



Ethics of Friendship in Thirukkural

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Dr S Kumaran, a Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the University of Malaya, has authored more than 100 research papers and more than 60 books in English, Tamil and Malay. His research papers were published in ISI and Scopus indexed journals, academic journals and as chapters in books. He is specialized in Tamil Language, Tamil Classical Literature, Indian Civilization, Comparative Study of Japanese Manyoshu Songs and Tamil Classical Literature, Tamil cultural studies, Tamil journalism and social media networking, and Tamil–Malay–English dictionary. He has attended and presented numerous research papers in International Conferences, Seminars and Symposiums. He was a Research Fellow in the University of Jaffna (Sri Lanka) in 2003 and at the Centre for Civilizational Dialogue, University of Malaya. He was the Head of the Department of Indian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya from 2006 to 2013. He has supervised 18 Ph.D. Candidates including international candidates and 22 M.A.candidates.

Abstract:

Thiruvalluvar has written extensively on friendship. Thiruvalluvar covers friendship from the point of view of an ordinary individual as well as that of a king. Thiruvalluvar considers that although developing good and intimate friendship is difficult, it is still worth doing it. The purpose of true friendship is not for mutual entertainment and pleasant companionship. The paper covers, friendship of undependable people, toxic friendship, nature of enemy's friendship, kinds of friendships to be avoided and more.

*Loveless, lacks right companions, and on his own has no strengths –
the might of his foes shall shred even his bones.*

