



Golden Sayings
of Periyar

Golden Sayings of Periyar

Thanthai Periyar

(Translated by A S VENU)

INDEX

Politics

Religion?

God

Society

Movement

Congress Party

Government

Language

Rationalism:

The Labourer:

Thiru Kural, the Book on ethics by Thiru Valluvar:

Dravidar Kazhagam

Untouchability

Rationalism

Reform

Economics

Aryanism

The Historic Background!

Politics

The Muslims may be seen to perform many somersaults in politics. But no Muslim would say that he is not a Dravidian by nationality.

* * *

You may ask me "Won't you ever care for posts and power?" Of course I will, but not now. That time will come. What is that time? It is that time, when we will be able to say that there are no Brahmins in the country. When we come to that position, we may worry about the posts and power. Until such time we will not at all think of these posts and power. We will simply consider them as what we have spit on the ground. We are aware of what these posts are. They have made many dishonest. They have made many unreliable.

* * *

As things stand today no real public worker or social worker would even think of peeping at the Legislative Assembly. Those who are not worried about the country or people, are styling themselves as politicians. They are alone going around the Assembly for mere selfish gains. They are only seeking posts and power. They are playing the second fiddle to the tunes of those in power. Sincere and true social worker will never approve of the present political arena.

* * *

How can we consider the people wise who voted for and elected the persons who have used their posts for personal gains?

* * *

If we are not able to get good people to occupy posts, it must be that the voters are unintelligent or it must be that intelligent people have no voting rights.

* * *

We (the Dravidian citizens of Tamil Nadu) say that our politics and industries should not be dominated by North Indians. We say, it is on account of this evil, that we find degeneration. Why should the nationalists cross swords with us for telling this? Can any intelligent man say that there is no North Indian domination? Is it for this that we demanded freedom and independence? Is it to make the Northerners masters of the Tamil land and ourselves (the Dravidians) as mere slaves that we did so many things?

* * *

What do we say after all? The sons of the soil are in the grips of poverty. At the same time we seem the North Indians leading a happy life in multi storeyed buildings. How could we tolerate this? Our business and industries are in the hands of others. That is why we say that we must be free to control our matters and not allow the North to dominate our economics and politics.

* * *

We have no clothes to cover our body. We have no shelter. We have no schools to learn. We have no safety for living. Sec. 144, thefts, murders, robbery are very common. How are we to accept this as Swaraj (Self Government)? The Swaraj we wish to see is different. We want a Swaraj wherein there will be no 'Sudra', where there will be no exploitation of any kind. Is it this Swaraj we demand?

* * *

Academic degrees, posts, and earnings may last for one generation only. What will become the fate of your Tamilan people in the next generation?

* * *

Those who are prepared to lose their self-respect, honour and dignity find it convenient to shield themselves under the cloak of Indian nationalism.

* * *

The people who love fame, money, posts are like the deadly disease, tuberculosis. They are against the interests of the society.

* * *

There is no proof to state that India was at anytime free from communalism.

* * *

What we need today are plans and schemes to make the people of the country honest and unselfish. Hatred to none and love for all is what is needed today.

* * *

Those who have gained a dominant position in politics by keeping the people in ignorance could never be deemed to have any connection with wisdom.

* * *

We call ourselves a secular state. It is merely to hoodwink the outside world. 'Homam' (Flame Worship), Pooja and Aradana are performed even to float a newly built ship into the sea. Even the time and day of Swaraj (Independent Government) were chosen only after considering the good and bad time astrologically.

* * *

I sometimes feel agitated and wish that I should meet the end of Gandhi

(who was shot dead by a fanatic Brahmin). My feeling is that our people might realise their honour and self-respect at least after me.

* * *

If the country is to gain true freedom, there must be revolutionary changes in our religion, government and authority. Without that, merely criticizing politics will not solve the problem. Merely indulging in the blind attacks will not take us to the goal.

* * *

Taking into consideration the present status of the people, democracy is a mere farce. Why? Because 90 percent of the people are illiterates. Democracy today will not do any good.

* * *

Today ten and a half crores of rupees are allotted for education. The education system is so carefully chalked out that only the sons of the well to do people are alone able to derive the benefit of education. The sons of the poor and the villagers who pay the taxes are not able to share the benefit.

* * *

We are talking aloud of Swaraj? Is the Swaraj to you the Tamilians or for the North Indians? Is it for you or for the capitalist? Is it Swaraj for you or for the black marketeer? Is it for the labourer or for those who suck his blood?

* * *

What is Swaraj? One should have enough to eat, dress and live in Swaraj. Do you find it in our society today? Then, where is Swaraj?

* * *

What respect do the ministers have here? They are to simply dance to the tune of the masters at Delhi. Who respects their posts? Even their own conscience will not respect them.

* * *

The Government states that it is against communalism. If it is really so, will they pass a law stating that anyone wearing a caste mark on his forehead will be imprisoned for two years? Would they come forward to bring an enactment stating that anyone wearing a sacred thread (Poonul) will be imprisoned for life?

* * *

Are not these two symbols the root cause for the communalism? If the government is really for putting down communalism, should it not give a scissor to every policeman to cut the 'poonul' or the tuft representing castes and communities? Today the government permits the wearing of 'poonul'. It allows 'mantras' (hymns) to be chanted, vows to be performed. It declares holiday for the birth of Krishna and others. What is all this? Are we to presume that this government is purely a pro-Brahmin communal Government?

* * *

Are there holidays for the birthday celebration of Tiruvalluvar, Kapillar, and Avvai (the great Tamil Poets and Poetess)? In what respects are they inferior to Raman, Krishnan and others? Is this not insulting us? Is this not a challenge to our self-respect?

Religion?

Let us analyse, who the high caste and low caste people are. He who does no work, he who lives out of the toil of others is the highest caste. He who strives hard and bestows the gains to others, and struggles hard without shelter, cloth or gruel like a mere beast of burden is called the low caste.

* * *

He who has faith in god and religion can never hope to gain freedom. * * *

When once a man dies, he has no connection with this world or with anything elsewhere.

* * *

There can be no life or soul outside and unconnected with the various sense organs and parts of the body.

* * *

What is the meaning of heaven and salvation as is interpreted by religious books? One should be free from worries and sorrows. That is the true meaning. It is not that one should go to some other world and quietly take rest on a velvet cushion.

* * *

People talk about the 'Dharma Rajyam', 'Rama Rajyam' and 'Sathiya Keerthi Rajyam!' Evil deeds, injustice, difficulties, poverty and slavery, we see in our days, were also present in the past. This is what a deep study of the 'Puranas' (Mythologies) reveals.

* * *

Protagonists of every religion say that their religion is the oldest. They say that their religion is merely thousands of years old. They say that their doctrines were expounded in this world by their own gods long ago. Yet they do not keep quiet from preaching. They are afraid that their religion will fade out, if regular propaganda is not made. That fear is there with all religions.

* * *

It is money and propaganda that give life to religions. This is no divinity or super qualities that keeps the torch of religion bright and burning.

* * *

Religious heads as Gurujis (Teachers), Karthas (Creators) and Pracharaks (Propagandists), venture to behave like religionists. For, they imitate other religionists. To earn recognition, they copy the ways of religionists.

* * *

The bedrock of religion is blind belief. Science has no bearing to religions. So also rationalism is different from religion. All religionists say that no one should suspect or question anything. This has given courage even to the idiot to say anything he pleases in the name of religion. Absurdities are having an eternal hold in the name of religion and god.

* * *

We do not see so many religions, so many religious differences, and so much conversions anywhere in the world as we see in India. What is the reason? Indians are so illiterate, so subordinated that they are easily exploited by the religionists.

* * *

In the matter of determining one god, one world above, salvation, hell, soul and that soul reaching heaven, or hell, there is no uniformity amongst all religions. There are many differences and controversies amongst religions in these matters.

* * *

There is no religion that is prepared to prove the existence of god. There is no 'Veda' that is acceptable to all the people. There is no 'Veda' that can be strictly adhered to by people honourably.

Man has intelligence. Man gains knowledge by experience. With his powers to use his sense organs he learns many things. Religion, which does not conform to any of these, is unwanted to the world.

* * *

Out of those who profess to have knowledge of Tamil, 90% of them are religious minded. They see god in the Tamil language. They surrender their knowledge to religion. They look at the Tamil language with a religious eye.

* * *

The scholars in foreign countries do not mix up religion with language. They do not mingle their religion, with their language.

* * *

Progress is varying from place to place and from time to time. Even changes are not even. Both of these are related to the wisdom prevalent. It is not something like what religionists see. It is not based on mere foresight as religious Pundits (shcolars) say.

* * *

However fanatical a religious minded person be, he does not resent changes. He does not give up the benefits of scientific progress. No one has so far gone to wilderness, rejecting progress and changes as unacceptable to god and religion.

* * *

In the matter of habits, classifications, divisions and differences, there is a striking contrast between the Aryans and the Dravidians (Tamils). At the same time there is not even an hundredth part difference between a Tamilian and a Muslim.

* * *

The prevalent evils in the Hindu Aryan religion cannot be seen in Islam even to a little extent.

* * *

Almost all the religions are said to be for the creation of a good society in the world. But it is only in the Hindu-Vedic-Aryan religion that we find difference. This religion is not for unity or cordiality.

* * *

The Brahmins made us Sudras (Sons of prostitutes or concubines) with the help of Sastras (Hindu dogmas) and Puranas (Mythologies). We have accepted the Hindu religion. We have dug tanks, built temples, donated wealth. But who is enjoying? Brahmins only are enjoying.

* * *

The Brahmins conspired to make us Sudras eternally. With the result, we are made as slaves by the Aryan religion. To safeguard their position they have created temples and gods.

* * *

Either religion should be destroyed or we should get rid of the religion. It is for us to get ourselves rid of the religion. It is not a big thing. We need not tread the path of violence. We need no guns. It is not anything like taking a purgative ! Out of the religion, which the Aryans have imposed, we should give up all those things that are absurd, vulgar and unbelievable. We should accept a new religion that is acceptable to the mankind.

* * *

The wealthy people, the educated people, the merchants, the priestly class are being benefited by casteism, religion, dogmas, and god. They do not undergo any trouble on account of these. They gain a higher status by all these.

* * *

We cannot say that our religion or Veda or gods are of very recent origin. * * *

What is Saivism? No one can say that it is a distinct separate religion. It cannot be construed that it is the religion of the Tamils. It is also Brahmanic in content and character.

* * *

It is 'Kanda Puranam, Siva Maha Puranam and other puranas which bring in relationship between Siva and Saivism. If you separate these Puranas, Siva will have nothing to do with Saivism.'

* * *

If you reject Vedas, yagas (fire-worship), and the gods which were created to save these and also reject the puranas foisted by Aryans, there will be no connection whatsoever for Thevaram (Prayer verses adoring God Siva) and Tamil religion.

* * *

If we are to deeply consider what these religions Vaisnavism and Saivism are, we will come to the conclusion that they are, nothing but mere contrivances to uphold the privileges of the Brahmins and their domination. These make the people unconsciously submit to Brahmin monopoly and domination.

* * *

If Hinduism, its art and rituals are to be strictly implemented you will find the Brahmins as very high and superior and the Dravidians degraded to the status of Sudras (Sons of prostitutes) or panchamas (the Untouchables).

* * *

Even those who are placed high by the doctrine of Varnasrama dharma

(Dogma of Casteism) do not seem to respect it nowadays. That is the real truth.

There are ample evidences to substantiate the fact that this country of India has been ruined by the caste system.

* * *

There is no proof to say that there was self-respect amongst any of the Tamil kings. It cannot be proved that any Tamil King had the curiosity to ask as to why he should be called a Sudra.

* * *

We, the Dravidians are the early inhabitants of this country. We come of the old ruling class. To day we are subjected to the status of the fourth caste. Why? Our forefathers, ancestors and our kings who behaved in a disgraceful manner are responsible for the present humiliated position we enjoy.

* * *

Who are these heads of mutts? The wealth they enjoy belongs to the Dravidians. As givers of all these, we have the right to command them to behave properly, to render proper accounts and to serve the people usefully. They were made heads of mutts to function with responsibility.

* * *

How could anyone say that it is not right to demand account from those who idly lead their lives. It is our right to ask them. Those who enjoy their life with the money of others have no right to demur or object, when asked to render account for the wealth entrusted to them.

* * *

While all men are born as equals, to say that Brahmins alone are the highest and all others are low as Pariah (the Untouchables) or Panchama is sheer nonsense. It is roguish to say so. It is a big hoax played on us.

* * *

A religion should be for fostering love. It should induce one to be helpful to others. It should make everyone respect truth. A religion that is characteristic of all these qualities is needed for the world. A true religion will have no other important work.

* * *

A few characterless people and so-called big people in the society and the so-called big newspapers are making the people fools by their religious propaganda.

* * *

The Dravidians never had any idea of the word "Matham"(religion). However for legal recognition we have got to call ourselves 'rationalists'.

* * *

Remember that it is religion and politics that led to the murder of Gandhi. Unless they are changed, there is no security for the life of man.

* * *

Nowadays even an ordinary peon is able to fly in the air. Yet a very small idol of god is placed in a wooden chariot weighing 200 tones and is dragged by about 2000 or 3000 people. In the name of this car festival, people are made to waste their hard earned money. When we say this, we are dubbed as atheists. We deem it our duty to warn them that they are the real atheists, as they are spoiling the name of god.

* * *

Who are those who feel irritated at the atheist activities? They are of two categories. Those who aspire to live by religious propaganda and those who live by the religious propaganda. These are the two sects of people, who feel agitated at the atheist activities.

Atheism can be understood by education, proper enquiry and by independent, unbiased thinking. Atheism cannot be understood by reading books saying that god said such and such a thing. Atheism cannot be understood by being a slave to the misnomers of incarnations. By probing deep into the religious literature, no one can gain a knowledge of atheism.

God

We have not left the 'god' free. Why do you want the temples- Gopurams (towers)? Why do you want Poojas (worship)? Why do you want a wife; a concubine? Why do you want golden jewels and diamond ornaments? Why do you want food? Do you eat? Are you enjoying the Devadasis (Temple Dancing whore) who call themselves as your wives? We have not left god? We have pestered him with a volley of questions. No god has so far come forward to answer. No god has come forward to protest. No god dared to attack or punish us.

* * *

Who built the tall and the tapering towers? Who painted the gold at the top? Who set the golden roof for Nataraja? Who built the 'mandapam' (Hall) with 1000 pillars? Who worked hard to build the choultries? Has any Brahmin given a single pie as donation for any of these, temples, tanks, and charitable things? When this is the truth, why should we remain as Sudras (Sons of prostitutes)? Why should they live as high caste Brahmins without contributing anything. Why should they be allowed to dupe us. That is why, we are boldly challenging god. God has not done any good to the people. That is why, we ask god whether he is really a God or a mere stone. God remains tongue-tied and motionless as though he is accepting our charges. No god has gone to the court for a defamation suit against us.

* * *

If the religion says that a man should be respected as man, we will not object. If the religion says that there is no high and low distinctions in the society, we do not protest against that religion. If the God says that no one need spend anything to worship him, we will not oppose that god.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

