

Three Minutes - 1

Wealth - Fragile, handle with care

koL enRu kiLarndu ezhunda
perumcelvam neruppAga
koL enRu tamam mUDum ivai
enna iyaRkai!

(nammAzhvAr, tiruvAimozhi 4.9.4)

கொள் என்று கிளர்ந்து எழுந்த
பெருஞ்செல்வம் நெருப்பாக
கொள் என்று தமம் மூடும் இவை
என்ன இயற்கை
(நம்மாழ்வார், திருவாய்மொழி 4-9-4)

perum= huge
celvam = wealth
enru = how (it)
koL = (begs, please) accept me in
kiLarndu = (like a) fiercely
ezunda = rose
neruppAga = fire
ivai = (in fact) these (actually)
mUDum = closes
tamam = (one's) control of senses
enna = what a
iyaRkai = natural phenomena

This verse (pAsuram) is found in tiruvAimozhi, one of the four hymns (prabhandams) created by nammAzhvAr (our shrIvaiShNava saint). Here AzhvAr compares the wealth to a blazing fire.

Human desires are limitless. Many of those are quenched through acquiring wealth. This wealth initially begs them "please take me in, please take me in". Fascinated by

this appeal, people indulge to accumulate more.

But, once the wealth is landed comfortably within their mind and wallet, it surrounds them and eventually destroys them like a blazing fire. This concept is nothing new and is occurring everyday. Though it is transparent, people still go and fall into this trap. What an amazing natural phenomenon!

The moral here is

1. Wealth is both the cause and destroyer of happiness

Though, most think wealth is basic ingredient for happiness, they forget nothing comes free.

2. People surrounding the wealthy, don't like them.

They are jealous and will try to do all the mischief.

3. Contentment is essential.

nammAzhvAr here emphasizes contentment as stressed in Vedas, bhagavad GiTA, etc. If one does not exercise content, he will never be happy even if he could get everything in the universe.

4. Handle the wealth with care.

Wealth is like a fire. If you go too close, it burns you; staying too far away, it leaves you in cold.

Money can buy a bed,
but not sleep;
it can buy medicine, but not
cure the disease.