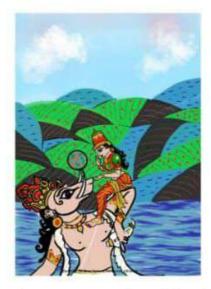


ABOUT ANDAL





Andal is the only woman and a favourite among the 12 saint-poets followed by Sri Vaishnavas. Her father Periyalwar was also one of the 12 Alwars, and he found her as a baby in his Tulasi garden in Vadapatrashayi Temple in Srivilliputhur, South India. He brought her up as his own daughter with great affection and told her stories of Krishna. She loved to wear the garland that her father strung every morning for the temple deity and enjoyed looking at her reflection. Periyalwar was very upset when he found her doing this, as the garlands for the Gods are not meant to be worn by anyone first. He forbade her from doing it. But the temple deity saw this and told Periyalwar that he only wanted him to offer the garland that Andal had worn first. Hence Andal is called 'Shoodi Kodutha Sudarkodi'. She was an ardent devotee of Sriman Narayana (Krishna) and shunned the notion of an earthly marriage with a human, choosing to marry Lord Narayana and merge with the deity in Srirangam

Andal composed two Prabandhams . Thiruppavai (30 pasurams or verses) and Nachiyar Thirumozhi (143 pasurams in 14 poems).

instead. Andal is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Bhudevi

Thiruppavai is the most popularly recited Prabandham.

and is worshipped more as a Goddess.

Caring Bhudevi, the divine consort of Varaha (Vishnu) left the luxuries of her divine home in SriVaikuntam and descended to Earth in Srivilliputhur as Andal, just to ease the life of the millions of people on Earth. She gave us the clear message from Lord Varaha about the simplest way to reach salvation: I. sing the Lord's praises: vaayinaal paadi, 2. dwell on His beauty and admirable character: manathinaal shindhikka 3. Offer flowers to Him: thumalar thuvitholudu.

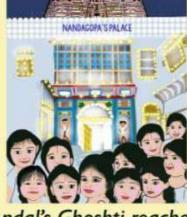
The Storyboard



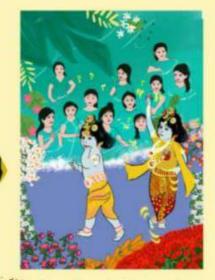
The Vow Pasurams 1 to 5



Andal wakes up the Gopis
Pasurams 6 to 15



Andal's Ghoshti reaches Nandagopa's Palace Pasurams 16-20



On the right path Pasurams 21 to 25



Union with Krishna! Yayyyyy!
Pasurams 26 to 30



Meaning:

My dear friends of prosperous Ayarpadi
On this beautiful full moon day of Margazhi
Let's set out to have the holy bath in River Yamuna
And sing the glory of much-loved Lord Krishna
Ocean-hued, red-eyed and energising like mid-day sun
The beloved son of protective Vel-wielding Nandagopa
And the adorable lion-cub son of beautiful-eyed Yashoda
For, He is the Creator and Protector of the universe
The only one who can help us reach our goal

Note: Commentators opine:

- I. That this Pasuram describes the essence of Sri Vaishnava philosophy or Arthapanchaka. Lord Narayana (Paramatma) is the Creator and Protector of the Universe. His body is made of chethanas and achethanas. He is the only one who can show us the path (upaya) and remove obstacles (virodhis) to bestow freedom from rebirth (moksha/phala) to us (jeevatmas).
- 2. The month of Margazhi is Krishna's favourite (Bhagavadgita). A year is a day for celestials and Margazhi is the pre dawn hours for them. It is in this month that the moon is the clearest and can light up the path towards realisation of God. The prosperity of Ayarpadi (Gokulam) is not just the wealth but the sattvic or peaceful nature of its residents.

Pasuram from prapatti.com

†mārgazi ttingal madi nirainda nannālāl*

nīrāda ppöduvīr pōduminö nēr izaiyīr*

śīr malgum āyppādi ccelva ccirumīrgāl*

kūr vēl kodun tozilan nandagōban kumaran*

ērārnda kaṇṇi yaśōdai ilam śingam*

kārmēni ccengan kadirmadiyam pōl mugattān*

nārāyaṇanē namakkē paṛai taruvān*

pārōr pugaza ppaḍindēlōr em pāvāy (1)



Meaning:

My dear friends who are destined to have a good life
We who have full faith in Lord Krishna
Let's recollect our plan to reach Him
Let's sing His glory as He rests on the milky ocean
Lying on the firm yet soft serpent-bed Adisesha
Waiting in case we go, to eagerly hear us out
No milk or ghee, eyeliner or flowers while in vow
No harsh words or gossip or talking ill of others
An early bath and being charitable is the way
Serving our fellow people shall be our pride
Let's dwell on the lofty purpose of our soul
And aim to reach Him for eternal service and bliss

Note: Commentators opine:

I. That this Pasuram describes the vyuha form of the Lord as Aniruddha on Adisesha floating in the milky ocean. Andal or Goda, in the role of an AchArya, makes it easy for us to not digress from the chosen path of Saranagati by spelling out simple tactics- the Do and Don't lists. The Lord listens to those to those who utter good things and not talk ill of others (Bhagavadgita). The Gopis are considered blessed as they were contemporaries of Krishna and are hence endowed with knowledge, devotion and detachment.

Pasuram from prapatti.com

vaiyattu vāzvīrgāl! nāmum nam pāvaikku*
cceyyum kiriśaigal kēlīrō* pārkaḍalul
paiya ttuyinra paraman aḍi pāḍi*
ney uṇṇōm pāl uṇṇōm nāṭkālē nīr āḍi*
maiyiṭṭezudōm malariṭṭu nām muḍiyōm*
śeyyādana śeyyōm tīkkuralai śenrōdōm*
aiyamum piccaiyum āndanaiyum kai kāṭṭi*
uyyumāreṇṇi ugandēlōr em pāvāy (2)



Pasuram 3

Meaning:

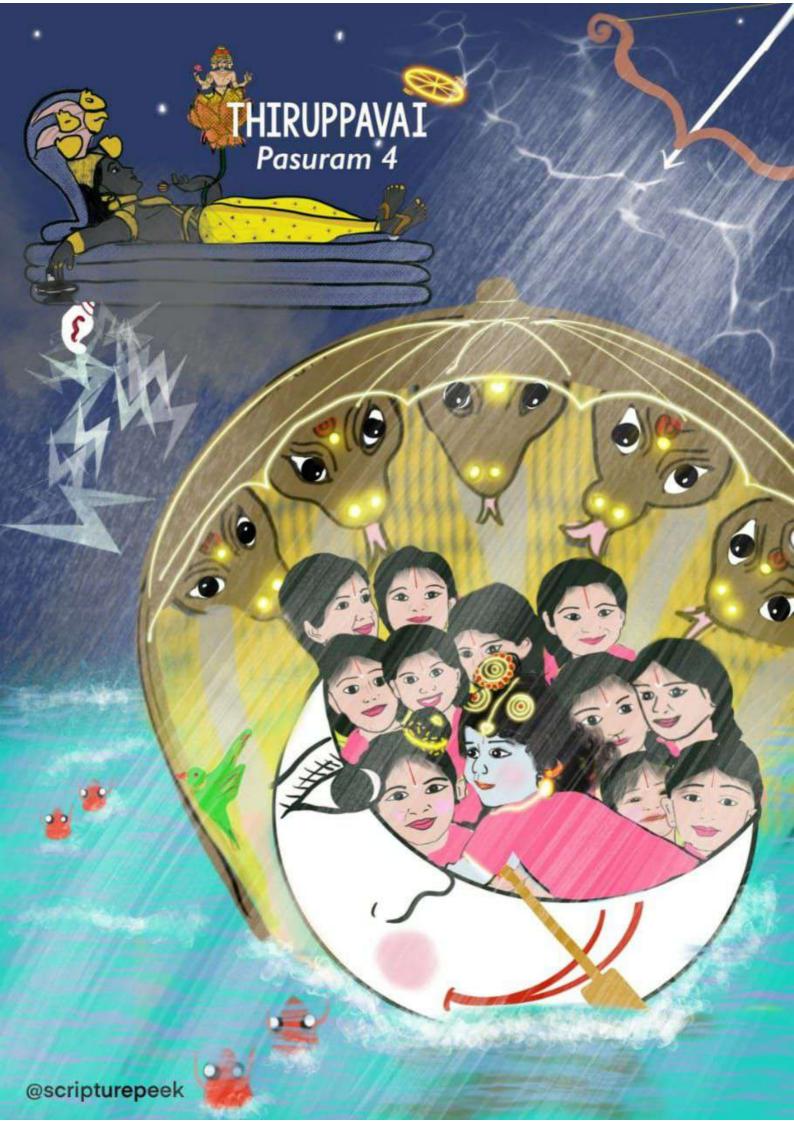
My dear friends who ask about the benefits Of our vow, the early bath and oh I love this part-So much fun, singing His praises all together Our own Uttaman who measured the worlds In the guise of little Vamana and bust Bali's big ego Well you will be surely happy to know- rewards are plenty! There shall be rain, thrice a month, in the right measure To get the paddy grow tall in fields spread across the world Did I hear you say 'just like little Vamana to tall Trivikrama' Yes, you are right! The harvest will be bountiful Even the fish in the fields can't believe their eyes They jump up and down all day long, measuring the growth And the bees are drunk on the nectar in plenty, their buzz gone While they slumber enclosed in the soft abundant flowers The happy cows fed on the plentiful tall nutritious grass Are filling up clay pots in scores with milk from their udders Much to the delight and benefit of everyone concerned

Note: Commentators opine:

I. That this pasuram describes the vibhava form of the Lord as Vamana/ Trivikrama. This pasuram describes the benefits accrued by a shishya from an AchArya (compared to the cow) such as unlimited knowledge (milk). The 3 rains/ month= 3 ways in which AchArya blesses shishya: upadesha in ears, lectures and studying Vedanthic granthams. Also meant to be Ananyagathitva, Ananyaseshathva and Ananyasharanathva needed for His grace. Chanting the names of the Lord (Naamasankeerthane) is highly recommended and the easiest way to moksha (eternal place in His abode).

Pasuram below from prapatti.com

tōngi ulagalanda uttaman pēr pāḍi*
nāṅgal nam pāvaikku ccāṛṛi nīr āḍināl*
tīṅginṛi nāḍellām tiṅgal mummāri peydu*
ōṅgu peṛuñjennel ūḍu kayal ugala*
ppūṅguvalai ppōdil poṛivaṇḍu kaṇ paḍuppa*
ttēṅgādē pukkirundu śīrtta mulai paṛṛi
vāṅga* kkuḍam niṛaikkum vaḷḷal perum paśukkal*
nīṅgāda śelvam niṛaindēlōr em pāvāy (3)



Meaning:

Oh dear rain God Varuna, thanks for your offer to help us Intruiging to see you at work: you slide deep into the ocean Only to leap high up into the sky, super-loaded with water And store it in huge cloud tanks that resemble dark-hued Krishna And create lightning like the sunny discus of Lord Padmanabha, And thunder as though emanating from His moon-white conch Heralding the welcome arrival of rain, Oh what joy!

Like a volley of water arrows shot from His bow Cleansing rain touches the ground to quench its thirst
To hydrate the land that nurtures the plants to grow and produce A source of joy for other beings too and us Gopis to frolic While we observe our Margazhi vow!

Note:

Commentators opine that this pasuram describes the Antaryami form of the Lord Krishna in the rain God Varuna. The archarupa Lord Padmanabha is also described. This pasuram tells us of the lofty position ascribed to an AchArya (teacher) in our sampradayam. An AchArya is like the rain bearing cloud that showers the Lord's mercy upon us. An AchArya sifts through the Vedas and imparts clear knowledge just like the cloud filters out the salt from the water and gives us rain. A teacher also travels just like clouds do spreading knowledge and expects nothing in return.

Pasuram below from prapatti.com

āzi mazaikkaṇṇā! onṛu nī kai karavēl*
āzi ul pukku mugandu koḍārttēṛi*
ūzi mudalvan uruvam põl mey karuttu*
ppāziyan tōluḍai pparpanāban kaiyil*
āzi pōl minni valamburi pōl ninṛadirndu*
tāzādē śārṅgam udaitta śaramazai pōl*
vāza ulaginil peydiḍāy* nāṅgalum
mārgazi nīrāḍa magizndēlōr em pāvāy (4)



Meaning:

Oh our near and dear mayavi Lord, the pride of Mathura And the delight of the pure and welcoming River Yamuna-She was blessed to witness many events of the Your childhood and youth From when she made way for Your safe-crossing To Gokulam for safe-keeping with the able and loving Nandagopa family You became the darling of the entire cowherd clan and the pride of Yashoda Mingling and bringing smiles and fond complaints so very many Yashoda was ever busy finding ways to keep You out of trouble She tied You with a rope but You, Damodara, was unstoppable! We gopis are on a month long vow on the path to unite with You With pure hearts we sing Your praises and enjoy regaling Your stories We now come with beautiful flowers of Your choice To worship You and show our love for You We wish that our sins burn away clearing any obstacles Paving a clear path and happy journey for us to meet you soon!

Note:

Commentators opine that this pasuram carries the important and yet very simple 3-fold message (all of which the gopis do in this pasuram) from Andal as Bhudevi, as told to her by Lord Varaha, about the simplest way to reach salvation:

- I. sing the Lord's praises that includes chanting His names: vaayinaal paadi
- 2. dwell on His beauty and admirable character: manathinaal shindhikka
- 3. Offer flowers to Him: thumalar thuvitholudu

All of these can be done at home or in a temple with a divine idol (archarupa). It is believed that the name 'Krishna' was seldom used lest it reached the ears of His evil maternal uncle King Kamsa's ears.

> Pasuram below from sadagopan.org maayanai mannu vada madhurai maindhanai(th) thooya peru neer yamunai(th) thuRaivanai aayar kulaththinil thOnRum aNi viLakkai(th) thaayai(k) kudal viLakkam seydha dhaamOdharanai(th) thooyOmaay vandhu naam thoomalar thoovi(th) thozhudhu vaayinaal paadi manaththinaal sindhikka(p) pOya pizhaiyum pugudharuvaan ninRanavum theeyinil thoosaagum cheppElOr embaavaay



Meaning:

Oh my sweet friend,
I know it looks dark outside
But it's time we set out on our task
Wake up before dawn we decided
And have an early bath we pledged
Can't you hear the birds sing or
The loud sound of the conch from the temple?

As they wake up they chant 'Hari' and think of
The Lord whose vehicle is the eagle Garuda
The little Lord who sucked the life of Ogress Putana
And kicked the demon who came in the guise of a cart
They focus on the Lord who rests on the milky ocean
So that their mind is calm and happy all day long
My dear you have just embarked on the path

And have a lot to learn and enjoy Wake up soon and think of Him Let's go join the others like us Waiting to unite with Krishna

Note:

In this and the following nine pasurams, ten gopis are woken up and represent people in different phases of understanding the path to God. This pasuram talks about a gopi who is a fresher and new to understanding the path to God. She is eager to learn but is not yet aware that it's more enjoyable when done together. The seniors are expected to awaken the fresher. Commentators ascribe each of the ten pasuram to waking up one of ten Alwars. This pasuram is meant to wake up Andal's father Periyalwar as he is an incarnation of 'Garuda' which is a word used in this pasuram.



Pasuram below from sadagopan.org
puLLum silambina kaaN puLLaraiyan kOyilil
veLLai viLi sangin pEraravam kEttilaiyO
piLLaay ezhundhiraay pEy mulai nanchundu
kaLLa(ch) chakatam kalakkazhiya(k) kaalOchchi
veLLaththaravil thuyilamarndha viththinai
uLLaththu(k) kondu munivargaLum yOgigaLum
meLLa ezhundhu ari enRa pEraravam
uLLam pugundhu kuLirndhElOr empaavaai
@scripturepeek



Meaning:

THIRUPPAVAI
Pasuram 7

Oh my learned friend,
How come you are still asleep
The birds are chirping away together
Instructing each other on plans for the day
It's such a racket, yet you don't hear
You are so deep in thought of Krishna,
As though possessed
It can't hear the clinking sound of the necklade

You can't hear the clinking sound of the necklaces
As the gopis vigorously and noisily churn the curds
Their bangles jingling in synchrony with the churner
It's strange you didn't smell their fragrance
Your eyes, nose and ears have gone for a toss

Oblivious of the loss
Lord Kesava in your thoughts
Pray open the door our leader
Best to dwell on Him together
Please don't keep us waiting
You of all, are surely aware
Us Gopis as bhaagavathas
Take precedence

Over Kesava

Note:

Some commentators opine that this pasuram is meant to wake up Kulasekhara Alwar: as he is the middle/center one among the Alwars he is a leader; he took on Nayaki Bhava (peipenne- possessed); his first Pasuram talks of Kesi; he was extremely devoted to Rama and would go to his rescue at any cost, the birds chirping is related to his ministers conspiring against Srivaishnavas etc. Others suggest it's PeyAlwar. The churning of curds is compared to the way AchAryas bring out the essence in easily digestible form for shishyas.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

keesu keesu enRu engum aanai(ch) chaaththaan kalandhu pEsina pEchcharavam kEttilaiyO pEy(p) peNNE kaasum piRappum kalakalappa(k) kai pErththu vaasa naRum kuzhal aaychchiyar maththinaal Osai paduththa thayiraravam kEttilaiyO naayaga(p) peN piLLaay naaraayaNan moorththi kEsavanai(p) paadavum nee kEtta kidaththiyO dhEsamudaiyaay thiRavElOr empaavaai



Pasuram 8

Meaning:

Oh our dear friend, beautiful inside out You are very special to us all Your love for Krishna is pure You are so full of devotion And want to learn all you can You always have a raging question or two That you are busy finding answers to It's going to be day break soon, let's hurry Can't you see the eastern sky lighting up? Why, even the buffaloes are out grazing The birds, animals and children are up You are on Lord Krishna's favorite list We have left the others waiting outside And come and fetch you, happy one He would be in a giving- mood By the presence of His favored ones Let's have fun singing of His wins Over the evil Keshi and Chanoora Our Lord the Supreme One The creator and protector of all Let's go request His grace

Note:

Some commentators opine that this pasuram is meant to wake up Nammalwar as one can relate to his pure devotion to Lord Krishna. The buffaloes are thought to denote tardiness this implying lateness.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

keezh vaanam veLLenRu erumai siRu veedu
mEyvaan parandhana kaaN mikkuLLa piLLaigaLum
pOvaan pOginRaarai(p) pOgaamal kaaththu unnai(k)
koovuvaan vandhu ninROm kOdhugalam udaiya
paavaay ezhundhiraay paadi(p) paRai kondu
maavaay piLandhaanai mallarai maattiya
dhEvaadhi dhEvanai(ch) chenRu naam sEviththaal
aavaavenRu aaraayndhu aruLEIOr empaavaai
@scripturepeek



Pasuram 9

Meaning:

Oh my sweet enlightened cousin Why aren't you joining us? Oh what? You are waiting for Him? Its His duty to pick you up? No let's not wait for him dear Sleeping in your comfy bed In my uncle's gem-studded palace With lights so very bright You ought to be awake and hear us sing Of Him: Maamayan, Madhavan Vaikuntan- His many names Oh wait, 'AUNT' I shout Can you please send your daughter Who seems to be dumb, deaf Or under a sleeping spell We need to go meet Him soon!

Note: Commentators' opinion:

This pasuram is meant to wake up Thirumazhisai alwar as he refered to a palatial house lit with lamps and of Maamayan (Lord of magical acts), Madhavan (Consort of Lakshmi) and Vaikuntan (Lord of Vaikunta) in his Prabandham 'Nanmughan Thiruvandadi'. This pasuram reiterates the importance of chanting the names of the Lord (Naamasankeerthane). The lights signify this gopi's knowledge. The gem- studded house implies the 9 relationships with the Lord: I. father:son 2. saviour: saved 3. principal: subsidiary 4. husband: wife 5. Knower: object of knowledge 6. proprietor: property 7. self: body 8. supporter: supported 9. enjoyer: enjoyed. Hints at 'Vak, Manasa and Kayika kainkaryam'.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

thoomaNi maadaththu sutrum viLakkeriya(th)
thoopam kamazha(th) thuyilaNaimEl kaN vaLarum
maamaan magaLE maNi(k) kadhavam thaazh thiRavaay
maameer avaLai ezhuppeerO un magaL thaan
oomaiyO anRi sevidO ananthalO
Ema(p) perunN thuyil mandhira(p) pattaaLO
maamaayan maadhavan vaikundhan enRenRu
naamam palavum navinREIOr empaavaai



Meaning:

Oh the jewel of our Ghoshti The one who has an assured seat At the lotus feet of Narayana In coveted Sri Vaikuntam The eternal abode of blessed ones What took you so long Were you lost in your dream of Him Or busy with blissful 'kainkaryam' Whatever it was, you scared us The sleepiest Kumbakarana put to shame! Why, I smell the fragrance of Tulasi Pray tell me, was Lord Narayana here? Was that why you in were in deep slumber And couldn't see, hear or speak to us Enjoying your time with Him in your dream Glad you got ready in a jiffy We need you to lead the way On the path you are familiar To our very own Krishna's abode

Note:

Commentators opine that this pasuram is meant to wake up Pey Alwar as he begins his Prabandham 'Moonram Thiruvandadi' with the ecstasy of seeing Lord Lakshmi Narayana. This Gopi has done sharanagathi and is very immersed in absorbing all there is to know about her protector Narayana. She is like a valuable jewel in the Ghoshti who is eternally enjoying Lord Narayana's experience

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org
nOtru(ch) chuvarkkam puguginRa ammanaay!
maatramum thaaraarO vaasal thiRavaadhaar
naaRRa(th) thuzhaay mudi naaraayaNan nammaal
pOtra(p) paRai tharum puNNiyanaal pandu oru naaL
kootraththin vaay veezhndha kumba karaNanum
thOtrum unakkE perunthuyil thaan thandhaanO
aatra anandhal udaiyaay arungalamE
thEtramaay vandhu thiRavElOr empaavaai



THIRUPPAVAI Pasuram | |

Mea ling.

Oh our dear Gopi who is without blemish The daughter of the kind and wealthy Gopa Who owns many natural breeds of cows For whom being righteous is second nature The calves get their fill of milk Before the cows get milked Fearless when it comes to enemies Who break the rules of dharma They get to see a display of his valour You are his golden creeper His charming Mahalakshmi With the beauty of a peacock And elegance of a snake so slim Why aren't you moving Wake up soon dear Don't keep us all waiting Let's go sing the praises Of rain-cloud-hued Krishna

Note:

Commentators opine that this pasuram is meant to wake up Bhudath Alwar who went to Kovalur, was blemishless, used 'mugil vannan' or rain-cloud-hued for the first time to describe Krishna, did not cry or complain (siRRaadhE pEsaade) in his pasurams. The different breeds of the cows are meant to represent the gunas or traits of the Lord. The Pasuram is meant to highlight varnasram dharma. If one is righteous they are fearless to go to the enemy's home like Srirama did.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

kaRRu(k) kaRavai(k) kaNangaL pala kaRandhu
setraar thiRalazhiya(ch) chenRu seru(ch) cheyyum
kutram onRilaadha kOvalar tham poRkodiyE
putru aravu alkul punamayilE pOdharaay
sutraththu thOzhimaar ellaarum vandhu nin
mutram pugundhu mugil vaNNan pEr paada
siRRaadhE pEsaadhE selva peNdaatti nee
eRRukku uRangum poruLEIOr empaavaai



Meaning:

Oh our dear Gopi who is close to Krishna Where has your blessed brother gone? I know, he is away with his bestie Krishna Look at all the milk out here flowing Making the floor ever so slippery! The buffaloes have been shedding milk With just the thought of their calves That have not yet come to them. All of us are waiting outside for you. As the cold morning fog descends on us Singing songs of your favourite Sriama 'Manaththukku iniyaanai' He is, to many like us Springing to protect His devotees like Hanuman By vanquishing trouble-makers like ten-headed Ravana You do know you have a special place in the Ghoshti Being the sister of Lord Krishna's best friend? I see the neighbours peep Hurry up and get ready please Krishna is sure to grant us our wish When he sees you amongst us!

Note:

Commentators opine that the brother of the gopika in this pasuram is like Lord Srirama's brother Lakshmana who always put Rama first. It is said that this pasuram highlights Koormavatara as the tortoise mother feels her baby just by thinking, similar to the buffalo mother who lactated just by the thought of her calves. Apparently a cow mother feels her baby by seeing just like a fish does, so the previous Pasuram is said to highlight matsyavatara.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

kanaiththu iLam katrerumai kanRukku irangi
ninaiththu mulai vazhiyE ninRu paal sOra
nanaiththu illam sERaakkum naR chelvan thangaay
panith thalai veezha nin vaasaR kadai patri(ch)
chinaththinaal then ilangai(k) kOmaanai(ch) chetra
manaththukku iniyaanai(p) paadavum nee vaay thiRavaay
iniththaan ezhundhiraay eedhenna pEr uRakkam
anaiththu illaththaarum aRindhElOr embaavaay



Meaning:

Oh my beautiful friend
Podhari Kanninai
The Ghoshti has reached
The meeting point
Singing along,
As they walked,
Of Krishna and Bakasura

He tore open the latter's beak With such ease!

And about Rama who shot Ravana
The demon King of SriLanka
Who whisked away Sita from the forest
Can't you see the birds are out to fetch food
Jupiter (Thursday- Guru) has set
And made way for Venus (Friday-Shukra)

Shining bright in the sky
My deer-eyed beautiful one
Much liked by Krishna
I had to come to call you
What's kept you in bed for so long?
Thinking of beloved Krishna?
Hurry up let's go have a cool dip
And meet him all together!

Note:

Commentators opine that the meeting point here is where an AchArya has scheduled a kalakshepam or class. Having a dip is like immersing oneself in learning.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org
puLLin vaay keendaanai(p) pollaa arakkanai(k)
kiLLi(k) kaLaindhaanai(k) keerththi mai paadi(p) pOy(p)
piLLaigaL ellaarum paavai(k) kaLambukkaar
veLLi ezhundhu viyaazham uRangitru
puLLum silambina kaaN pOdhari(k) kaNNinaay
kuLLa(k) kuLira(k) kudaindhu neeraadaadhE
paLLi(k) kidaththiyO! paavaay! nee nan naaLaal
kaLLam thavirndhu kalandhElOr embaavaay.



Meaning:

Oh my bold friend The one we look up to You promised to wake us up 'It's not yet time to wake up', you say Open the window and look out to see The beautiful pink lotuses in your backyard Blooming in response to the sun's touch Look at the moon-loving white blue lilies Closing their petals after a long night The holy men in saffron robes With their pearly white Conches and teeth Hurrying to the temple My dear, let's get moving And join the others To sing the glory of the lotus-eyed Lord with the conch and discus

Commentators opine that this pasuram is meant to wake up Thiruppan Alwar who was born in Uraiyur, the 'backyard' of Srlrangam. The Gopi in this pasuram is not shy, is good at speaking and is experiencing jnana (knowledge), bhakti (devotion) and vairagya (detachment from wordly things). According to Sri Ramanuja, sanyasis have to ensure that the following theee things are white: teeth, sacred thread/yagnopaveetam and the cloth on the tridanda.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

ungaL puzhakkadai(th) thOttaththu vaaviyuL
sengazhuneer vaay negizhndhu aambal vaay koombina kaaN
sengaR podi(k) koorai veNbal thavaththavar
thangaL thirukkOyil sangiduvaan pOdhanRaar
engaLai munnam ezhuppuvaan vaaypEsum
nangaay ezhundhiraay naaNaadhaay naavudaiyaay
sangOdu chakkaram Endhum thadakkaiyan
pangaya(k) kaNNaanai(p) paadElOr embaavaay.



Meaning:

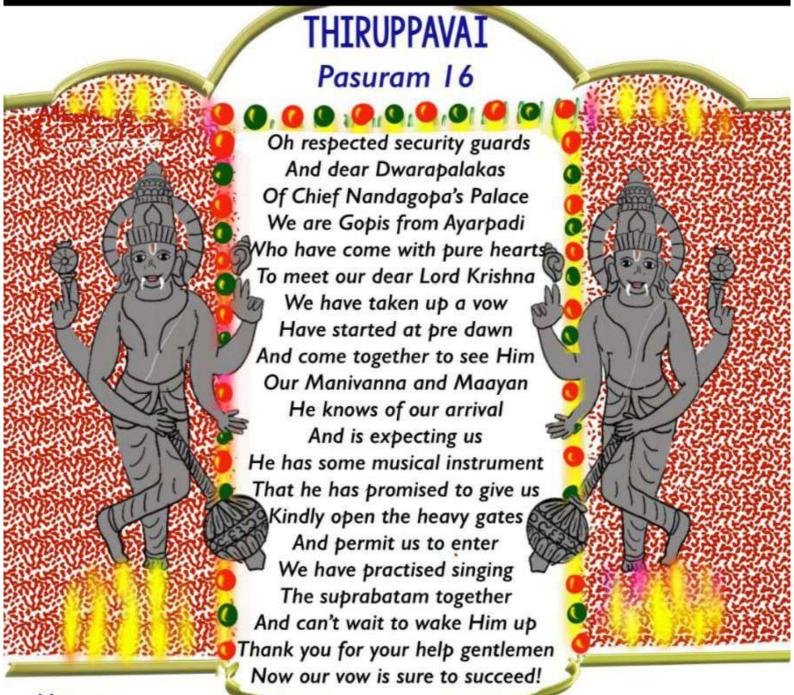
Oh the youngest And the smartest Like an adorable parrot Our beautiful 'ilangiliye' with Winning looks and speech Deep into devotion And service We heard your melodious singing Are you awake now, We are at your door Oh Andal please don't be angry I shall come immediately Ok dear talented one Gifted with good speech Oh no, you are the ones Who are bestowed with that gift Are everyone already there? Yes of course, come and see What are the plans for the day Oh we plan to sing the glory of The one who slayed Kuvalayapidam The able, valorous, knowledgeable and merciful Mayanai Come immediately Rightaway!

Commentators opine that this pasuram is the most important one among the 30 in Thiruppavai because of the attitude of accepting a mistake even if not yours, in the larger interest of peace 'naane thaan aayiduga'. The pasuram is meant to wake up the youngest among Alwars, Thirumangai Alwar.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org
ellE! iLam kiLiyE innam uRangudhiyO
chil enRu azhaiyEn min nangaiyeer pOdharuginREn
vallai un katturaigaL paNdE un vaay aRidhum
valleergaL neengaLE naanE thaan aayiduga
ollai nee pOdhaay unakkenna vERudaiyai
ellaarum pOndhaarO pOndhaar pOndhu eNNikkoL
val aanai konRaanai maatraarai maatrazhikka
vallaanai maayanai(p) paadElOr embaavaay
@scripturepeek







Notes:

It is customary in our tradition to pay obeisances to the security guards and gate keepers. They play an important role especially here where Kamsa, the evil maternal uncle of Lord Krishna is out to get Him and doting father Nandagopa is doing all he can to protect Him.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

naayaganaay ninRa nandhagOpan udaya
kOyil kaappaanE! kodi thOnRum thOraNa
vaayil kaappaanE! maNi(k) kadhavam thaaL thiRavaay
aayar siRumiyarOmukku aRai paRai
maayan maNi vaNNan nennalE vaay nErndhaan
thooyOmaay vandhOm thuyil ezha(p) paaduvaan
vaayaal munnam munnam maatraadhE ammaa! nee
nEya nilai(k) kadhavam neekkElOr empaavaai



THIRUPPAVAI Pasuram 17

The Suprabatam Song
Oh our Lord Nandagopala
Who is generosity personified
Rice, water and clothes
You donate in plenty

To the needy
Please wake up!
Oh our very kind Yashoda ma
The light of the cowherd women
Like the vanji flower tree
ou feel for the women of the clan
Please wake up!

Our dear little Lord Kannan
What we see
Is not what we get
Your three tiny steps
Morphed to three gigantic steps
Covering earth, sky and Bali's head
Please wake up!

Oh dear Balarama Baladeva
The one with pinkish thiruvadi
Adorned with golden red anklets
You adorable brothers
Please wake up!

Notes:

Commentators opine that Andal pays obeisances to Balarama's thiruvadi which happened to be lucky for mother Devaki. It is believed that when he kicked while in Devaki's womb she felt energised. Devaki lost six babies before him and she had Krishna after him.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

ambaramE thaNNeerE sORE aRam seyyum emberumaan nandhagOpaalaa ezhundhiraay kombanaarkku ellaam kozhundhE kula viLakkE emberumaatti yasOdhaay aRivuRaay ambaram ooda aRuththu Ongi ulagu aLandha umbar kOmaanE uRangaadhu ezhundhiraay sem poR kazhaladi(ch) chelvaa baladhEvaa umbiyum neeyun uRangElOr empaavaai.



Pasuram 18

Oh the precious daughter-in-law Of our strong chief Nandagopala Who owns elephants that emit scent And employs strong wrestlers It's a lovely dawn today, filled with The sounds of the cocks crowing The cuckoos and sparrows chirping Nappinai Piratti, We are proud that you won the ball game How fragrant are your tresses We love your lotus-like petal-soft hands And the sound of your jingling bangles We gopis have arrived here To sing praises of your beloved Krishna Would you kindly open the door And let us in, please

Commentators opinion: Pasuram 18 is considered important as it has an interesting connection with Sri Ramanuja. Once he happened to experience this pasuram and was so lost in it when he arrived at his AchArya Periya Nambi's house. It was such a coincidence that his AchAryas daughter opened the door with jingling bangles just as he was at that same point in the Pasuram that he fainted.

Sri or the Lord's consort Piratti holds an esteemed position of recommending devotees to be offered moksha. So it's customary to take her blessings before approaching the Lord. She is filled with love for the devotees and kind enough to overlook minor blemishes of the souls, unlike the Lord who would go strictly by the rules. This pasuram is therefore significant.

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

undhu madha kaLitran Odaadha thOL valiyan
nandhagOpan marumagaLE nappinnaay
kandham kamazhum kuzhali kadai thiRavaay
vandhu engum kOzhi azhaiththana kaaN maadhavi(p)
pandhal mEl pal kaal kuyilinangaL koovina kaaN
pandhu aar virali un maiththunan pEr paada(ch)
chendhaamarai(k) kaiyaal seeraar vaLai olippa
vandhu thiRavaay magizhndhElOr embaavaay.



THIRUPPAVAI Pasuram 19

COMMENTATORS

assign significance to the five lights in the kuthuvilakku

5 FORMS OF THE LORD

Para Vyuha Vibhava Archa Antharyami

5 BASIC KNOWLEDGE SOURCES

Vedas Smrithis Ithihasa/Purana Agamas Purvacharya sookthis Oh our precious Lord Krishna
Fast asleep on the elephant-tusk bed
On the soft cotton-filled mattress
With the high lamp brightly lit
And resting your self
On Nappinai's comforting chest
Wake up and talk, won't you?

Oh Nappinai, Bright-eyed Eye-lined Flowers On your hair We know

You won't Wake Him As you can't Bear to be away

From Him Not fair Not you Please let go For a bit

So we can be with Him

Pasuram below from sadagopan.org

kuththu viLakkeriya kOttu(k) kaal kattil mEl
meththenRa pancha sayanaththin mEl ERi(k)
koththalar poonguzhal nappinai kongai mEl
vaiththu(k) kidandha malar maarbaa vaay thiRavaay
mai(th) thadam kaNNinaay nee un maNaaLanai
eththanai pOdhum thuyilezha ottaay kaaN
eththanaiyElum pirivu aatragillaayaal
thaththuvam anRu thagavElOr empaavaai

@scripturepeek

5 QUALITIES OF THE BED

Cool Beautiful Fragrant White Soft

5 THINGS

4 Varnashrama dharmas
4 types of creation
4 eras
4 purusharthas
4 stages in life

ARTHAPNCHAKA

Paramatma Jeevatma Virodhis Upaya Phala



THIRUPPAVAI Pasuram 20

Oh our dear Lord Krishna Quick as lightning You rush to the rescue Of Devas, all of 33 crores And bhaktas like Gajendra Spelling fear to enemies And protection to devotees Won't you wake up To us devoted Gopis? Oh Nappinai piratti With rose red lips And an awesome waist Much like Sri Mahalakshmi You are both kind Please lend us Circular mirrors and fans And your Beloved too As we head for the bath. That's part of our vow.

Commentators often quote the example of the Lord rushing to the rescue of elephant Gajendra caught by the crocodile (Gajendra Moksha)

muppaththu moovar amararkku mun senRu
kappam thavirkkum kaliyE thuyil ezhaay
seppam udaiyaay thiRal udaiyaay setraarkku
veppam kodukkum vimalaa thuyil ezhaay
seppenna men mulai(ch) chevvaay(ch) chiRu marungul
nappinnai nangaay thiruvE thuyil ezhaay
ukkamum thattoLiyum thandhu un maNaaLanai
ippOdhE emmai neeraattElOr embaavaay



Pasuram 21

Oh our dear Lord Krishna The son of chief Nandapola The forebringer of abundance Kind owner of cattle in plenty Happy healthy cows and buffaloes Yielding milk in plenty Nurtured with love On green grazing grass aplenty The Vedas too are at a loss To describe Your greatness Your enemies turned devotees At Your door they wait To be blessed by You We Gopis too wait for you Having shed our egos . We totally surrender to You With immense faith In your ability to protect We know none else We sing your praise Do wake up soon

Commentators often quote the examples of Kakasura and Banasura as foes turned friends. The cows are likened to Acharyas (teacher) and abundant milk to knowledge.

Etra kalangaL edhir pongi meedhaLippa
maatraadhE paal soriyum vaLLal perum pasukkaL
aatra(p) padaiththaan maganE aRivuRaay
ootram udaiyaay periyaay ulaginil
thOtramaay ninRa sudarE thuyil ezhaay
maatraar unakku vali tholaindhu un vaasaR kaN
aatraadhu vandhu un adi paNiyumaa pOlE
pOtriyaam vandhOm pugazhndhElOr embaavaay





Pasuram 22

Oh our dear Lord Krishna At your feet are kings from all over Once filled with ego, power and wealth Now bereft of it and seeking Your grace

> We have come to you After taking a vow Knowing you are the only one Whom we can trust We are like Arjuna, Sharanagathas at your feet Not like Duryodhana

> And out of your sight Please open you eyes That resemble a blooming-lotus

Who was filled with pride

And moves like the dextrous anklet bel

Creating ripples of pleasure Please open your eyes

That hold the sun and the moon

That can burn our sins And bless us with cool rays

Commentators often quote the example of Arjuna and Duryodhana who went to seek help from the Lord who was reclining. When the Lord opened His eyes Arjuna was in sight at His feet and Duryodhana out of sight at His head.

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

am kaN maa NYaalaththu arasar abimaana pangamaay vandhu nin paLLi(k) kattiR keezhE sangam iruppaar pOl vandhu thalaippeydhOm kingiNi vaay(ch) cheydha thaamarai(p) poo(p) pOIE sengaN chiRu(ch) chiRidhE emmEl vizhiyaavO thingaLum aadhiththanum ezhundhaaR pOl am kaN irandum kondu engaL mEl nOkkudhiyEl engaL mEl saabam izhindhElOr embaavaay



Pasuram 23

Oh our dear Lord Krishna The Lion King of the Universe We urge you to wake up now Like a majestic lion would After a long spell in the mountain cave In the rainy season, with family Open its fiery eyes, move on all sides Shake it's body and fragrant mane Rise up, stretch and straighten Give a resounding roar and exit the den Oh Krishna, soft as the petals of a flower With the hue of pongamia flowers We wait to welcome You As You stride out of the bedroom and walk down the stairs to the courtyard To sit on the majestic throne Gem-studded and with lions as arms That You may, now in a relaxed mode Finally give us Your undivided attention

Commentators opine that Andal refers to the Lords Narasimha avatar (half lion and half man form) in this Pasuram and alludes to the fiery nature when it came to dealing with demon Hiranyakashipu and the soft nature when it came to rescuing young bhakta Prahalad

And fulfil our yow

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

maari malai muzhainchil manni(k) kidandhu uRangum seeriya singam aRivuRRu(th) thee vizhiththu vEri mayir ponga eppaadum pErndhu udhaRi moori nimirndhu muzhangi(p) puRappattu(p) pOdharumaa pOIE nee poovaippoo vaNNaa un kOyil ninRu iNj~anE pOndharuLi(k) kOppudaiya seeriya singaasanaththu irundhu yaam vandha kaariyam aaraayndhu aruLEIOr empaavaai



Pasuram 24

Oh our dear Lord Krishna Your victories are innumerable And the benefits to us immeasurable We would like to sing today of a mere six And wish that You may live for infinity! Oh Vamana with tiny feet, to save the Devas Transformed to humongous Trivikrama The Universe but two of Your footsteps Adi Potri! long live Your Divine Feet! Oh Rama You tread all the way to Lanka Shot the demon King to save womenkind Thiral Potri! long live your Strength Oh Your baby foot I shattered the demon in cart-disguise, Pugazh Potri! long live Your valor! One throw of the demon in calf-guise Onto the fruit tree And two demons vanguished Kazhal Potri! Praise to You! Oh young Gopalakrishna, to save the clan You lifted the mountain to use as an umbrella Gunam Potri! long live your kindness Your spear (of Nandagopa) vanquished enemies Vel Potri! long live our protector! We seek Your Grace That our vow succeeds

Commentators opine that Andal composed this pasuram in the same style as that of her father Periyalwar who wished long life or Pallandu or Potri for the Lord in 'Thirupallandu'. On a lighter note, a good friend shared that in their childhood this was popular as sports pasuram: Long jump (ivvulagam aLandhaay), Archery (Ramavatar), Football (udhaiththaay), Discus throw (eRrindhaay), Weight lifting (edundhaay) and Javelin (Vel). Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

anRu ivvulagam aLandhaay adi pORRi senRangu(th) then ilangai seRRaay thiRal pORRi ponRa(ch) chakatam udhaiththaay pugazh pORRi kanRu kuNil aaveRindhaay kazhal pORRi kunRu kudaiyaay eduththaay guNam pORRi venRu pagai kedukkum nin kaiyil vEl pORRi enRenRum un sEvagamE Eththi(p) paRai koLvaan inRu yaam vandhOm irangElOr empaavaai



Pasuram 25

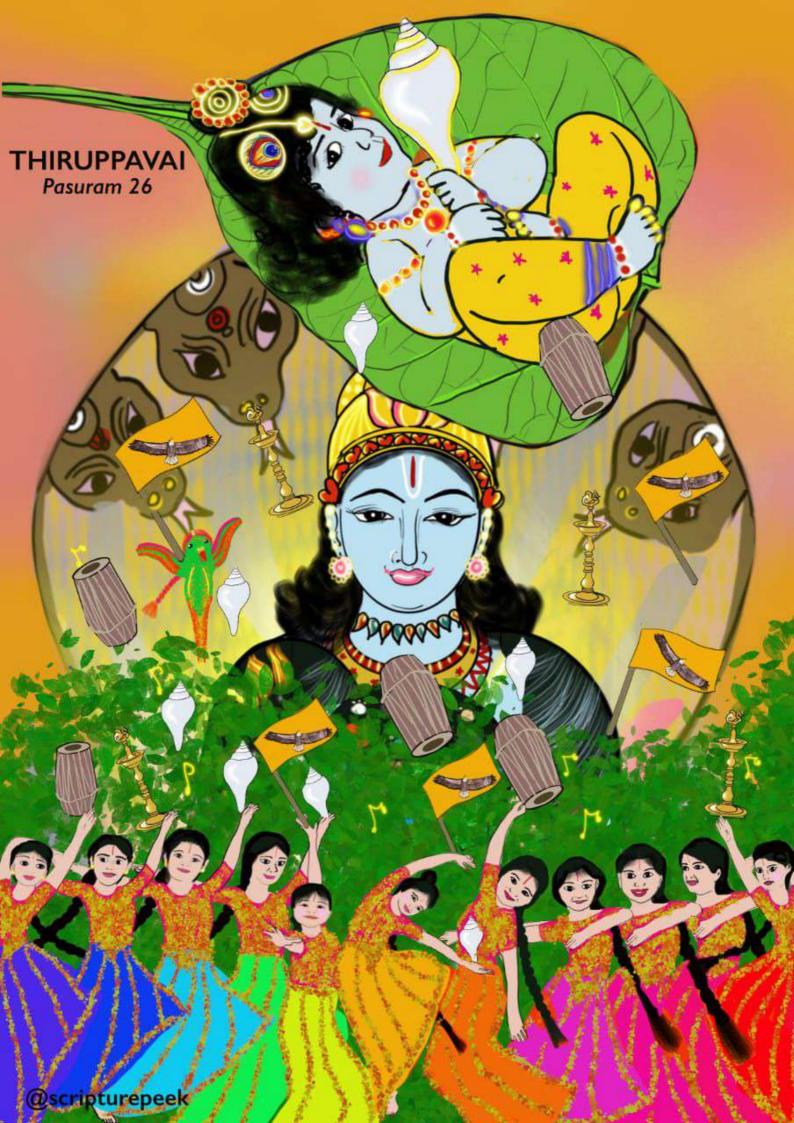
Oh our dear Lord Kriishna You are so unique Born to Ma Devaki One dark rainy night Fostered by Ma Yashoda From that same night All to keep You safe From Your evil uncle Kamsa Who feared Your greatness And sent a line of demons In various disguises A mother, a cart, a bird An elephant, a horse, a tree Name it, he had them all lined up To get rid of adorable You But of course You got rid of them all Much to the relief of all Loving and caring folks in Gopa-land You transferred their fireball of worries To evil Kamsa's belly, ha ha We proudly sing about your conquests And seek your Grace For you are the one

Commentators opine that the time has atlast come for Andal to spell out what they want from Krishna but having obtained Him they are overwhelmed with joy and nothing else matters right now. The Lord takes us into His midst with love. Of course they seek to be eternally in His abode. The two mothers Devaki and Yashoda are blessed in unique ways with the Grace of Krishna.

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

To fulfill our yow

oruththi maganaay(p) piRandhu Or iravil
oruththi maganaay oLiththu vaLara(th)
tharikkilaan aagi(th) thaan theengu ninaindha
karuththai(p) pizhaippiththu(k) kanchan vayitril
neruppenna ninRa nedumaalE!, unnai
aruththiththu vandhOm paRai tharudhiyaagil
thiruththakka selvamum sEvagamum yaam paadi
varuththamum theerndhu magizhndhElOr empaavaai



Pasuram 26

Oh our dear Maale Manivanan Shining like a blue diamond So full of love for us devotees We have undertaken the vow As described by our ancestors Thank you for showering us With all that we need for it And for being with us! The pearly white conches For our musical orchestra Shall carry our voices to the sky Like Your very special Panchajanya Which made the enemies tremble. The auspicious tall lamps The much awaited Parai drums Your beautiful Garuda flags The Adisesha cover for us singers What more can we ask for! We have an enviable orchestra To sing Your Pallandu

Commentators opine that this is one of the auspicious pasurams in Thiruppavai as Andal and the Gopis get to be with Krishna and are getting whatever they wanted from Him for the vow. The conch (produces the sacred 'Aum' sound, Narayana), Lamp (knowledge of the Lord, Nappinai), flags (sense of belonging to the Lord, Garuda), the Adisesha cover or pandal (enveloped in pure knowledge) and drums/parai (Vedas, symbolic of moksha, salvation).

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

maalE! maNivaNNaa! maargazhi neeraaduvaan mElaiyaar seyvanagaL vEnduvana kEttiyEl NYaalaththai ellaam nadunga muralvana paal anna vaNNaththu un paancha sanniyamE pOlvana sankangaL pOy(p) paadudaiyanavE saala(p) perum paRaiyE pallaandu isaippaarE kOla viLakkE kodiyE vidhaanamE aalin ilaiyaay aruLEIOr empaavaai



Pasuram 27

Oh our dear Govinda

The generous giver

Winner of opponents

Thank you for the musical parai

That will attract the villagers

So we can celebrate together

Thank you for the gifts

Ornaments for the arms

Ornaments for the shoulder

Ornaments for the ears

And the upper part of the ears

Beautiful anklets

And...

The yummy paalchoru
Sweet milk rice
Made with love
And full of ghee
That flows down
From hands to elbows
Most of all we are excited
To be with Piratti and You!
Dressed in silken clothes
Piratti and you gave us
Let's enjoy our picnic together

Commentators opine that the ornaments represent what is acquired on the path to moksha or salvation: Hand bracelet (protective kankanam), shoulder ornaments (marks of shanks and chakra), ear ornament (Ashtakshari mantra), ornament above the ear (Dvaya mantra), anklets (charisma shlokas), new clothes (new body). Enjoying the sweet milk rice with the Divine couple is a taste of being in the Divine abode Sri Vaikuntam.

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

koodaarai vellum seer gOvindhaa undhannai(p)
paadi(p) paRai kondu yaam peRum sammaanam
naadu pugazhum parisinaal nanRaaga(ch)
choodagamE thOL vaLaiyE thOdE sevip poovE
paadagamE enRanaiya palagalanum yaam aNivOm
aadai uduppOm adhan pinnE paaR chORu
mooda ney peydhu muzhangai vazhi vaara(k)
koodi irundhu kuLirndhElOr empaavaai





Pasuram 28

Oh our dear Govinda
The blemishless one!
How lucky we are
That You were born in our clan
All we do is go to the forest
Let our beloved cattle graze.
Enjoy eating lunch from our boxes
And return home at sunset

We are not endowed
With higher knowledge
All we have is You
We are endowed with
A pure undying love for You
We share a unique relationship

Of such closeness
That we have called you
By many trivial names
Kindly forgive us
And accept us
So we can be with You

For eternity

Commentators opine that this pasuram highlights sharanagathy aspects: the helplessness (incapable of doing Karma/Gyana/Bhakti Yogas), understanding our relationship with Him, asking for forgiveness and surrendering to Him through an Acharya. If the last pasuram was about sweet rice this one is believed to be about curd rice or thairsadam: a panacea to all our worldly afflictions.

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

kaRavaigaL pin senRu kaanam sErndhu uNbOm
aRivu onRum illaadha aay(k) kulaththu undhannai(p)
piRavi peRundhanai(p) puNNiyam yaam udaiyOm
kuRai onRum illaadha gOvindhaa undhannOdu
uRavEl namakku ingu ozhikka ozhiyaadhu
aRiyaadha piLLaigaLOm anbinaal undhannai
siRu pEr azhaiththanamum seeRi aruLaadhE
iRaivaa nee thaaraay paRaiyElOr empaavaai



Pasuram 29

Oh our dear Govinda It's really very early in the morning We Gopis have come To sing Your praise You were born in our clan And we dearly cherish Our relationship with You We know You will never ever Leave us in the lurch! What we desire is to be with you And serve You In ways that You like To do all that we can To keep You happy Not just today but for ever after For seven or as many births And in your eternal abode thereafter We are certain You will grant us that And keep our desires aligned To always be with You!.

This 29th pasuram is the last of the 30 in which Andal addresses the Lord as a Gopi. In the 30th pasuram she is back to being Andal. It is believed that on this day, that is celebrated as Bhogi festival Andal united with Lord SriRanganatha (Krishna, Govinda...) in Srirangam.

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

siRRam siRu kaalE vandhu unnai sEviththu un
potRRaamarai adiyE pORRum poruL kELaay
peRRam mEyththu uNNum kulaththil piRandhu nee
kuRREval engaLai(k) koLLaamal pOgaadhu
iRRai(p) paRai koLvaan anRu kaaN gOvindhaa
eRRaikkum Ezh Ezh piRavikkum un thannOdu
uRROmE aavOm unakkE naam aatcheyvOm
maRRai nam kaamangaL maaRREIOr empaavaai



Phalashruthi
Oh Madhava Keshava
With Strong Chaturbhuja shoulders
Who churned the mighty ocean
To be gifted with Mahalakshmi
As Andal, daughter of Periyalwar
Born in beautiful Srivilliputhur

Says
Those who recite this Paamalai
Garland of songs
Of 30 pasurams
That follows the journey of
The pure- hearted Gopis
Of Ayyarpaadi
On their quest for Lord Krishna
Will win
The Grace

Of the Divine Couple
Ma and Madhava
Lakshmi and Narayana
And be blessed with
Wealth and peace
And live happily
In this world and SriVaikuntam.

Andal Thiruvadigale sharanam

Pasuram below from Sadagopan.org

vanga(k) kadal kadaindha maadhavanai kEsavanai thingaL thirumugaththu sEy izhaiyaar senRu iRainchi anga(p) paRai konda aaRRai aNi pudhuvai(p) painkamala(th) thaN theriyal battar piraan kOdhai-sonna sanga(th) thamizh maalai muppadhum thappaamE ingu ipparisuraippaar eerirandu maal varai thOL sengaN thirumugaththu(ch) chelva(th) thirumaalaal engum thiruvaruL peRRu inbuRuvar empaavaai.