

## Three Minutes - 32 Baker's dozen are takers' heaven

The meanings behind the veda-s and upaniShad-s are not transparent to the common people; but AzhvAr-s conveyed those in very simple and sweet tamih hymns. The AzhvAr's verses are like the "Cliff notes" for veda-s. How could they do such an amazing feat? Very simply, it is not a human feat, but rather, they were blessed by Lord shrIman nArAyANa Himself with pure, flawless knowledge (*mayarvaRa madi nalam*).

Today, we will highlight each AzhvAr's theme and what they tried to emphasize through their hymns. This is one among several possible interpretations (anubhavam). Just like a diamond glitters beautifully from any angle it is looked at, the AzhvAr's verses also maintain such a luster.

### 1. Poigai AzhvAr

Declared that the veda-s reveal about the ultimate Lord (brahman).  
*nIdiyAl Odi niyama~NgaLAl parava AdiyAi ninRAR avar* -  
Realized the ultimate Lord by following scripts (veda-s) and proper rituals.

### 2. BhUdattAzhvAr

Confirmed that ultimate Lord mentioned in veda-s, is none other than nArAyANa.  
*pagal kaNDEn nAraNanaik kaNDEn* -

I realized that Lord nArAyANa and my knowledge dawned and spread like daylight.

### 3. PEi AzhvAr

Qualified that He is not just a solo nArAyANa, but shrIman nArAyANa, with His inseparable consort, lakShmi - *tirukkaNDEn*. I found the Lord by looking at Her first.

### 4. tirumazhisai AzhvAr

Showed that individual soul's purpose and steady focus should be to reach that Lord.

*anRu nAn piRAndilEn, piRanda pin maRandilEn*

I was not born (realized) then, but once I did, I never forgot You.

### 5. nammAzhvAr

Demonstrated that Prapatti (total unconditional surrender) is the only plausible method to reach the Lord. He is the sole means and ends.  
*pugal onRu illa aDiyEn un aDikkIzh amarndu pugundenE* -

I Hold your feet as the only refuge.

### 6. madhurakavi AzhvAr

Lived by showing AcArya Bhakti is the final frontier.

*devu maRRu aRiyEn kurugUr nambi*

I am unaware of any God other than my AcArya

### 7. Kulashekhara AzhvAr

Led everyone in the art of detachment (vairAghya) even in the midst of worldly pleasures.

*vAn ALum selvamum maNNarasum yAn vENDEn*

I don't look for the empire to rule the celestials or the earth

**8. PeriyAzhvAr**

Sensitized that Lord's infinite mercy and compassion saves the devotees even if they do inadvertent mistakes, because He simply ignores them.

*en aDiyAr adu seyyAr*

My devotees will never do them.

**9. ANDAL**

Instructed that the purpose of our soul is to serve the Lord eternally.

*unakke nAm AT seyvOm*

We will do service only to shrlman nArAyANa, eternally.

**10. toNDaraDippoDi AzhvAr**

Advised that humility is an essential ingredient in reaching the Lord.

*manattil Or tUymai illai, vAyil Or insol illai -*

Not a speck of purity in my heart nor an utterance of a single sweet word comes out of my mouth.

**11. tiruppANAzhvAr**

Practiced the enjoyment of the Lord especially, the beautiful idol form (arcA mUrti) in the temple

*en amudinaik kaNDa kaNgAL maRRu onRinaik KANAvE -*

After drinking the nectar through my eyes, let them see nothing else.

**12. tiruma~Ngai AzhvAr**

Traveled and visited many temples and showed that Lord is readily accessible.

*vandu un tiruvaDi aDaindEn*

Came down and reached Your lotus feet.

**13. Bhagavad rAmAnuja**

Lord loves unwavering devotion.  
*nAnginum kaNNanukke Amadu kAmam*

KR^iShNa favors love among the four - righteousness, wealth, love and ultimate bliss (dharma, artha, kAma, mokSham).

Let the light pass  
through the holes  
smaller than wavelength  
of its kind  
like AzhvArs' words that  
press vedA-s  
and pour through the  
ignorant mind