

**CHAPTER 6**  
**TIRUMURAI 10**  
**TIRUMULAR**  
**(TIRUMANTIRAM)**

Tirumular



## TIRUMULAR

*Tirumantiram* is Nandinatha Sampradaya's oldest Tamil scripture, written ca. 200 Bce, by Tirumular. It is the earliest among the twelve Tirumurais, and is a vast storehouse of esoteric yogic and tantric knowledge. It contains the mystical essence of Raja yoga and Siddha Agamas, which in turn are the heritage of the ancient pre-historic traditions of Saivism. As the Agamas are now partially lost, the Tirumantiram is a rare source of the complete collection of Agamic lore. In fact, the Tirumantiram is the first Tamil work to contain the phrase *Saiva Siddhantam*.

The *Tirumantiram* contains 3047 verses and it is said that Saint Tirumular meditated for one full year to sum it up in a fourline verse. This allegory is said to mean that 3000 years of knowledge is compacted in this one book. The text is divided into nine parts called '*Tantiram*'s.

Saint Tirumular an illustrious Siddha Yogi, of the Nandinatha Sampradaya's Kailasha Parampara came from the Himalayas to Tamil Nadu and composed the *Tirumantiram*. Tirumular had seven disciples named: Malangan, Indiran, Soman, Brahman, Rudram, Kalangi and Kajamalyan. Often in his work, he addresses one or another of these disciples, to convey certain messages.

Saint Tirumular's story begins more than two thousand years ago in the Himalayas. Rishi Sundaranatha, as he was then known, was sent on mission to South India to spread the purest teachings of Saivism. During his journey down the South of India, the rishi reached Tiruvavadhuturai. The name Avaduturai itself means a place on the bank of a river where cows abound. In this temple, there is a shrine at the west side of the circumambulatory passage, where Tirumular

1. Tiruvavadhuturai is about 3 kms from Narasingam pettai railway station, 16 kms from Mayiladuthurai. This region is now known as Gomuktipuram.

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Chola King I revealing that during the month of Purattasi (mid September - mid October), a play on Saint Tirumular was conducted. The place is also known for the reputed Saivite mutt called Tiruvavadhaturai Adheenam.

Arriving on the bank of river Kaveri, Sundaranatha found a cowherd who was dead. The cows which were attached to their master, were deeply sad. Seeing this, Sundaranatha was deeply touched and decided to relieve the sorrow of the cows. Leaving his physical body in a safe place, the Rishi entered and brought back to life the body of Mulan, the cowherd. Tirumular took care of the cows and brought them back to their village. When he returned to the place where he had kept his body, he was unable to find it. He realized that this was Siva's will and from that time he was named Tirumular.

Tirumular stayed in Tiruvavaduturai for some time and recorded the wisdom of the Upanishads and Saiva Agamas in the Tamil language. He settled in Chidambaram and started his mission, composing the *Tirumantiram*. Having composed the *Tirumantiram*, the "Garland of Mantras", Rishi Tirumular travelled back through space to Kailash, sought the Primal One and attained the Sadasiva State, realizing divine Gnana and Grace. His work remains immortal and eternally fresh, condensing the entirety of Agamic wisdom in the nine *Tantirams*. The *Tirumantiram* is classified as the tenth Tirumurai.

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## **TIRUMULAR – TIRUMANTIRAM HYMNS**

**“Kadhavul Vazhttu...”** ondru avantanai irandu  
avan innarul nindranan mundrinul nangu  
unarthan iyndu vendranan aaru virindanan yezhu  
oumbar sendranan tan irundan unarndu yetthai

pottrisaittu innuyir mannum punitanai naal  
tisaikkum nalla madukku nadanai mel  
tisaikkul ten tisaikku oru vendanan kuttru  
udaittanai yan kurugindrenai

okka nindranai ulappu ili devargal nakkan endru yettidhum nadanai  
nalthorum pakkam nindrar ariyada paramanai pukku nindru unni yan  
pottri seyvene.

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**MEANING**

The One is He, the Two His sweet Grace, In Three He stood, in all the Four witnessed, The Five He conquered, the Six He filled, The Seven Worlds pervades, manifests the Eight And so remains.

The Holy One who all life sustains, Lord of Her, beloved of all the world, He who spurned Yama, the Southern Quarter's King Of Him I sing, His glory and praise.  
He who stands the same to all, The Pure One, whom immortal Gods adore, Whom, even they, that daily stand beside, know not, Him I seek, praise, and meditate.

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Carved in Pillar - Chidambaram (East Gopuram)  
3000 years of knowledge

