

Sixteen Songs by Theophilous Appavoo

Translated by Zoe Sherinian

1: He Will Shower Us With Blessings

Aasiya Alli Taruvaaru

Chorus Jesus O Lord! Will you come? Will you shower¹ us with blessings?
Will you keep everyone happy?² (*repeat*)

Sub-chorus Two thousand years have passed. Still he has not come, Sister!
Chorus: Still he has not come, Brother!
Iyo! O Lord! Is the Bible a lie? Will you surely³ come once again
(and again and again and again), to be reborn? (Jesus O Lord)

Verse 1 Even though Virgin Mary conceived Him, Joseph didn't abandon her.
He stood by her, found her a home, and supported her. Grandma Elizabeth
Chorus: scolded her! Scolded her?
Solo: No, she didn't scold her!
Chorus: Is that so!
She sang a song of praise. If we merely stand with people who are the
suffering⁴ and enslaved that is enough.

Chorus Jesus O Lord! He will come. He will shower us with blessings.
He will keep everyone happy.

Verse 2 As the angels gathered to proclaim the good news, a big crowd formed.
Now, among the pastors⁵ there are internal politics.
The people are divided into a thousand factions!
Our church! Your Church!
Is there unity in this diversity? It's disgusting,
this so-called "Ecumenism"!
We don't want a shelter made merely of words.⁶
If we harmonize our hearts and share food, (ore olai, ore olai)
together as one family, that will be enough.⁷
(Jesus will come)

¹ Literally means shovel, gather, garner, glean, or pour forth.

² Literally means will you keep everyone living happily?

³ Truly, for sure, promise.

⁴ The poetic image here is of a person withering or wilting.

⁵ The term for a Christian pastor was originally taken from the Tamil Brahmin priestly subcaste, Iyer or Aiyer.

⁶ Empty words or rhetoric.

⁷ Olai literally means stove. Appavoo uses this to denote his theological tenet of a collective "Eucharistic" lifestyle of sharing food and the labor necessary for its production. He advocates ore olai as a means to unify poor and Dalit communities to fight against their oppressions.

Verse 3

Worldly wisdom respects money, power, and caste.

The Magi who valued this worldly "wisdom"

brought danger to the baby.

The Lord is our parent. Hallowed be thy name. Hallowed be thy name.

We are the children.

Why do we have caste? If we forget this divisiveness and live in unity,
that is enough.

(Jesus will come)

2: The Birth of Christ and Politics

Kristhu Pirappum Arasiyalum

Chorus There is no chance that Christ the King could have been born amidst the racket of the political market place (in which everyone is clammering for power).⁸

Sub-chorus Thaamthakka Thakka Thakka Tharikida Thom Jal
Thaamthakka Thakka Thakka Tharikida Thom.

Verse 1 If the state ministers come,
 they will demand that the baby Jesus stand up (in respect).
If the police officers come,
 they will threaten Mary and Joseph (to leave that place).

Having the knowledge that Jesus is a good king,
when we come to worship his feet with gifts like the Magi had done,
the authorities would say, "you are not allowed to assemble."
Feeling threatened they would call in the army.
And if we disregard the order, they will shatter our knees with a cane.
(To chorus)

Verse 2 In order to exempt the industrial lords from taxes,
they will place an indirect tax on the child
 and confiscate his swaddling clothes.
If the poor eagerly come running upon hearing the song of the angels,
 they will stop them with the opium of caste.

Like King Herod, **they** will draw ⁹ the educated to their side.
Desiring money, the educated will put on a fancy costume¹⁰
 and go wherever they are told.
Concealing his murderous intentions,
Herod tried to lure the Magi to his side by talking very nicely.
Yet, he is so threatened by another king being born.
They were almost fooled until the Angels told them in a dream
to take an alternate route.
(To chorus and sub-chorus)

⁸ Like a stock exchange. Jesus' purpose was not to compete for power in the political market. Politicians abuse their power to drive away the oppressed from participation in society or even.

⁹ Literally means pull.

¹⁰ Also means disguise.

3: The Love of Christ

Kristhuvil Kadavulin Anbu

Chorus In Christ is the love of the divine, the fireworks laugh,
patriarchal conceit¹¹ burns,
and the arrogance¹² of the caste-devil is being destroyed.
The Bible speaks with the voice of the koil¹³ bird
and a weedless field is born.

Sub-chorus Thanthiththane thankthiththane thanthiththane.¹⁴
The Pot bellied one has deceived us, forcing the caste devil into our
hearts.

Verse 1 No matter how wise you are, thiththoom¹⁵
or how many languages you know, thiththoom
it would all sound like an empty tin can or a dud bomb
if there was no love.
Only love will prevail until the end, and Paul's words will triumph.
Chorus: In Christ is the love of the divine...

Sub-chorus Gingin jakka gigugin jakka gingin jakka.¹⁶ They are scared.
All the devils are simply terrified; they dread seeing this love. (*repeat*)

Verse 2 Glory only to God.
If what the angels say is true,¹⁷
The reign of love will blossom.
Biscottu.¹⁸
The reign of tyranny will fall.
According to the angels,
Peace will blossom; love will reign.
The vision in the Bible is the glory of peace kissing justice.
(Yes!) (*repeat*)
Sow the paddy of love, and it will flower abundantly as relationships.
(*Chorus*) (*repeat*)

¹¹ Literally means "fat," creating a metaphoric connection to the word "burns."

¹² The Tamil-English word for this is "pride" which carries a very negative meaning, not self-esteem.

¹³ Koil is a bird found in India that has a beautiful voice. The metaphor here is that the Bible sings sweetly.

¹⁴ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables.

¹⁵ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables.

¹⁶ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables.

¹⁷ Literally means "happens."

¹⁸ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables.

4: Change our hearts, Oh God

Man □ *asamauttuyappa* / *Man* □ *asamauttuyamma*

Chorus Show us the way to change our hearts, Oh Lord our Father.
The people must live in peace, Oh Lord our Mother.

Sub-chorus The demon gang has come like bedbugs and mosquitoes.
They have immigrated into the country and into the homes.
They are dancing and singing wildly causing fights.¹⁹
So, you must come as quickly as possible to resolve this fight.

Verse 1 The peace that Gabriel talked about, that Christmas song,
has vanished into the air. It still has not come to us.
Even the coffee stall tumbler has arrogance and wickedness.
That caste devil is the vicious one.
You should scold and drive it away.
(*To chorus*)

Verse 2 We think money is our god. It has become a barbarian.
We lay stones to divide the land into property.
It has become an evil devil
Can we eat money,
like rice cakes from old grandma's shop with lamb bone curry?
Oh! My dear Mother [God], not even knowing this we became fools!
Those devils created quarrels between us.
Oh child²⁰ Jesus, take the whip, come, come quickly to chase away these devils.
(*To chorus*)

Verse 3 Oh king of kings,
you ride on a donkey that carries loads on its back.
We have plowing bullocks; ride on them and come quickly.
The mad devil of power has come riding on a horse.
It teaches us new methods of fighting with bombs, planes, atom bombs,
War ships and it tells us to make all types of guns.
Because of these conspiring devils, peace is gone!
You take the brave cross to scare and drive away these evil things
Come, our king!
(*To Chorus*)

¹⁹ Literally means “noise problem.”

²⁰ Another meaning for the word child is protector.

5: The Lord is our Shepherd *Aandavan Enga Attidayan*

Section 1 Elaminnaa eleela ela elala elo, elala elo
Elaminnaa eleela ela elama elo, elama elo
Ela ela eleela ela elala elo, elala elo
Elaminnaa eleela ela elama elo, elama elo.²¹

Lord! You are the shepherd who supports us.
You find a fountain-like flowing river,
and gather us in the green pasture of arugam grasses²² to protect us.

Section 2 When we walk on the dark path, we have no fear because you are with us.
When there is no grass, you split branches with your staff.
When a tiger approaches, you drive it away with your rod.
You will help us find the right path, and grace²³ will follow like a dog
follows its master.

Section 3 Lord, you are our king and we lack nothing.
You welcome us by beating the drums, offering us betel nut, blowing
trumpets, and decorating the entry with banana stalks.

Section 4 You lay out a great feast for us,
then invite us to sit grandly in your royal court.
Giving us an equal share²⁴ creates envy²⁵ in our enemies, while bliss
overflows in our hearts.

Lord! Eleela ela²⁶ you are our shepherd Eleela ela²⁷ and king, king, king!

²¹ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables.

²² Best Indian grass for fodder.

²³ Literally, in Tamil, the phrase means “material benefit” and “overall blessings.”

²⁴ Pungu is a very important word in Tamil folk vocabulary. It can mean one’s opportunity or rights to participate in a community event especially in a festival. It can also mean those with whom you share or divide your inheritance (property).

²⁵ “Burns the stomach” in Tamil implies jealousy here.

²⁶ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables.

²⁷ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables.

6: King in the Cowshed? *Mattu Kottayile Rasa?*

Chorus A king? Born in a cattle shed?
They say He is the bud of kindness
 that sprouted from the root of Jessie.

Sub-chorus He has no sword, no spear, and he does not wear a bulletproof vest.
He has no club, no gun, no canon, nor bomb.
He has no blood shedding weapons. He is a new type of king.

Verse 1 The poor, innocent shepherds are the suitable subjects for king Jesus.
They are people who would not give gold, myrrh, or incense as gifts
when these cannot be used to satisfy hunger.
Foolish boys were the three “wise men”
 to think that the army would be victorious.
Their mistake has cost the lives of many male children.
The Magi, who deviated from the path shown by star,
 did not understand the wisdom of the wonderful king.
 (*Chorus*)

Verse 2 He who came riding on a donkey, our king. Our King!
He will wipe our tears, gently. Very Gently!
The rose who will call out to gather together the laboring people,
 our king!
He who came riding on a donkey, our king.
 Our King! Our King!
Our labor is our greatest weapon.
 It’s the key to taming the arrogance of the armies.
What would happen to their strength if we stopped producing food?
 What would happen?
Only a united family²⁸ of the divine parent can contain
 the arrogance of the labor-fleeing²⁹ group.
Come quickly (to join that family)!
 (*Chorus*)

²⁸ The word ore olai literally means “one pot.” This is the term Appavo uses to denote his theological tenet of a collective lifestyle of sharing food and the labor necessary for its production. He advocates ore olai as a means to unify poor and Dalit communities to fight against their oppression.

²⁹ Literally means “scrape.”

7: Good News

Nalla Sethi

Angels: We have come to proclaim the good news. Diyalangadi diyalo.³⁰
We are the mighty angels. Ayalankadi ayalo.³¹
The majority³² of those who wear the cassock³³ tell lies.
Thus, we have disrobed and come as innocent³⁴ gypsies.
We searched for Mary. Diyalandadi diyalo.

Gabriel: A sea of tears has hidden the Madonna. Ayalo.
Aararo aariraroo, Oh, women why are you weeping?

Women: It will take seven ages to tell our woes.
It is always hell here with yelling, beating, and kicking.
Even if we talk to our younger brothers, they will find fault.³⁵
Even when we laugh alone,³⁶ they scold us and call us bitches.
We are afraid, sir. We are afraid!
If we become pregnant (before marriage) like Mary did,
they will surely humiliate³⁷ us.
We don't want your blessing. Get out! Get out!

Angels: Don't be afraid, Amma.
Only through you can the suffering of Galilee end.
Halla Hallelujah.
The Holy Spirit will come! Only through you can all the people unite.
Halla Hallelujah!
Your patience, love, and compassion
will be the fighting sword in this struggle.
You will teach people about *ore olai*³⁸ and give birth to the people who
struggle.
Don't be afraid, Amma.
Only through you can the suffering of Galilee end.
Halla Hallelujah.

Gabriel: Where have the shepherds gone?

³⁰ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables used by the Tamil Gypsies.

³¹ Mnemonic rhythmic and melodic syllables used by the Tamil Gypsies.

³² Literally means "three quarters majority."

³³ Christian priests or ministers

³⁴ Synonyms include spotless or faultless.

³⁵ This is a reference to the restriction of young women from having social contact with the male sex.

³⁶ The implication here is a female enjoying her independence.

³⁷ Synonyms include: chastise

³⁸ The word *ore olai* literally means "one pot." This is the term Appavo uses to denote his theological tenet of a collective lifestyle of sharing food and the labor necessary for its production. He advocates *ore olai* as a means to unify poor and Dalit communities to fight against their oppression.

- Angels:* Dandananakad. Kill caste! Beat the drum in the traditional³⁹ way.
Dance as David did so that the foolish troublemakers may tremble.
- Dalit:* We come singing eethapattu.⁴⁰ Oh angels!
We won't go to Bethlehem
because we have been outcaste as Cherri⁴¹ dwellers. Oh angels,
we are afraid to disobey [the caste rules].
The caste devil is offered a big garland [of flowers].
But now, no glory [is given] to God.
That devil is making us dance to its tune⁴².
If our sufferings were measured now, it would fill ten million barrels.
Fear not! Fear not! Oh, Dalit people!
Only *you* have the war drum to drive your fear away.
If you play the urumai, udukai, parrai, pambai, thavil, thappu, tharai,
and thappattai drums ⁴³ with one heart,
Hallelujah will resound in Galilee.
Fear Not! Fear Not!
All people come together in Christ to bury the corpse of caste.
Holy to God in the Highest!
- Nature:* O Angel! Please wait! You have forgotten us.
O Angels who pronounce grace, O Valai O Valai⁴⁴
Why have you forgotten the creation? O Valai O Valai
The air, water, sea, and forests, O Valai O Valai
have been polluted. O Valai O Valai
Upon seeing this pollution, will you hurry away? O Valai O Valai
Graciously proclaim the good news (for us). O Valai O Valai
- Gabriel:* If the child born of Mother Mary comes to rule,
if the whole world becomes one family in *ore olai*
the power of money, caste fanaticism, women's oppression, and violence
will cease. All of creation will bear eternal life, eternal life, eternal life.
- Angels:* All of creation awaits, O Child Jesus.
We are going to Galilee in search of you.
We will walk in your path, O Child Jesus. (*repeat*)
Come, come with us to help bear any obstacles that may appear. (*repeat*)
Come with us, come with us...

³⁹ To beat in the "proper" way is also implied here.

⁴⁰ A folk genre associated with drawing water from a well.

⁴¹ Living place assigned to Dalits.

⁴² Literally means "jerking movements or unrestrained behavior."

⁴³ These are different types of folk drums.

⁴⁴ O Valai O Valai are mnemonic syllables used in fishermen's folk genres. Literally it means "O Net O Net."

8: What does the Bible say?

Yenna Solluthu Thirumarai

- Chorus* Elder and younger brother, son-in-law, elder and younger sister,
sister-in-law, daughter-in-law,
What does the Bible say? Why do you look so confused?
- Verse 1* Jesus is our leader.⁴⁵ Liberation is his name.
So says the Bible. If we understand⁴⁶ that, our worries will fly away.
(*To Chorus*)
- Verse 2* Grace means giving, says 2nd Corinthians, chapter 8.
Toiling for equality, this is in verses 13 and 15.
(*To Chorus*)
- Verse 3* Read John 3:5! We should become the children of one father.
We must be reborn. We must forget the caste of our previous birth.
(*To Chorus*)
- Verse 4* What does Leviticus 25:23 say?
It says that we have no land ownership rights
because the land belongs to the divine.
(*To Chorus*)
- Verse 5* Read the Acts of the Apostles 2:44.
We have to live together (as a family)
and cook common food in only one pot⁴⁷.
(*To Chorus*)

⁴⁵ Literally means “head man.”

⁴⁶ Literally means “listen to.”

⁴⁷ Olai literally means “stove.” Appavoo uses this to denote his theological tenet of a collective “Eucharistic” lifestyle of sharing food and the labor necessary for its production. He advocates ore olai as a means to unify poor and Dalit communities to fight against their oppressions.

9: Come Quickly, Oh Lord! *Seekiram Vaanga Saami*

Thanthanathom⁴⁸, fraudulent! You, the creator are the owner.
The pot-bellied fellows declare *they* own it.
Come and pass judgment on this lawsuit⁴⁹.

Chorus Dandanakku Danakku Dandanakku.⁵⁰
We have beaten the Parai drum.⁵¹
Come quickly Divinity!
You should punish those sinners
who say that your creation is their own property.
From the Himalayan Mountain, oleeho⁵²
to the Cape Camorin Sea, Isaaho⁵³
Your creation suffers.
Some how Jesus Lord, come and save it.

Verse 1 Because there was no room in the inn,
someone cleaned the cow shed for the Virgin Mary. (*repeat*)
“These huts are disgusting! Run away!” says the scoundrel.
Laughing, he destroys and confiscates them.
(*To chorus*)

Verse 2 Thinking that the divine one has fallen asleep,
lulled by the fresh air of the inn,
whiffs of pig odor pollute the air. (*repeat*)
They then sell the “clean air,” forgetting that you have created it.
Take the whip and fly here quickly!
(*To chorus*)

Verse 3 The shepherds kept their flock in a field
The angels danced the oyilu⁵⁴ shouting, “The King has come!” (*repeat*)
Now, many Dalits have no field to call their own.
Please tell us which angel you are going to send
to fight against this injustice?
(*To chorus*)

⁴⁸ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables.

⁴⁹ Also means “dispute.”

⁵⁰ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables.

⁵¹ The drum of the Dalits or outcastes in Tamil Nadu.

⁵² Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables associated with fisherman’s songs.

⁵³ Mnemonic, rhythmic, melodic syllables associated with fisherman’s songs.

⁵⁴ A Tamil folk line-dance.

10: Reborn as Brothers and Sisters

Odampiravi Aagiduvoom

Chorus Those who have been reborn are children of the Divine.
We will be conceived in a single womb. This is good.

Sub-chorus If we all become brothers and sisters, Yeah! We will lack nothing.
Cooperation and joy will flourish among us.
(To chorus)

Verse 1 Unity gives joy. Truly, truly this is so!
It is the precious anointing oil, oil of the Lord.
If we are unified, the oil will give us goodness.
All will equally receive the flood of grace.
(To chorus)

Verse 2 This unity will be a means to abundance like the dew of Hermon.
It will be an ever-flowing mountain waterfall.
We always have the Lord's blessings. Do not worry.
Together, let us raise our voices and shout Hallelujah.
(To chorus and sub-chorus)

11: You Are Our Fortress

Aandavane Nee Kottai

Chorus Lord, you are our fortress, a stone fortress.
But to the wicked you are a whip, a thorny whip.

Sub Chorus Take revenge, Oh Lord (Saami),⁵⁵
on those who shed the blood of the poor.
Shine your light on them.
He who has destroyed your freedom, Saami,
tear his heart and plant your cross.

Verse 1 He has exploited the poor and little by little has cut their thaali.⁵⁶
How can you let the sinners go?
He punches the widow in her mouth
and kicks the head of the fatherless child.
He has sold justice and righteousness and amassed it as wealth.
This is harmful to the people.
(Take Revenge!)

Verse 2 You who think you can cover the eyes of the Lord⁵⁷
by throwing offerings in the box, beware.
The Lord of the Hosts has eyes of wisdom not eyes of flesh,
and he will not be silent.
He will listen to the cry of the poor; get angry with you,
and destroy your glamour.
(Take Revenge!) (*sub chorus first half and chorus*)

Verse 3 Will the divinity simply let the rulers do more and more evil
through the law?
He thrashes the heart of those who demand justice
and brands those who walk righteously as terrorists.
His cart does not run with a wheel pin,
but by instigating castism and communalism.

Final Chorus Take revenge, Oh Lord (Saami) on you thugs and fools
who run away from the path of love.
(*Chorus*)

⁵⁵ Bigendered term for deity in Tamil village religions.

⁵⁶ Cutting thaali means "killing or slowly torturing."

⁵⁷ The implication here is the attempt to bribe God with offerings.

12: The Crib in the Cowshed is Ready *Mattukottayil Ready*

- Child:* The crib in the cowshed is ready, but
Mary and Joseph have not come. Why are they late?
What has delayed⁵⁸ them along the way?
Tell me quickly elder brother Donkey.
- Donkey:* They have destroyed the forest to make paper, so it has not rained.
There is not even dried grass. Famine! There is no drinking water.
And because I am sick from insecticides, I have no strength.
I cannot even stand. I do not have enough strength to carry Mary here.
So forgive me. Now, we won't have Christmas.
- Child:* The crib in the cowshed is ready, but
The shepherds have not come. Why are they late?
What has delayed them along the way?
Tell me quickly sister-in-law Sheep.
- Sheep:* Air pollution has covered the sky,
so the shepherds cannot see the Angels.
Noise from the factories, the howl of the super jets,
and commotion in the cities Have all suppressed⁵⁹ the song of the Angels.
The shepherds have slept; they cannot hear the song.
So now, we won't have Christmas.
- Child:* The crib in the cowshed is ready, but The wise men have not come.
Why are they late? What has delayed them along the way?
Tell me quickly Camel brother.
- Camel:* On the way, there is a power plant that has been damaged.
It is dangerous. But the wise men (*rep: scientist*)
are obsessed with the palace.⁶⁰
They have changed parties;⁶¹ they place their faith in Herod.
simply to kill babies, they build missiles.
Because of these sinners, now we won't have Christmas.
- Chorus:* The crib in the Cowshed is ready.
Christ the King will come.
The day is near. The reign of the sinners will end.
Liberation has come to all creation. Christmas has come!
Christmas has come!

⁵⁸ Literally means "what has the barrier been on their path?"

⁵⁹ Literally means "hidden, blocked or concealed the song."

⁶⁰ A metaphor for wealth and its **accompanying** power.

⁶¹ Also means "political party, team, camp or point of view."

13: Proclaiming the Wisdom

Nanathai Solluren

Chorus All people, lend me your ears and listen a bit.
Listen! I reveal the Divine wisdom to you.

I reveal⁶² the Divine wisdom! I reveal the Divine wisdom!
I reveal the Divine wisdom of the Lord of Heaven.

Verse 1 He becomes proud from believing in money.
Like a corpse he forgets his relationships.
He forgets to think of the poor. What would he do if he died?
The wise will die; he is also sure to die.
Please tell me, what is the benefit of uselessly accumulating property!
(I reveal)

Verse 2 He values multi-story houses; he believes in palaces.
He claims that the dry lands and wetlands are his property, he plants
stones, and writes his name.
What will this sinner do when death comes and stands before him?
He stands like a flock of sheep that is to be slaughtered.
(I reveal)

Verse 3 How many times do I have to shout at you?
If you die, will your property come with you?
Death is not like sleep. It is impossible to be resurrected.
So stand up, go to your poor, hungry brothers and sisters and redeem⁶³
them.
The day is coming when equality will be resurrected with justice.
(I reveal)

⁶² Literally means “I speak.”

⁶³ Also means “to free” or “liberate.”

14: Oh little girl

ammauḍi kuṭṭei poṇṇeu

Chorus Oh little girl you are always crying.
Get up! Rise up! You are the freedom giving *sindhu* song.
Tell who beat you up. Kill that arrogance.
You have to become like Mother Mary (bold enough to be a virgin)
That male dominance devil, that demon,
threaten and drive it away, oh mother.

Verse 1 The words which Gabriel spoke, there is no one here to repeat.
The people who are teaching the bible
are shamelessly getting dowry these days.
The Elizabeths of our city are burning like witches in kerosene oil.
When they come forward to welcome liberty the stoves will explode.
(Oh little girl)

Verse 2 As salvation came from Mary's belly
You have the inspiration of Virgin mother Mary.
Don't worry, salvation will come from your lap.⁶⁴
The powerful peoples' position will be destroyed.
Trembling they will go under (fall).
The powers that will spoil you in your youth
will become powerless, my girl.

⁶⁴ The implication is that the baby in your lap with help his/her people like Jesus.

15: Oh Mother and Father *Tayi Tagappanare*

Chorus Oh Mother and Father,⁶⁵ parent who created everything,
Jesus Sami, We will worship you singing songs in sen (*pure*).
We have no money, we have not brought candles
unity, unity we offer to you.

Verse 1 You make us your flock of sheep,
but they cut us up and make biriyani. (*rice and lamb dish*)
They fry us like a side dish and recklessly eat us.
Oh father, you are the only true shepherd.

You offer only good things and won't let shame come to us.
You lead us near clean water and give us healthy grasses to eat (*Psalm 23*).
If bad tigers and wolves come you will attempt to save us
and lead us on the right path.
(*To chorus*)

Verse 2 We have forgotten justice and honesty.
We say⁶⁶ that selfishness is Justice.
In the name of caste and religion
We fight and separate into pieces.

In January we have sweet pongal,
But father you are the life Pongal over flowing.⁶⁷
If we are true to that,
we will find the path to life.

A mistake in tala will spoil the songs.
A disagreement will spoil our unity.
Salt crystals create thirst.
Your fellowship (relationship) will build our unity.
(*To chorus*)

⁶⁵A bi-gendered understanding of the qualities of God is common among Indian Liberation theologians as a result of Feminist theology. However it's use goes back in Tamil Christian hymnody to H.A. Krishna Pillai's 19th Century use of the Shaivait reference to God 'Amme Appane,' (mother father).

⁶⁶ Or believe.

⁶⁷This is a Tamilization of the Eucharist. Pongal is a Tamil harvest festival at which a pot of rice cereal is boiled (over) for wealth and then shared amongst family and friends. The Tamil words here represent the mnemonic rhyming device called *moṃnai*.

16: Elder Brother Gabriel

Annatha Annatha

Chorus O Brother, Brother, Brother.
 Angel Gabriel! Our elder brother.
 The gospel news you sang to us on that day still has not happened.

Verse 1 As you foretold, God is not glorified in our church.
 Instead, the glamorous style of movie stars and politicians
 is stored in the church.
 The sin of seeking one's own glory has lead to⁶⁸
 the worship of fostering⁶⁹ violence.
 (*To Chorus*)

Verse 2 We search for peace on earth every single day.
 But, whether Punjab, Sri Lanka, Paramakudi, Andhra, or
 the wetlands of Tanjore, wherever we look there is war and violence.
 The missiles and bomber planes fly overhead.
 The poor worry; they have no peace of mind.
 Virgin Mary gave birth to a single lion, our precious gold.
 But the pigs, who are fostering violence, are a litter.⁷⁰
 (*To Chorus*)

Verse 3 Love came to humankind. It blossomed in a cowshed on Mary's lap.
 But some humans have drunk the poison of violence, becoming Dracula.
 They have in turn, threatened others, put them in a jail of fear,
 and made them into animals.
 Now there are only one or two that remain human.
 They are the only ones who wear the golden silk dress of love.
 (*To Chorus*)

⁶⁸ Literally means "put incense to or to worship."

⁶⁹ Literally means "growing or raising violence."

⁷⁰ Literally means "many."