

## AUVAIYAR - Group 2

Saint Auvaiyar was a poet of the children and the common man.

Legend has it that she was a beautiful, intelligent and talented girl. But she did not want her beauty to get in the way of the spiritual life she had chosen. She prayed to Lord Pillayar to make her old, and her wish was granted instantly!

People loved and respected her. She advised them and helped them to solve their problems. Even kings welcomed her to their courts and they enjoyed her scholarly discourses and poems. The wonderful poems she wrote for children are still learnt by children today, who gain great strength and inspiration from them.

Mother Auvaiyar was able to condense universally acceptable values into just one line of prose, making them stay in your memory for the rest of your life. The following quotes from Aathisoodi illustrate the simplicity of her style and the profoundness of her message: 'அறஞ் செய விரும்பு' (Aram seyya virumbu) - desire to do good deeds, 'ஆறுவது சினம்' (Aaruvathu sinum) - control your anger.

In those days, when people were immersed in the caste system, she boldly proclaimed that: 'இட்டார் பெரியோர் இடாதார் இழி குலத்தோர்'(Ittar periyor, Idarthar izhli kulathor) - there are only two castes - High and low, depending upon how much you are willing to share your fortune with others!

She loved Lord Pillayar and her Vinayaka Agaval 'சீதக் களபச் செந்தாமரைப்பூம் பாதச் சிலம்பு பலஇசை பாட' (Seetha kalaba senthamarai poom patha chilambu pala isai paada) is still a favourite of many Pillaiyar devotees.

Mother Auvaiyar created many of her moral instructions for children, who have open minds and are more receptive to positive influences. Her important works are the Aathisoodi, Kondraiventhan, Moothurai and Nalvazhi

May Saint Auvaiyar's name live on in the precious poems that are her legacy to us all.