds.*

ngakara mEpOl thameei  
njaanavEl kaakka ! vanpuL  
sikarithEL nanduk kaali  
seyyanERu aalap palli  
nakamutai onthi pUraan  
naLivandu puliyin pUchi  
ukamisai ivatrraal eRkuOr  
URilaathu aivEl kaakka. 14

*My Lord! Just as the Tamizh letter "Nn" is an adjunct to the other letters of that language (by embracing them), may Thy supreme Vel of divine Wisdom (Gnanasakthi) likewise protect me and those of my coterie of Thy devotees! May the Vel also guard me against any harm to be caused to me by the species of cruel birds, rat, scorpion, "Nandukkali", "Seyyan", poisonous Lizard, "Vonan", "Pooran", spider and other slim bodied poisonous insects.*

salaththiluy vanmeen ERu  
thandutaith thirukkai matrrum  
nilaththilum salaththi lumthaan  
netunthuyar tharaRkE yuLLa  
kulaththinaal naanva ruththam  
konditaathu avvav vELai  
palaththutan irunthu kaakka;  
paavaki kUrvEI kaakka. 15

*May the sharp Vel of my Lord Muruga Who emerged from the divine sparks (from the eyes of Lord Siva) afford me, with its immense power, timely protection from any danger or distress to be caused to me by the crocodile which is powerful in water and the pointed long-horny fish known as " Thirikkai" as also by the brood of other cruel beings Living on earth or in water!*

njamaliyam pariyan kaivEI  
navakkira kakkOL kaakka;  
sumavili nOykaL thantha  
sULai aakkiraaNa rOkam  
thimirkalal vaatham sOkai  
siramati karNa rOkam  
emaiyaNu kaama lEpan  
nirupuyan sayavEI kaakka. 16

*May the Vel in the sacred Hand of our Lord on the beautiful Peacock guard us from the mal-aspects of the Planets! May the victorious Vel of my Lord, with His twelve robust shoulders, protect us from the diseases of the eye, tooth, nose and ear, Thimirnoi, Vatham and Sogai (i.e. Anaemia ).*

tamarugaththu atipOl naikkum  
thalaiyiti kanda maalai  
kumuRuvip puruthi kunmam  
kotalvali eelai kaasam  
nimiroNaathu iruththum vettai  
neerppira mEkam ellaam  
emaiyatai yaama lEkun  
neRinthavan kaivEl kaakka. 17

iNakkam illaatha piththa  
erivumaa surangaL kaikaal  
muNakkavE kuRaikkum kuttam  
mUlaveN muLaithee mantham  
saNaththiE kollum sanni  
saamen RaRaiyum inthap  
piNikkulam enaiaa Laamal  
perunjsaththi vativEl kaakka. 18

*May the vel in the sacred Hand of my Lord, Who split the Krouncha mountain, protect us from the approach and affliction of acute diseases such as the terrible headache which torment the head, beating like a drum, Adenitis neck (Kandamaalai), the severe hook-worm disease, Intestinalcolic, Bronchitis, Asthma, Tuberculosis the deadly disease of Gonorrhoea (Which disables us from holding erect, or even rising from the bed) and Diabetes.*

*May the Invincible Vadivel of my Lord save me from the deadly sway of the family of poignant diseases such as the Pile (which causes burning sensation in the stomach) Virulent fever, Leprosy which reduces and deforms the fingers of the hands and toes of the feet, Piles, Peptic Ulcer, Dypepsia and Sinusitis (Janni) which causes death in no time.*

thavanamaa rOkam vaatham  
sayiththiyam arOsa kammey  
suvaRavE seyyum mUlachUtu  
iLaippu utatrru vikkal  
avathisey pEthi seelnOy  
andavaa thangaL sUlai  
enaiyumen itaththey thaamal  
empiraan thiNivEl kaakka. 19

*May the strong and impregnable Vel of my Lord protect me from the disease which causes perpetual unquenchable thirst (by drying up the tongue), Vatham, Sayithiam, Arosagam, internal excess of bodily heat which reduces us with a wasting effect, undue and prolonged tiresomeness, Hiccough, diseases causing Pus, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Anda-vaathum and Soolai (accute stomach pain).*

namaippuRu kirinthe veekkam  
naNukitu paandu sOpam  
amarththitu karumai veNmai  
aakupal tholunOy kakkal  
imaikkumun uRuva lippOtu  
eluputaip pakantha raathi  
imaippolu thEnum ennai  
eythaamal aruLvEl kaakka. 20

*May the Gracious Vel of my Lord protect me from the infliction, even for a moment, of the dire diseases of Granthi (which causes itching sensation), the disease of Paandu which causes swelling, Leprosy of white and black colour, vomiting and the disease of Pavuthram which appears in no time, causing no little pain.*

pallathu katiththu meesai  
patapa tenRE thutikkak  
kallinum valiya nenjsam  
kaattiyE urutti nOkki  
ellinum kariya mEni  
emapatar varinum ennai  
ollaiyil thaara kaari  
Omaim reemvEl kaakka ! 21

*When the messengers of Yama, with their bodies darker than pitch-dark night, hearts harder than stone, biting their teeth, rolling their fierce eye-balls and twitching their moustaches with grim looks, approach me (to snatch away my life), may the owerful Vel of my Lord (Muruga), Who vanquished the Asura Tharakan rapidly come to my rescue and save me with its divine all-powerful manthra "Om, Ayim, Reem"!*

maNNilum maraththin meethum  
malaiyilum neruppin meethum  
thaNniRai salaththin meethum  
saarisey Urthi meethum  
viNNilum pilaththin uLLum  
vERentha itaththum ennai  
naNNivanthu aruLaar sashti  
naathanvEl kaakka kaakka. 22

*May the sacred Vel in the Hand of my ever-gracious Lord \*Shashtinathan come to me, of its own accord, and protect me wherever I may be, whether on earth, tree, mountain, fire or in cool water or when I ride in a vehicle or even if I be in the sky or underground or in any other place, anywhere!*

*\*Note: Shashtinathan: The sixth day in the growing phase of the moon of a Tamil month is the shashti day considered as sacred to propitiate our Lord and the six days of Skanda Shashti in the months of October-November each year are the most sacred days. When the ardent devolccs of our Lord observe rigorous last and perform continuous poojas, day in and day out, for the Victory of our Lord in His fierce battle with Surapadma on those days. When our Lord put an end to the Asura on the sixth day (Soorasamhara), His devotees break their fast on the next day and celebrate the Victory with boundless joy. Thus, our Lord is known as Shashtinathan (i.e. the Lord Who came out victorious during the period of shashti).*

yakaramE pOIsU lEnthum  
naRumpuyan vElmun kaakka,  
akaramE muthalaam eeraaRu  
ampakan vElpin kaakka,  
sakaramOtu aaRum aanOn  
thankaiVEl natuvil kaakka,  
sikaramin thEva mOli  
thikalaivEl keelmEl kaakka. 23

*May the sacred Vel of my Lord, Who hath on His divine fragrant shoulder the three pointed trident (resembling the Tamil letter (uu), protect me In Front ; May the Vel of my Lord with His twelve sacred eyes (like the twelve vowels of the Tamil alphabet commencing with the letter (9) protect me on the Back side ; May the Vel of my Lord with His Name of six letters (in Tamil i.e., Saravanabhava) commencing with the first letter (a) "sa" protect me in the Mid-portion, May the pioneer Vel of my Lord, adorned with the mighty Crown of Divine Glory, protect me from above and below.*

ranjsitha molithE vaanai  
naayakan vaLLi pangan  
senjsaya vElki lakkil  
thiRamutan kaakka, angi  
vinjsitu thisaiyin njaana  
veeranvEl kaakka; theRkil  
enjsitaak \*kathirkaa maththOn  
ikalutaik karavEl kaakka. 24

*May the victorious Vel of my God Muruga Who is the Lord of the sweet-tongued Sri Deivayaanai and lovely Life-partner Sri Valli(our Divine Mother) protect me ably well on the Easternside; May the Vel of the Hero of Divine Wisdom guard me on the South eastern side (swayed by the God of Fire);May the powerful Vel of the sacred Hand (which destroyed its foes) of my Lord of \*Kathirkamam Who never retracted in battle, protect me on the South.*

*\*Note: Kathirkamam is the sacred place of our Lord in Ceylon which is held in high esteem by his devotees as it is eminently suited for penance to quench our thirst for spiritual Bliss. Our Lord is Formless in this shrine, though his lovely form and those of His consorts Sri Valli and Sri Deivayanai are to be seen painted on the screen hung up at the entrance.*

*The version is that a great saint known as Kalyana Munivar came from Northern India to this place and performed rigorous penance for many years to invoke the powerful Grace of our Lord which, when he had, was confined and concealed by him in a box, by his yogic power, to be taken away to his place for daily worship. While he was contriving to remove the box one day, Goddess Valli, Who played the role of his trustworthy servant-maid for some days, look away the box on her head, assisted by our Lord in His pose as the servant and Her Husband. When both of them ran towards the shrine, chased by the saint (who could not snatch away the box), they entered the temple and disappeared.*

*When the saint felt aggrieved and disappointed at the failure of his plan, he was consoled by our Lord and ordained to spend the rest of his life at the Feet of our Lord in Kathirkamam. The saint gladly obeyed the mandate and passed away in the sacred place where his tomb is kept enshrined. It is understood that this sacred box, which contains the Essence of Divine Grace of our Lord, is worshipped with all veneration and taken out on the back of an elephant only on festival occasions. Our Lord hath wrought several miracles in this place to bless and convince His devotees of His supreme power. Above all, this place served as the Military Base to Our Lord Who halted here for some days before he set out in his Martial Glory to fight with Surapadma in his beautiful Island Kingdom amidst the seas (Veeramahendrapurem).*

lakaramE pOlkaa Lingan  
nallutal neLiya ninRu  
thakaramarth thanamE seytha  
sangari marugan kaivEl  
nikalenai niruthi thikkal  
nilaiperak kaakka; mERkil  
ikalayil kaakka, vaayu  
vinilkukan kathirvEl kaakka. 25

*May the Vel of the sacred Hand of my Lord Muruga; Son-in-law of Lord Thirumal (with the conch in His hand) Who danced on the back of the big black body of Rakshasa Serpent known as Kalingan when its strength was crushed and its body trembled, twisted and curved like the Tamil letter "su" "LA" protect me (in my devotional pose) on the South western side; and may the dazzling, radiating (Kathir) Vel of Kuga (the dweller of the cave of our hearts) protect me on the North western side.*

vatathisai thannil eesan  
makanaruL thiruvEl kaakka;  
vitaiyutai yeesan thikkil  
vEthapOthakanvEl kaakka;  
natakkaiyil irukkum njaanRum  
navilkaiyil nimirkaiyil keelk  
kitakkaiyil thUngum njaanRum  
kirithuLaith thuLavEl kaakka. 26

*May the sacred Vel of the beloved Son of Lord Easwara guard me on the Northern side; May the Vel of my celestial Guru Who taught the Vedas protect me on the Northern side, pertaining to Lord Easwara Who rides on the bullock (representing the four footed Dharma Devatha); May the Almighty Vel of my Lord, Which pierced right through the crownji mountain, protect me when I walk, sit, speak, get up, lie down or sleep tie. in all poses and at all times during day and night.*

ilanthu pOkaatha vaalvai  
eeyum muththaiyanaar kaivEl  
valangum nallUN uNpOthum  
maalviLai yaattin pOthum  
palanjsurar pOtrrum paatham  
paNinthu nenjsu atakkum pOthum  
selunguNath thOtE kaakka;  
thitamutan mayilum kaakka. 27

*May the Vel in the Hand of my Lord \*Muthayyan, which confers on me the life of Eternal Bliss, protect me graciously when I take my delicious food, when I participate in tiresome physical exercises ( such as wrestling, fencing, etc.), when I control and concentrate my mind to worship the lotus feet of my Lord which are praised by the ancient Devas; May the Peacock of my Lord likewise protect me well.*

*\*Note: Muthayyan means One who confers Mature Divine (wisdom and Liberates) us from the bondage or earthly ties.*

iLamaiyil vaalipaththil  
ERitu vayOthi kaththil  
vaLaraRu mukachi vanthaan  
vanthenaik kaakka kaakka.  
oLiyelu kaalai muneL  
Omsiva saami kaakka.  
theLinatu piRpa kalkaal  
sivakuru naathan kaakka. 28

*May my ever-flourishing Lord Arumuga graciously appear before my humble-self and protect me in my boyhood, prime of youth and advancing old-age (when I will be affected with grey hairs, shrivelled limbs, disease and infirmity); May my Lord (Om) Sivaswami (Who is the basic Pranava Manthra) protect me in the early Morn (i.e. before sun-rise); My Lord Sivagurunathan (the Preceptor of Lord Siva) protect me during (the bright)Noon and Afternoon.*

iRakutaik kOlith thOkaikku  
iRaimun iraaivil kaakka;  
thiRalutais sUrppa kaiththE  
thikalpin iraaivil kaakka;  
naRavusEr thaaLsi lampan  
natunisi thannil kaakka;  
maRaitholu kulakan emkOn  
maaRaathu kaakka kaakka. 29

*May the Lord of the lovely feathered Cock and the plumed Peacock protect me in the prior part of the night;  
May my Lord, the Foe of the Egoistic Surapadma, protect me in the latter part of the night; May my Lord  
(Muruga) Whose Lotus Feet are adorned with anklets, and garlands of honeyful fragrant flowers, protect me  
at midnight; May my youthful Lord Kumara adored by the Vedas protect me (without any break or  
Slackness) for ever!*

inamenath thonda rOtum  
iNakkitum setti kaakka;  
thanimaiyil kUttan thannil  
saravaNa pavanaar kaakka;  
naniyanu pUthi sonna  
naatharkOn kaakka; iththaik  
kanivotu sonna thaasan  
katavulthaan kaakka vanthE. 30

*My my Lord, the \*Setty, who is eminent and capable of acquainting me with and admitting me as a member  
of the Coterie of His devotees protect me; May my Lord Saravanabhavanar protect me both when I am alone  
and in the company of others; May the God and Guru of saint Arunagirinathar who composed and sang the  
immortal and intensely devotional Kandar Anubhoothi songs (with divine wisdom) guard me for ever; May  
my Lord (Shunmuga) protect me (Kumaragurudasan) who has composed these precious verses (of powerful  
effect) to be chanted with the fullness of heart, zeal and devotion!*

*\*Note: The word \*Setty means an adept who does his work to perfection. It also means, in common parlance,  
a merchant. Our Lord Muruga also plays the role of a merchant because he exchanges (out of compassion for  
us) His precious goods of divine knowledge (for our self-effacement and salvation) to our worthless goods of  
the Ego. Ignorance and Illusion of this mundane world.*

Thiruchitrabalam

### Shanmugaa Kavasam References:

- <http://www.projectmadurai.org>
- <http://www.galatta.com/spiritual/invoc1.htm>
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