

63 NAYANMARS

Sangam Age (that lasted till 3rd century AD) is an important period for Tamil Bhakthi Movement and Literature.

After this, during the next few centuries (Kalabhra Period) there was a lull in Hinduism. Then came a period of about four centuries (6 - 10th Century AD) when Bakthi movement was revived.

63 saivaite saints known as Nayanmars stand out for their extreme devotion to Lord Shiva. They captured hearts of people by singing the praise of Shiva in soul-stirring Tamil devotional hymns compiled as 12 volumes called as Thirumurai . This was a period of religious revival of Saivism by the Nayanmars.

The activities of these nayanmars differ, but the one thing in common is their intense love for the Lord. They followed different ways of praying the God and led different kinds of life styles - Brahmacharyam (Sandesar), Grihastam (Nilakandar), Vanaprastam (Aiyadikal Kadavarkon), Sanyasam (Thirumular).

Their traditional work (akin to caste system) too differed - Sampandhar (reciting Vedha), Appar (farmer), Nilakandar (potter), Thirunalaippar (cobbler) and so on. There are both male and female (Ichainyaniyar, Karaikkal ammaiyaar) devotees. The wives of many of these Nayanmars too were equally devoted to Lord Shiva as their husbands were (Thirunilakandar).

Most of them did not undertake a service that was different from their regular lifestyle. The weaver Nesar had taken the service of providing clothes whereas the farmer Marar gave food. The service they undertook may look mundane, like throwing a stone on the Shivalingam everyday, but they did it with intense love for the Lord and with determination, undermining the hurdles on their way.

<http://www.hindupedia.com/en/Sants>

<http://tamilelibrary.org/teli/saints.html>



Adipattha Nayanar
Aiyadigal Kadavarkon Nayanar
Amaraneedi Nayanar
Anaya Nayanar
Appuddi Nayanar
Arivattaya Nayanar
Chandesvara Nayanar
Cheraman Perumal Nayanar
Dandi Adigal Nayanar
Enadinatha Nayanar
Eripatha Nayanar
Eyarkon Kalikama Nayanar
Gananatha Nayanar
Idangazhi Nayanar
Ilayankudi Mara Nayanar
Isaijnaniyar
Iyarpahai Nayanar
Kalia Nayanar
Kalikamba Nayanar
Kanampulla Nayanar
Kannappa Nayanar
Karaikal Ammaiyar
Kari Nayanar
Kazharsinga Nayanar
Kochengat Chola Nayanar
Kootruva Nayanar
Kotpuli Nayanar
Kulacchirai Nayanar
Kungiliya Kalaya Nayanar
Maiporul Nayanar
Manakanchara Nayanar
Mangayarkarasiyar

Munaiyaduvar Nayanar
Murkha Nayanar
Murthi Nayanar
Muruga Nayanar
Nami Nandi Adigal
Narasinga Muniyaraiyar
Nesa Nayanar
Ninra Seer Nedumara Nayanar
Perumizhalai Kurumba Nayanar
Pugal Chola Nayanar
Pugazh Tunai Nayanar
Pusalar Nayanar
Rudra Pasupathi Nayanar
Sadaya Nayanar
Sakkiya Nayanar
Satti Nayanar
Seruthunai Nayanar
Sirappuli Nayanar
Siruthonda Nayanar
Somasira Nayanar
Sundaramurthi Nayanar
Tiru-Navukkarasar Nayanar
Tiru Jnana Sambandar
Tiru Kurippu Thonda Nayanar
Tiru Mula Nayanar
Tiru Nalai Povar Nayanar
Tiru Neelakanta Nayanar
Tiru Neelakanta Yazhpanar
Tiruneelanakka Nayanar
Vayilar Nayanar
Viralminda Nayanar