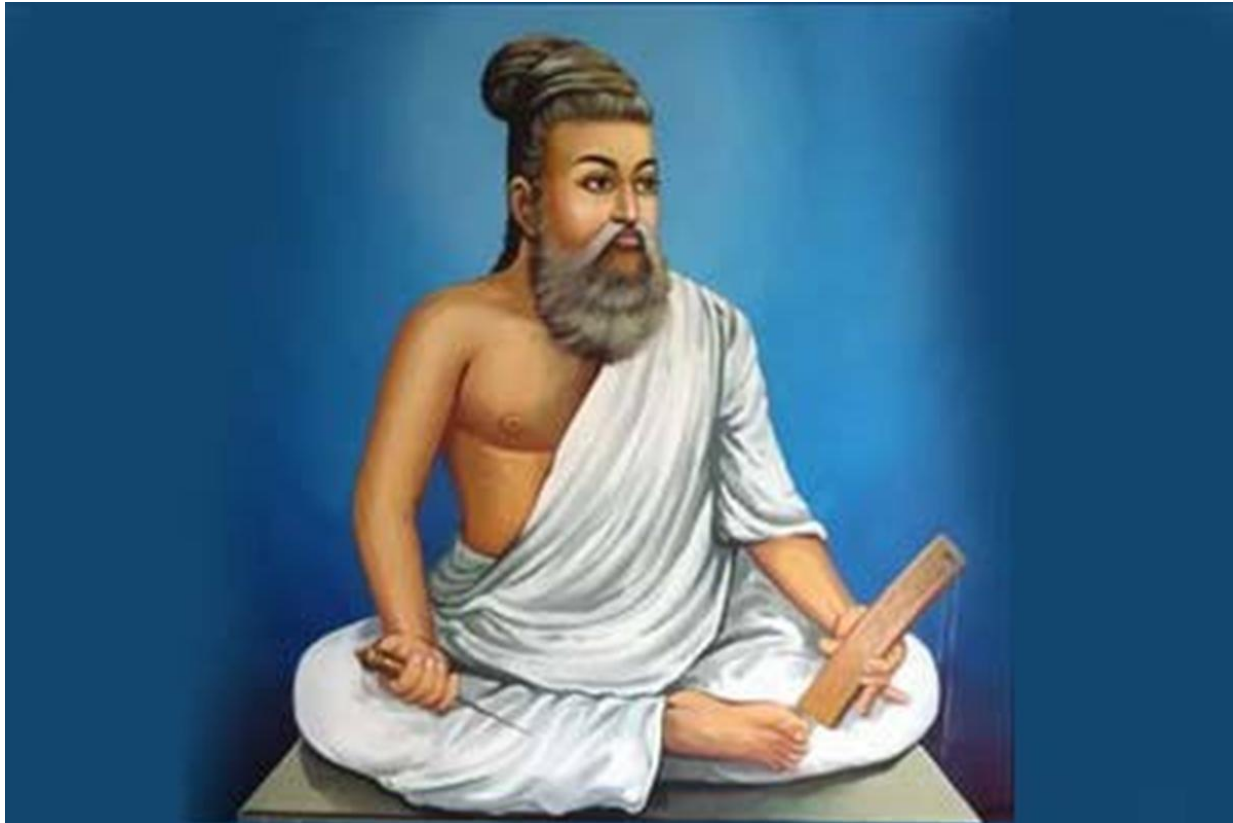


# Tiruvalluvar and Benjamin Franklin

Anand  
The Club  
12-5-20



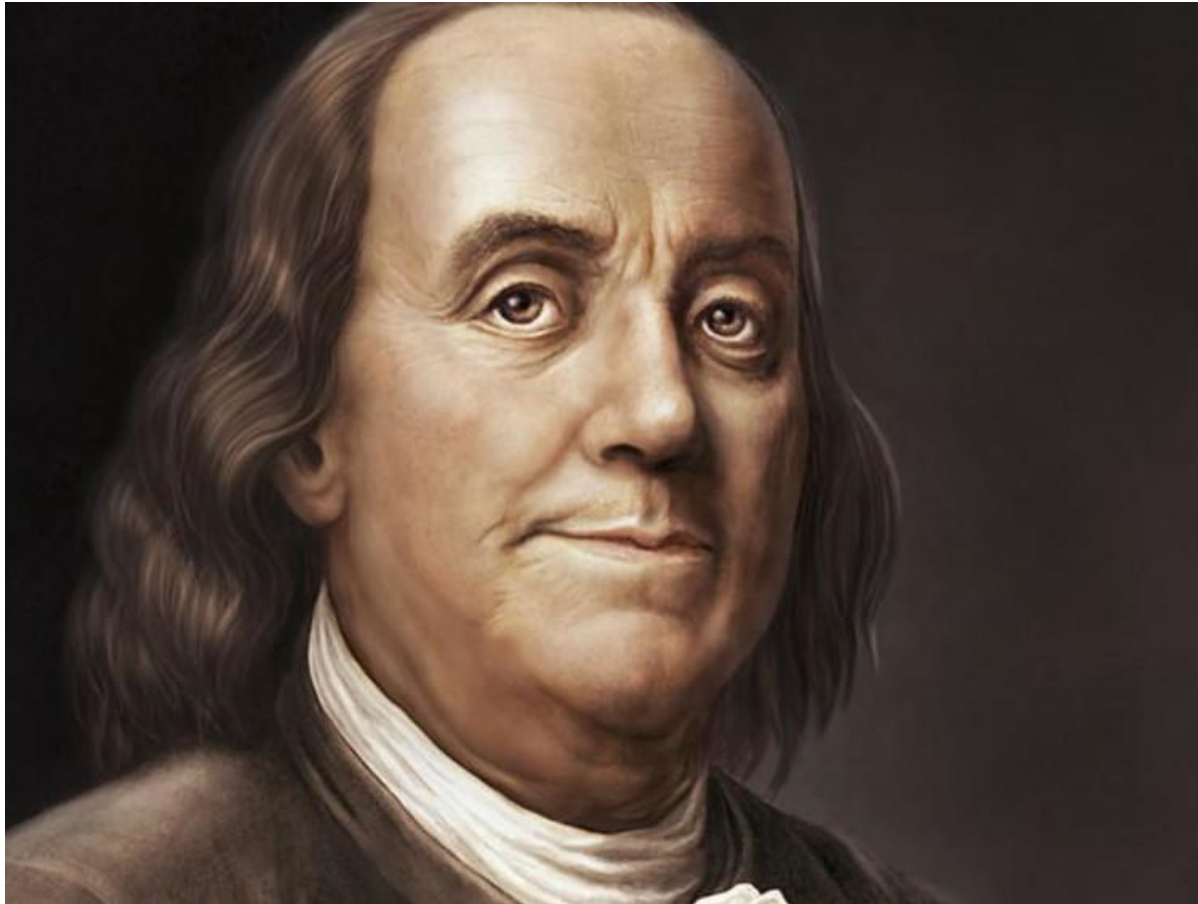
Tiruvalluvar (sometime between BC 200 and AD 600)

## Life events of Tiruvalluvar (speculative)

- Period- after Tholkappiyam (between first and 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC)- Valluvar uses Tholkappiam directly (நிறை மொழிமாந்தர்...)
- Period- before Siallpadhikaram (6<sup>th</sup> century AD) and Manimekalai; these epics quote TK directly (தெய்வம் தொழாள்...)

No unanimous agreement on any of the following-

- Son of Adhi and Bhagavan (kapilar Akaval)
  - Wife - Vasuki
  - Valluvan- announcer for the king (announce by beating the drum)
  - Job- Weaver
  - Religion- Jain
- Lived first in Madurai and then in Mayilai, Chennai. There is a Valluvar Temple in Mayilai.
- Contemporary of one of the three Auvaiyars
  - Sangap Palakai legend
  - Vasuki and Tiruvalluvar stories



Benjamin Franklin (Jan 17,1706- April 17, 1790)

**1706**

Sunday January 17: [Benjamin Franklin was born in the City of Boston](#). His parents were Josiah Franklin and Abiah Folger.

**1714-1715**

Attended South Grammar School ([Boston Latin](#)).

**1715-1716**

Attended George Brownell's English School.

**1717**

Franklin was briefly indentured as a cutler. As an avid swimmer Franklin invented swim fins for his hands.

**1718**

At age 12 started [apprenticeship as a printer](#) in his older brother, James, printing shop.

**1720**

Moved out of his home into a boarding house.

**1721**

Brother James started publishing [The New England Courant](#), the first American newspaper to use literary content and humorous essays.

**1722**

Franklin published his first letter in the Courant under the pen name of "[Silence Dogood](#)", a fictional widow of a country minister who has strong opinions.

[He became a vegetarian.](#)

**1723**

His brother James was charged with contempt against law authorities. Benjamin took over the printing business while James served time in jail.

Leaved Boston for New York where he failed to find employment. He proceeded to Philadelphia where he rented a room in John Read's house. Franklin eventually married his daughter [Deborah Read](#) in 1730.

[In Philadelphia he found work as a printer with Samuel Keimer.](#)

## 1724

Benjamin returned to Boston to open a printing shop but his father did not loan him the money.

Returned to Philadelphia and under the encouragement of Provincial Pennsylvania Governor William Keith [traveled to London](#) to buy printing equipment. His loan never materialized and was unable to travel back to America.

In London he was employed by printers Samuel Palmer and John Watts.

## 1725

Published his first pamphlet in London “A Dissertation on Liberty & Necessity, Pleasure and Pain”.

## 1726

Franklin returned to Philadelphia with a loan provided by Thomas Denham. To pay his debt he worked as a clerk, shopkeeper and bookkeeper in Denham’s imported goods store.

He returned to work for Samuel Keimer printing shop.

## 1727

Suffered his first pleurisy attack.

In Philadelphia Franklin founded the [Junto Club](#), a group of young men who met on Friday evenings to discuss intellectual, personal, business and community topics. The Junto Club lasted until 1765.

## 1728

Franklin and Hugh Meredith opened [their own printing shop](#) with a loan from Meredith’s father.

## 1729

Purchased the [Pennsylvania Gazette](#) from former employer Samuel Keimer. The Gazette became one of the most prominent publications in Colonial America.

## 1730

Elected the [official government printer for Pennsylvania](#).

Franklin bought Meredith's share in the printing shop and became the sole owner.

Joined in common-law marriage with [Deborah Read](#).

William Franklin is born out of wedlock to an unidentified mother.

## 1731

Franklin joined the Freemasons

Published "Apology for Printers" defending freedom of the press.

Entered a partnership with Thomas Whitmarsh in South Carolina. Franklin provided printing equipment in return for one third of the profits over six years, **creating the [first commercial franchise](#)**.

## 1732

Benjamin Franklin and Deborah Read have their first child, Francis Folger **Franklin. Published the first edition of [Poor Richard's Almanack](#) under the pseudonym "Richard Saunders". It became an instant best seller in the colonies.**

## 1734

Elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mason of Pennsylvania.

## 1735

Brother James died in Newport, Rhode Island.

## 1736

Franklin was appointed clerk of the [Pennsylvania Assembly](#).

His son, Francis Folger, died of smallpox at age 4.

**Helped organize the [Union Fire Company of Philadelphia](#) which trained and organized firemen.**

## 1737

**Appointed [Postmaster of Philadelphia](#), his service continued until 1753.**

## 1739

Started campaign to clean Philadelphia's docks, slaughter houses and tan yards.

**1740**

Became the [official printer for New Jersey](#).

**1741**

Advertised his first model of the [Pennsylvania fireplace](#) for sale, also known as the Franklin Stove. He declined on principle on taking a patent for the sole right to sell it.

**1743**

Benjamin Franklin and Deborah Read had a daughter, Sarah who they call "Sally".

**1745**

Benjamin's father, Josiah Franklin, died at age 87.

Started [electrical experiments](#) after receiving an electric tube from Peter Collision.

**1747**

Helped organize a [volunteer militia](#).

**1748**

Took David Hall as partner and [Franklin retired](#) from the daily operations of his printing business.

**1749**

Wrote and published pamphlet "Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania".

Helped organize the Academy of Philadelphia which later became the [University of Pennsylvania](#).

**1750**

Franklin had first gout attack.

**1751**

Franklin, along with Dr. Thomas Bond, founded [Pennsylvania Hospital](#), the nation's first hospital, to care for the "sick-poor and insane of Philadelphia".

**1752**

Abiah Folger, Franklin's mother dies in Boston at age 84.

Conducted [kite experiments](#) by flying a kite in a thunderstorm proving that lightning is electrical. He published how to conduct the experiment in the [Pennsylvania Gazette](#).

Designed a flexible catheter for his brother who suffered from bladder stone.



**1753**

Appointed joint [Deputy Postmaster General of the Colonies](#).

**1754**

To make a point about their own defense and colonial unity with the British against the French and Indians, Franklin printed his famous cartoon “Join, or Die” in the Pennsylvania Gazette. A decade later the cartoon would mean colonial unity against the British.

Attended the Albany Congress as representative of Pennsylvania proposing common defense for all colonies. The plan was rejected.

**1757**

Franklin was elected to go to England as a [colonial agent](#).

**1762**

Awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Law from Oxford University.

[Invented the glass armonica](#). Mozart and Beethoven later composed for it.

Mapped postal routes in the colonies.

**1764**

Franklin lost his seat in the [Pennsylvania Assembly](#).

Returned to London as colonial agent.

**1765**

[The Stamp Act](#) was passed by the House of Commons.

[Charted the Gulf Stream](#).

**1766**

At the expiry of his partnership with David Hall, Franklin sold his entire printing business to him.

**1767**

Daughter Sarah married Richard Bache, a Philadelphia merchant.

**1769**

The American Philosophical Society elected Franklin as its president. He was elected every year until his death.

**1771**

Began writing his autobiography.

**1773**

[Hutchinson Affair.](#)

**1774**

Deborah Read, his wife, died in Philadelphia.

**1775**

Elected as Pennsylvania delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

Elected as Postmaster General of the Colonies.

King George III declared the American colonies in rebellion.

**1776**

Franklin was appointed as part of the committee of 5 who drafted the [Declaration of Independence.](#)

Appointed to the French Court as one of the commissioners of the Continental Congress.

**1778**

Negotiated [Treaty of Alliance with France.](#) France declared war on Great Britain.

**1783**

[John Adams,](#) John Jay and Benjamin Franklin signed the [Treaty of Paris](#) which put an end to the war between the colonies and Great Britain.

**1784**

Franklin wrote the essay “An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light” proposing the innovative concept of Daylight Savings Time.

**1785**

Franklin described his invention of [bifocal glasses.](#)

Returned to the United States after 18 of years of service in Europe.

Elected [President of the Pennsylvania Executive Council.](#)

**1786**

Invented instrument for taking books down from a library shelf.

**1787**

Signed the [United States Constitution](#).

**1788**

Franklin wrote his will leaving most of his estate to his daughter Sarah.

**1789**

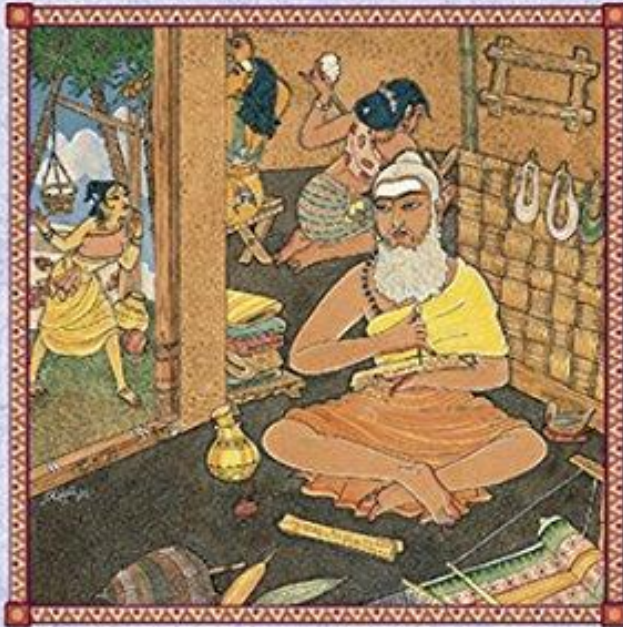
Elected president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery.  
Submitted the first antislavery petition before the U.S. Congress.

**1790**

April 17 – Franklin [died at age 84](#). He is buried in [Christ Church burial ground in Philadelphia](#).  
The cause of his death was pleurisy.

# Weaver's Wisdom

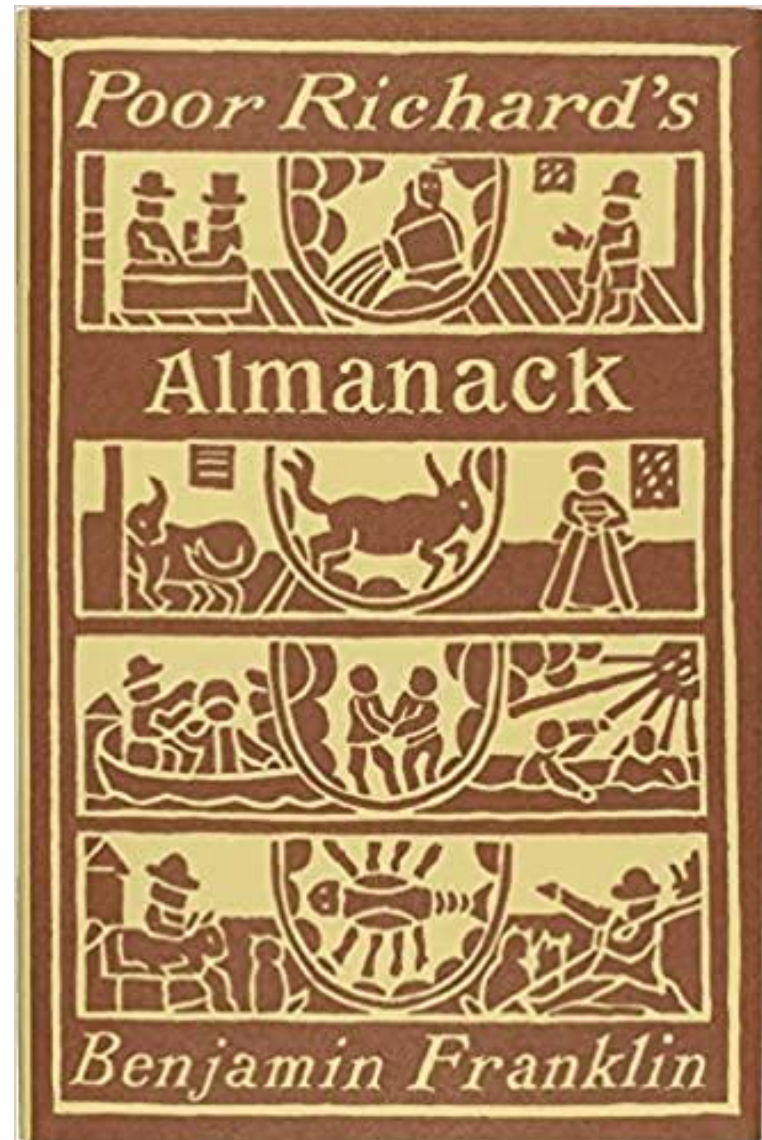
ANCIENT PRECEPTS FOR A PERFECT LIFE



A South Indian sage, Tiruvalluvar, tells us of friends and foes, family, God, business, law, spies, love, hate and all that's human in his classic masterpiece, the *Tirukural*

Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami

1<sup>st</sup> Edition: 2000



Almanack published annually from  
1732-1758

This book: 1980

நிலையில் திரியாது அடங்கியான் தோற்றம்  
மலையினும் மாணப் பெரிது  
(அதிகாரம்: **அடக்கமுடைமை** குறள் எண்:124)

More imposing than a mountain is the greatness of a man  
who, steadfast in domestic life, has mastered self-control.  
–Valluvar (as translated in Weaver’s Wisdom)

He that can compose himself, is wiser than  
He that composes books  
- Franklin (Poor Richard’s Almanack)

எப்பொருள் எத்தன்மைத்து ஆயினும் அப்பொருள்  
மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்பது அறிவு  
(அதிகாரம்:மெய்யுணர்தல் குறள் எண்:355)

In everything of every kind whatsoever, wisdom  
perceives Truth in that thing.

-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

What signifies knowing the Names, if you  
Know not the Nature of Things

-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

இடிக்கும் துணையாரை ஆள்வாரை யாரே  
கெடுக்கும் தகைமை யவர்  
(அதிகாரம்:பெரியாரைத் துணைக்கோடல் குறள் எண்:447)

Who can destroy the man who enjoys the friendship  
of aides who will not hesitate to admonish him?  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

No better relation than a prudent and  
Faithful friend  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)



மருந்தென வேண்டாவாம் யாக்கைக்கு அருந்தியது  
அற்றது போற்றி உணின்  
(அதிகாரம்:மருந்து குறள் எண்:942)

The body requires no medicine if you eat only  
after the food you have already eaten is digested  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

Eat few suppers and you'll need few medicines  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)



இடும்பைக்கு இடும்பை படுப்பர் இடும்பைக்கு  
இடும்பை படாஅ தவர்  
(அதிகாரம்:இடுக்கணழியாமை குறள் எண்:623)

Trouble itself they send away troubled who do  
not trouble themselves at the sight of it.  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

Those who have nothing to trouble them, will  
be troubled at nothing  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

நாள்ளன ஒன்றுபோல் காட்டி உயிர்ப்புரூம்  
வாளது உணர்வார்ப்பு பெறின்  
(அதிகாரம்:நிலையாமை குறள் எண்:334)

Though it seems a harmless gauge of time, to those who  
fathom it, a day is a saw steadily cutting down the tree of life  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

Tomorrow I'll reform, the fool does say  
Today itself, too late, the wise did yesterday  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

இல்லாரை எல்லாரும் எள்ளுவர் செல்வரை  
எல்லாரும் செய்வர் சிறப்பு  
(அதிகாரம்:பொருள்செயல்வகை குறள் எண்:752)

Those who have nothing have everyone's contempt, while  
the rich are exalted by one and all.

-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

A light purse is a heavy curse

-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

நத்தம்போல் கேடும் ஁ளதாகும் சாக்காடும்  
வித்தகர்க்கு அல்லால் அரிது  
(அதிகாரம்:புகழ் குறள் எண்:235)

Loss that is gain and death that is life of immortal glory are  
attained only by the wise.

-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

The things which hurt, instruct

-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

யாகாவார் ஆயினும் நாகாக்க காவாக்கால்  
சோகாப்பர் சொல்லிழுக்குப் பட்டு  
(அதிகாரம்: **அடக்கமுடைமை** குறள் எண்:127)

Whatever you may fail to guard, guard well your tongue, for  
flawed speech unfailingly invokes anguish and affliction.

-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

A slip of the foot you may soon recover

But a slip of the tongue you may never get over

-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

இன்னாசெய் தார்க்கும் இனியவே செய்யாக்கால்  
என்ன பயத்ததோ சால்பு.

(அதிகாரம்: சான்றாண்மை, குறள் எண்:987)

Of what gain is perfect goodness if it does not do good to all,  
even to those who have done painful things to others?

-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

Do good to thy friend to keep him, to thy

Enemy to gain him

-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

தன்னைத்தான் காக்கின் சினம்காக்க காவாக்கால்  
தன்னையே கொல்லும் சினம்  
(அதிகாரம்:வெகுளாமை குறள் எண்:305)

If a man be his own guard, let him guard himself against rage.  
Left unguarded, his own wrath will annihilate him.  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

Take the remark from Richard, poor and lame  
What'er begun in anger, ends in Shame  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)

நாச்செற்று விக்குள்மேல் வாராமுன் நல்வினை  
மேற்சென்று செய்யப் படும்  
(அதிகாரம்:நிலையாமை குறள் எண்:335)

Do good deeds with a sense of urgency,  
before death's approaching rattle strangles the tongue.  
-Valluvar (as translated in Weaver's Wisdom)

If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead  
and rotten, either write things worth reading, or  
Do things worth the writing  
-Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanack)



- Franklin and Valluvar are several centuries apart. However some of Franklin’s sayings look very similar to Valluvar. Franklin mentioned the sayings in Poor Richard’s Almanack were the “Wisdom of many Ages and Nations”. How did he know Valluvar’s thoughts? If it is not from Valluvar, was there a common source for both Valluvar and Franklin?

- The style of the original language (for Tirukural) is superior to the translation, though I consider Weaver’s Wisdom as the best American English translation.

- Franklin filtered the sayings from many sources and wrote it in his witty American English. It is fresh and snappy to this day.

- There are at least ten topics common to both men.

## Topics of common interest to Valluvar and Franklin

No	Topic in Tamil	Topic in English
1	நிலையாமை	Impermanence of All Things
2	அடக்கமுடைமை	Possession of Self-Control
3	சான்றாண்மை	Perfect Goodness
4	வெகுளாமை	Avoidance of Anger
5	இடுக்கணழியாமை	Being Undaunted by Troubles
6	பொருள் செயல் வகை	The Ways of Acquiring Wealth
7	மெய்யுணர்தல்	Knowledge of Truth
8	மருந்து	Medicine
9	பெரியாரைத் துணைக் கோடல்	Gaining Support from the Great
10	புகழ்	Glory