

## 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