

**You ask, in lips of men what 'truth' may be;  
'Tis speech from every taint of evil free**

**Explanation**

Truth is the speaking of such words as are free from the least degree of evil (to others).

**Tamil Transliteration**

Vaaimai Enappatuvadhu Yaadhenin Yaadhondrum  
Theemai Ilaadha Solal.

**Falsehood may take the place of truthful word,  
If blessing, free from fault, it can afford**

**Explanation**

Even falsehood has the nature of truth, if it confer a benefit that is free from fault.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Poimaiyum Vaaimai Yitaththa Puraidheerndha  
Nanmai Payakkum Enin.

**Speak not a word which false thy own heart knows  
Self-kindled fire within the false one's spirit glows**

**Explanation**

Let not a man knowingly tell a lie; for after he has told the lie, his mind will burn him (with the memory of his guilt).

**Tamil Transliteration**

Thannenj Charivadhu Poyarka Poiththapin  
Thannenje Thannaich Chutum.

**True to his inmost soul who lives,- enshrined  
He lives in souls of all mankind**

**Explanation**

He who, in his conduct, preserves a mind free from deceit, will dwell in the minds of all men.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Ullaththaar Poiyaa Thozhukin Ulakaththaar  
Ullaththu Lellaam Ulan.

**Greater is he who speaks the truth with full consenting mind  
Than men whose lives have penitence and charity combined**

**Explanation**

He, who speaks truth with all his heart, is superior to those who make gifts and practise austerities.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Manaththotu Vaaimai Mozhiyin Thavaththotu  
Thaananjey Vaarin Thalai.

**No praise like that of words from falsehood free;  
This every virtue yields spontaneously**

**Explanation**

There is no praise like the praise of never uttering a falsehood: without causing any suffering, it will lead to every virtue.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Poiaamai Anna Pukazhillai Eyyaamai  
Ellaa Aramun Tharum.

**If all your life be utter truth, the truth alone,  
'Tis well, though other virtuous acts be left undone**

**Explanation**

If a man has the power to abstain from falsehood, it will be well with him, even though he practise no other virtue.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Poiaamai Poiaamai Aattrin Arampira  
Seyyaamai Seyyaamai Nandru.

**Outward purity the water will bestow;  
Inward purity from truth alone will flow**

**Explanation**

Purity of body is produced by water and purity of mind by truthfulness.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Puraldhooimai Neeraan Amaiyum Akandhooimai  
Vaaimaiyaal Kaanap Patum.

**Every lamp is not a lamp in wise men's sight;  
That's the lamp with truth's pure radiance bright**

**Explanation**

All lamps of nature are not lamps; the lamp of truth is the lamp of the wise.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Ellaa Vilakkum Vilakkalla Saandrorkkup  
Poiyaa Vilakke Vilakku.

**Of all good things we've scanned with studious care,  
There's nought that can with truthfulness compare**

**Explanation**

Amidst all that we have seen (described) as real (excellence), there is nothing so good as truthfulness.

**Tamil Transliteration**

Yaameyyaak Kantavatrul Illai Enaiththondrum  
Vaaimaiyin Nalla Pira.