



PERIYAR

1000 Questions & Answers

(All about Periyar E.V.Ramasamy)

Compiled by : **Dr. K.Veeramani**

A Publication of

DRAVIDAR KAZHAGAM

Periyar Thidal, Vepery, Chennai - 600 007.

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Compiled by: **Dr. K.Veeramani**

Translated by: **Prof. S.F.N. Chelliah**

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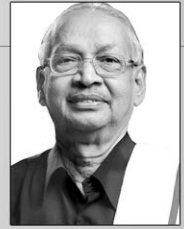
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FOREWARD



Unlike world's other thinkers, Thanthai Periyar was an original thinker. The enrichment of his thoughts is the seed of social development and a weapon for social revolution.

In addition to this; his rationalistic thoughts are totally based on scientific thinking. That is why we feel proud of calling him a 'rare social scientist'

What is Science?

And who is a Scientist?

What is scientific temperament?

Even the teachers of science, do not seem to know the real meaning of science. They only know that science is a 'subject', 'a study' nothing more

We are puzzled why they are not interested to know or to understand the real meaning of science and to teach the students

Science is not a subject like history or Civics. It is an evolutionary process. There is no end to this process. It is a continuation. This is the basic difference between the historical facts and scientific truths.

'Alexander came with his army and defeated the king Porus'. This is a historical fact. This historical fact remains unchanged. But the scientific truth will not remain the same. It is a continuous process. There is no finality. This scientific process will never hesitate to replace the old by the new concepts and findings

We can see in the field of research that a hypothesis will exist unchanged until new source materials arrive. If the new one comes, the old one disappears

Though the theory of 'Centre of Gravity' was Isaac Newton's, it was confirmed and established by the researches of Mathematicians.

Before the advent of the theory of Evolution of Charles Darwin, there existed Lamarckian theory and Scientists believed and accepted it.

But in course of time, Lamarckian theory lost its hold and was invalidated. On the contrary Darwinian Theory of Evolution occupied the minds of the people. And today we find the next stage of development of Darwinism, i.e the development of the theory of Genes and Chromosomes

Development is taking place in every department of science as in Newton's theory of Centre of Gravity', and Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

No more explanation is needed here. Thanthai Periyar said, "Today you call me a revolutionary; but after a couple of centuries, a stage may come to call me 'a backward thinking man'.

What a splendid person he was!

This foresightedness of Thanthai Periyar clearly indicates his scientific approach to everything

Knowledge and science have no boundaries! Thoughts expressed by the people who thought on the basis of science would be a shock to the society in the beginning. They had to face the tempest of opposition. Then the opposition slowly raged itself out. After the rage out of opposition the influence and success of their ideologies would enhance.

As Karl Marx said, 'change is alone unchangeable. Periyar said, 'I have no love for anything. But I love knowledge, I love development, and progress, I love humanity'

The doors of development are opened only because of man's rationalistic thinking. The donkey is kicking with its back legs for so many centuries. Is there any change in the kicking of donkey? The barbarian was armed with bow and arrow, but now man is carrying AK47-Automatic Machine Guns! Can anyone deny this? The development of weapons like rockets is not an ordinary process

Thanthai Periyar has expressed the above idea only with this view

If you want progress and development you must put the questions 'Why, How, By Whom, Which' often and often. Putting these questions quite often, knowing the reasons and answers and then coming to a clear understanding alone will help us to be scientific

Keeping this background in mind, go through the 'new world' thoughts of Thanthai Periyar and have a deep study. Like a calm and clean stream of water, it will reveal truths

That is why the world is getting ready to honour the 'brain' of Thanthai Periyar. 'Vast world experience' and 'the affairs of day to day life' - are the books, Periyar had studied

Periyar knew the human nature very well; so with his conviction he stood firmly. He never cared for opposition, the mockery or insult inflicted on him'

People believed that non-formal education will lead to ignorance and illiteracy and that the intelligent people who had college and university education would invent new things. Thanthai Periyar had invalidated this concept throughout his life.

As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar observed they are only learned; but not intellectuals who spoke for humanity at large

Periyar was much worried about the self-respect of human beings. Dignity, equality and equal rights of human beings were his goal. Periyar stood like a volcano, like a tempest, like a cyclone, to break the barriers to achieve his goal. This is the way of his life.

Self-respect, honour, dignity, and rationalistic thinking are precious gifts from Periyar to humanity. This noble leader who lived for the sake of others left his own property and the wealth he received from the public to the people themselves.

The younger generation must know the philosophy of Periyar, the horrible incidents that he faced in his life, his public service, his tour to spread his ideology and follow his foot steps. It is just like taking medicines; why we take medicine, Is it to satisfy the inventor or doctor and medicine sellers? No, Just for our health and cure. So also to consense Periyar and follow him is to reform ourselves

With this aim the book 'All about Periyar - 1000 Questions and Answers' is released as a compilation

Learned scholars of Periyarism have taken much care and enthusiasm to complete this work. Not only Dravidar Kazhagam but the entire humanity will be grateful to them

A lecture delivered by Periyar in 1942 called 'The World to Come' and the life sketch of Thanthai Periyar are also annexed to this compilation

Steps have been taken to publish this rare book in Hindi and in many other languages. It is a very good weapon of knowledge to see the 21st century as Periyar's century.

*Learn this carefully
Without errors, and doubts,
Then follow the foot steps of
Thanthai Periyar!*

K. VEERAMANI

President,

Dravidar Kazhagam.

Date: 14.01.2013

A Note from the Translator

No doubt, this compilation is very exhaustive in specific details and accurate informations on everything about Periyar. The multiple choice method is both absorbing and interesting. For those who want to have a detailed thorough knowledge of Periyar's public and private life, his achievements and struggles, the compliments and accusations he received are all chronologically and topicwise classified. The 9 chapters craftily assigned, have an academic structure to educate the reader, whether literate or illiterate. This is surely a very useful and purposeful attempt on the biographical sketch of Periyar sufficiently highlighting his struggles, achievements, performances and public recognition. I strongly recommend this book for an authentic enlightenment on Periyar's greatness

Prof. S.F.N.Chelliah

A Note of Appreciation

I whole heartily congratulate our scholars who have compiled this volume of questions and answers about Thanthai Periyar. It is true, it is a marvellous work! Those who read this book, certainly will come to know the history of Madras Presidency, especially the history of the Non-Brahmin movement. Moreover this book gives enormous source materials to the researchers of Dravidian Movement

As our beloved leader Dr. K. Veeramani said, “the scholars have taken much care and enthusiasm to complete this work. Not only Dravidar kazhagam, but the entire humanity will be grateful to them”. And Dr. S.F.N. Chelliah deserves congratulations for this wonderful translation. I appeal to the Vice-Chancellors of Tamil Nadu universities to recommend this compilation which contains accurate and authentic information, to their students as a text book

Erode,
14.01.2013.

Dr. P. Kalimuthu

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CHAPTER - I

HIS FAMILY AND HIS OWN HISTORY

• **Prof P. Subramanian M.Sc., M.Ed.,**

- 1) Periyar was born on 17th September, in the year?
 - a) 1869
 - b) 1879
 - c) 1901
 - d) 1885
- 2) The name of Periyar's father is
 - a) Krishnasamy Naicker
 - b) Venkatappa Naicker
 - c) Venkatta Naicker
 - d) Ramasamy Naicker
- 3) The name of Periyar's mother is
 - a) Chinna Thayammal
 - b) Kannammal
 - c) Ponnuthayammal
 - d) Nallammal
- 4) If you mention 'Naicker' in Erode in 1880s it would denote only
 - a) Krishnasamy Naicker
 - b) Venkatappa Naicker
 - c) Velu Naicker
 - d) Ramasamy Naicker

- 5) **The order of Periyar among the children of his parents is**
a) First
b) Second
c) Seventh
d) Tenth
- 6) **The city that takes the pride of Periyar having been born in is**
a) Tiruchirappalli
b) Vaikom
c) Erode
d) Dharmapuri
- 7) **As Ramasamy was given in his tender age adoption to his father's aunt, he grew**
a) Uncontrollable
b) Very quietly
c) Grew independently with his own original thinking
d) Showing a lot of interest in studies
- 8) **The number of years Periyar spent in schooling is**
a) 5 years
b) 10 years
c) 8 years
d) Intermediate
- 9) **When Periyar was a small boy, his father was engaged in**
a) Agriculture
b) Stone worker
c) Teaching
d) Commerce
- 10) **The reason for Venkata Naicker becoming wealthy after having suffered in poverty was**
a) Receiving properties from his mother-in-law
b) Hard work and his wife's support
c) He found a treasure on breaking stones in the field
d) He received huge amount from the Britishers for having been loyal to them
- 11) **The milk consumed by Periyar in his childhood**
a) Cow's Milk
b) Mother's Milk
c) Goat's Milk
d) Buffalo's Milk
- 12) **The most favourite child for his parents was**
a) E.V.Ramasamy
b) E.V.Kannammal
c) E.V.Krishnasamy
d) E.V.Ponnuthai

- 13) **The reason for Periyar being chained in both his legs when he was ten years old**
- a) Playing at the top of trees
 - b) Mixing up with the untouchables and eating their eatables
 - c) Running away from the town quite often
 - d) Not showing due respect to the elders and his teachers
- 14) **The Explanation Periyar offered when the board was made to fall on Ramanath Iyer's head, so that he could teach a lesson for his oft-quoted 'fate' for any happening was**
- a) Sorry. I knocked it by mistake
 - b) This is also your fate
 - c) I did not knock it, it fell because of the wind
 - d) It fell because the supporting rod was broken
- 15) **Periyar's age when he married Nagammai was**
- a) 19
 - b) 15
 - c) 24
 - d) 21
- 16) **Nagammai's age when she married Periyar was**
- a) 18
 - b) 17
 - c) 13
 - d) 19
- 17) **The device which Periyar used to stop his wife from going to the temple was**
- a) Fighting
 - b) Setting rogues to threaten her
 - c) Taking her to public meetings
 - d) Did none of these
- 18) **The two principles of Periyar's wife Nagammai, pointed out by Samy Chithambaranar are**
- a) Fasting and serving the husband in all his needs
 - b) Supporting Periyar in all his endeavours
 - c) Feeding the Brahmins and conducting religious discourses
 - d) Doing service to the father-in-law and mother-in-law, and doing the household chores
- 19) **When Periyar renounced and went to Benares he was**
- a) 24
 - b) 26
 - c) 25
 - d) 23

- 20) **The reason for the two Brahmins, who were accompanying Periyar to Benares, but leaving him later was**
- a) They went to their relative's houses
 - b) They went to the temples as they knew religious prayers (manthras)
 - c) Only the Brahmins were fed in all the inns
 - d) They did not tolerate Periyar's stubbornness
- 21) **Periyar went to Benares with a hope that he would find life perfect and neat. He found**
- a) Benares was a holy place
 - b) Benares was perfect and neat
 - c) Benares was full of people of good conduct and honesty
 - d) Benares was filled with wickedness and prostitution
- 22) **Periyar was from a wealthy family. But he was so helpless, looking for food from cast away leaves. This was because**
- a) He had distributed all his wealth
 - b) He gave up his family orthodoxy
 - c) He lived the life of a mendicant
 - d) He was driven out by the family
- 23) **Periyar staunchly denied god, but he continued to be the head of several Devasthanams (religious organisations.) It was because**
- a) He worshipped god in secret
 - b) He was afraid of offending god
 - c) He accepted it on the insistence of his father
 - d) He received good income from it
- 24) **The year in which Periyar's father died was**
- a) 1911 b) 1912 c) 1919 d) 1949
- 25) **An apt illustration for Periyar's human benevolence is**
- a) He founded hospitals in many towns
 - b) He respected even the devotees
 - c) He constructed good , many drinking water centres through his followers
 - d) When a lot of people died due to the disease Blake, Periyar carried many of the dead bodies on his shoulders to be buried

- 26) **What was the social status of Periyar when he was elected Chairman of Erode Municipality?**
- a) He was in office of about 29 service organisations
 - b) He was an ordinary citizen
 - c) He was the owner of a thousand acre land
 - d) He was a labourer in breaking stones in utter poverty
- 27) **The year in which Periyar was the Chairman of Erode Municipality was**
- a) 1905
 - b) 1910
 - c) 1919
 - d) 1925
- 28) **When Periyar was the Chairman of Erode Municipality, Rajagopalachari was the Chairman of Salem Municipality. Quite impressed with Periyar's administrative acumen, Rajagopalachari requested Periyar for a favour. It was**
- a) Periyar himself should be the Chairman also for Salem
 - b) A request to lend the services of his Sanitary Inspector to Salem Municipality
 - c) A request to transfer the Administrative Manager of Erode Municipality to Salem Municipality
 - d) A request to Periyar that he himself should personally supervise the administrative reforms in Salem
- 29) **The title recommended Periyar when he was the Chairman of Erode Municipality**
- a) Rao Bahadur
 - b) Rao Saheb
 - c) Doctor
 - d) Sir
- 30) **The total number of workers in the Madras State Income Tax Office, when Periyar was its member was**
- a) 15
 - b) 7
 - c) 9
 - d) 3
- 31) **The food that Periyar offered to Singampatti Zamindar in his honour when he visited Erode was**
- a) Non-Vegetarian
 - b) High class Vegetarian
 - c) Ordinary hotel food
 - d) Ordinary food prepared at home

- 32) **An incident at home that deeply affected Periyar was**
- a) Offerings to the Brahmins
 - b) Discourses
 - c) Caste distinctions
 - d) His niece's widowhood at a tender age
- 33) **Periyar is a person who proclaimed that women are not inferior to men. Based on this, he conducted a remarriage of a widow in 1909. She was**
- a) His sister
 - b) His sister's daughter
 - c) His daughter
 - d) His brother's daughter
- 34) **How many children were born to Periyar who propagated family planning and Nagammai?**
- a) 13
 - b) None
 - c) A girl baby was born but died in five months
 - d) 2 boys and one girl
- 35) **Periyar complimented on Nagammai that she lived and desired to live, not for her sake but for his sake. She died in**
- a) 1933
 - b) 1961
 - c) 1947
 - d) 1952
- 36) **Which magazine in Singapore published the self respect call of Nagammai in Malaysia?**
- a) Ina Murasu
 - b) Munnetram
 - c) Kaalaikathir
 - d) Thamizh Murasu
- 37) **The decision that Periyar took at the demise of Nagammai was**
- a) Denouncing the worldly life
 - b) He felt he had become an orphan
 - c) He felt he had now more time to spend in public service
 - d) He decided not to participate in Mangala (Happy) occasions, as he had become a widower
- 38) **Defying the 144 Preventive Act, Periyar conducted a Christian marriage, the very next day of Nagammai's death. It was in**
- a) Thanjavur
 - b) Salem
 - c) Tiruchirappalli
 - d) Karaikudi

- 39) **The Venkata Naicker Charity Hospital that is functioning even today was started by**
- a) Chinnathai Ammal b) Venkata Naicker
c) Krishnasamy Naicker d) E.V.Ramasamy Naicker
- 40) **When Chinnathai, mother of Periyar died, she was**
- a) 95 b) 60 c) 90 d) 85
- 41) **The title offered to E.V.Ramasamy in 1938, at the Women's Conference in Chennai was**
- a) Vaikom Hero
b) Periyar
c) Lion of Erode
d) Venthadi Vendar (while bearded king)
- 42) **The magazine in which Thiru.Vi.Ka. wrote about Periyar was**
- a) Kudi Arasu b) Dravidan
c) Navasakthi d) Navamani
- 43) **The address made as a result of the meeting of the three great: Periyar, Muhamad Ali Jinnah and Ambedkar in Bombay in 08.01.1940 was on**
- a) Hindu Muslim Unity
b) Eradication of caste differences
c) The division of the nation
d) Destroying god
- 44) **The name that Periyar suggested to be given to India, when Gandhi died was**
- a) Hindu Desam
b) Mahatma Desam
c) Gandhi Desam
d) Ahimsai (Non-violence) Desam
- 45) **Between 1934 and 1959, for a period of 25 years Periyar never failed to attend the function he had agreed to participate. But he could not attend only one function. It was because**
- a) He was ill, admitted in a hospital
b) His wife died
c) His car was damaged
d) The police did not permit him

- 46) The day Periyar was rumored to have been shot dead was
a) 14-7-1949
b) 5-8-1961
c) 31-10-1984
d) 30-1-1948
- 47) The real name of Maniammai who was later named Arasial Mani (Political Mani) was
a) Shanthimathi
b) Gandhimathi
c) Banumathi
d) Chandramathi
- 48) The reason for Periyar marrying Maniammai at 70 was
a) To beget heirs
b) To enjoy conjugal pleasures
c) To look after him at old age
d) An arrangement to legally safeguard the movement and its properties
- 49) After listening to Periyar's speech on equality and communism, a person in the gathering asked Periyar what he had to say if he (that person) wanted to marry Periyar's wife Nagammai. At this
a) Periyar was agitated
b) Periyar replied that she was to be asked
c) Periyar set rowdies on him and beat him up
d) He expressed disagreement
- 50) It was said, "He is the public property for the Tamils. He should not be deserted like a public property, but everyone should preserve him as his own property." This was
a) On Arignar Anna by Periyar
b) Maniammai about Periyar
c) Kamaraj about Periyar
d) Periyar about Nagammai
- 51) The lady who protected Periyar with maternal love and looked after his health till he died at 95 was
a) Nagammai
b) Chinnathai
c) Maniammai
d) Kannammal

- 52) **The country to which Periyar travelled along with Maniammai to participate in the World Buddhist Conference is**
 a) Russia
 b) Burma
 c) China
 d) Singapore
- 53) **The person who succeeded Periyar immediately after his death to lead Periyar's movement was**
 a) Kuthoosi Gurusamy
 b) Annadurai
 c) K.Veeramani
 d) Maniammai
- 54) **The day on which 'Ravanaleela' was conducted in Chennai under the leadership of Maniammai was**
 a) 10-8-1971
 b) 5-6-1944
 c) 6-8-1998
 d) 25-12-1974
- 55) **The day on which Maniammai, who spearheaded the Self-respect Movement started by Periyar, died was**
 a) 16-3-1978
 b) 12-3-1978
 c) 8-1-1978
 d) 10-3-1978
- 56) **The year in which Periyar conducted the procession for breaking the idols of 'Vinayaka' was**
 a) 1953
 b) 1948
 c) 1965
 d) 1921
- 57) **The year in which Periyar in protesting against the caste based educational system proposed by Rajagopalachariar and came out successful was**
 a) 1949
 b) 1960
 c) 1954
 d) 1965
- 58) **The North Indian University in which Periyar addressed in 1958 is**
 a) Nalanda University
 b) Calcutta University
 c) Lucknow University
 d) Benares University
- 59) **The party of North India which invited Periyar to speak on the eradication of caste in 1959 is**
 a) Congress party
 b) Communist Party
 c) All India Republican Party
 d) All India Backward Class Party

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