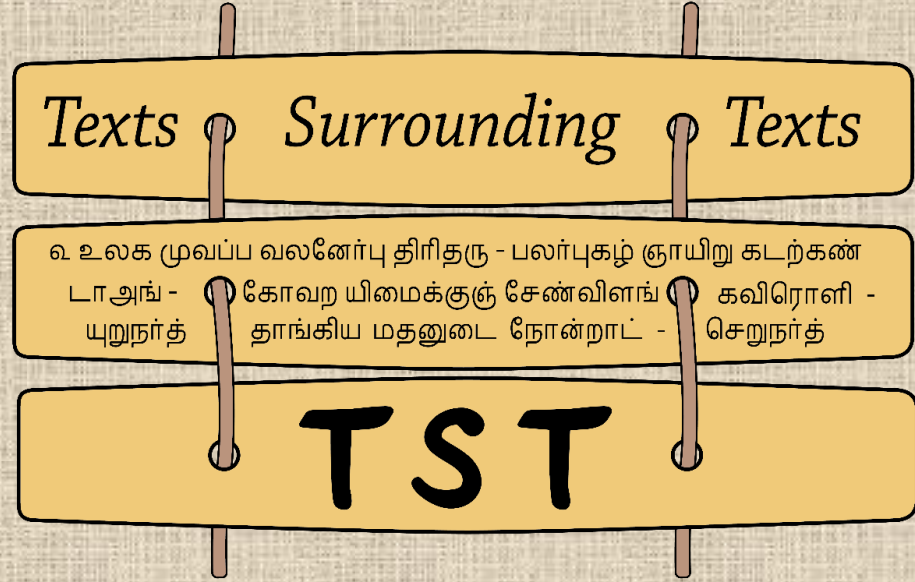


# Blessings in Tamil Manuscripts



E. Francis (CNRS)  
TST Hamburg Workshop  
June 24-25, 2022

*All photos of BnF manuscripts by courtesy of BnF*

# Definitions

Blessing = prose, formulaic.

Invocation = verse (satellite stanza or invocation proper; *kāppu, kaṭavu! vālttu*).

Function = auspiciousness, reverence, credo.

Opposite = curse (rarely found).

Copyist paratext (except auctorial invocation).

# Harvesting the Blessings Paratext boxes of the TST editor

Codicological unit(s) Choose... Textual unit Choose...

Type Choose... Placement Choose...

Marginalia

- blessing (formulaic)
- date
- dedication
- ex-libris
- invocation (metrical)

# Harvesting the Blessings

## Text Transcription of the TST editor

### *Text transcription*



The screenshot shows a software interface for text transcription. At the top right, there are three icons: an upward arrow, a downward arrow, and a close button (X). Below these, the label "Codicological unit(s)" is followed by a dropdown menu with the text "Choose...". To the right, the label "Textual unit" is followed by a dropdown menu with a downward arrow. The main area of the interface is a text editor containing the following XML code snippet:

```
<seg function="blessing">hari Ōm</seg>
```





# Display on online TST Catalogue

<https://tst-project.github.io/paratexts/blessings.html>

Manuscripts

Tools

Paratexts

Xylothèque

Blessings	Shelfmark	Repository	Title	Unit	Page/folio	Placement
mariyē reṭciyu=M	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 12v</u>	left margin
└mariya-nāyaki kirupā-kiṭāṣcam uṇṭākak kaṭavatu	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 16r</u>	left margin
mariya-cakāyam	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 20v</u>	left margin
mariyē vālka	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 24r</u>	left margin
mariyē reṭciyu=M	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 24r</u>	left margin
└tēva Āṇṭavaḷ tuṇai y-uṇṭāka-k kaṭavatu	<u>Bernolle 1</u>	private	Ñāṇanaṭcēttiramālai	U2	<u>folio 222r</u>	left margin
(śrī)	<u>Borg.ind.64</u>	Vatican	Bhāgavatapurāṇa		<u>first folio,</u> <u>recto</u>	beginning, mar- ginal, left

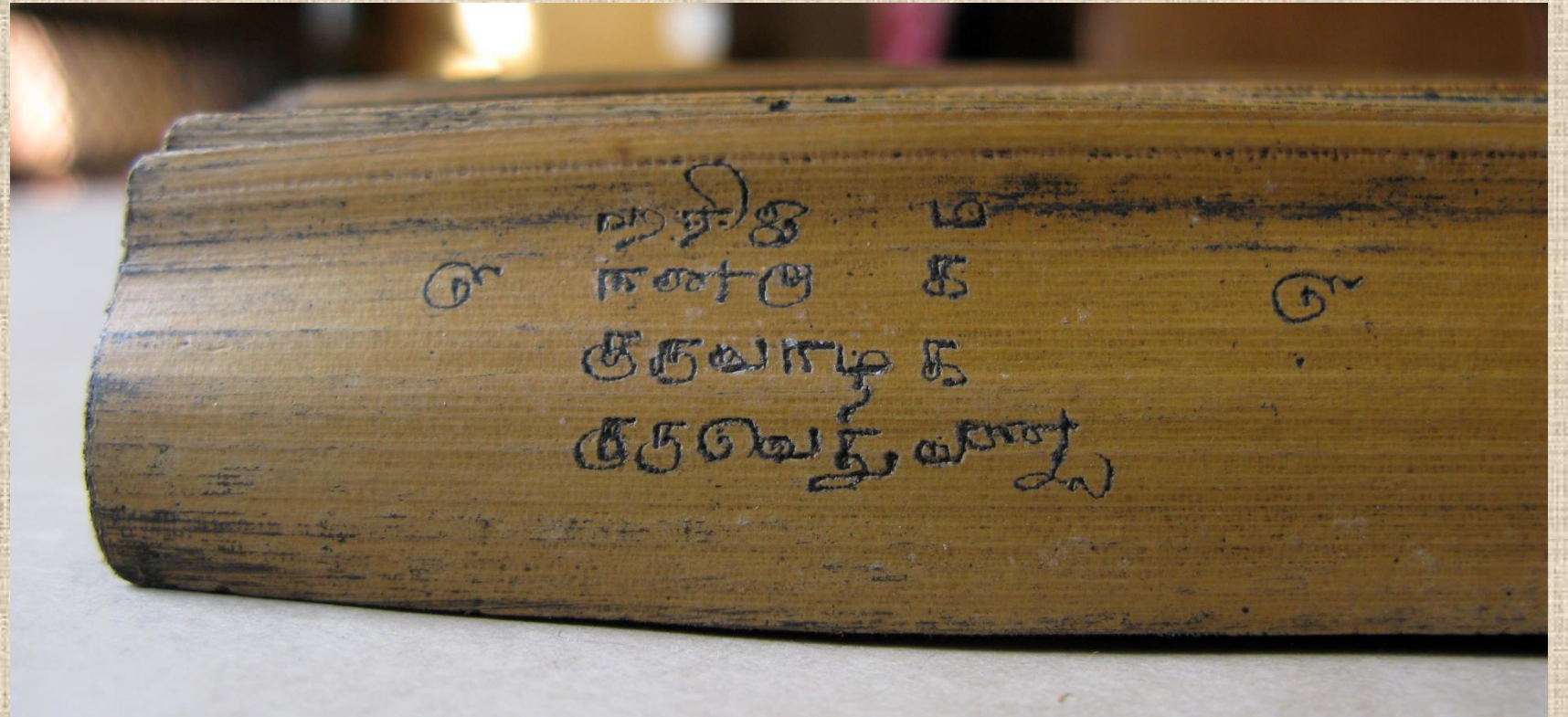
# Ubiquitous Header

*hari Ōm*

*naṅrāka*

*kuru vālka*

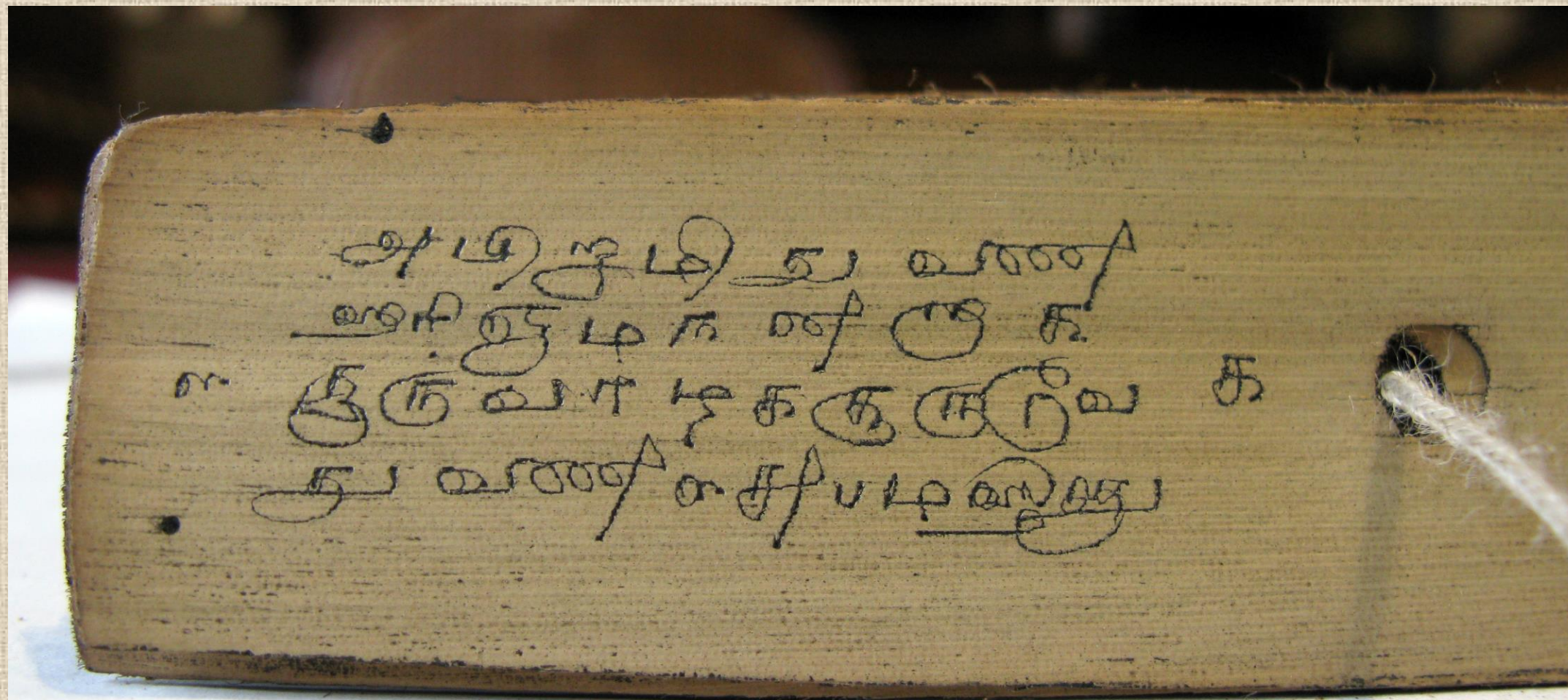
*kuruvē tuṅai*



BnF Indien 438a, U1, f[1]r, 1m



# Header Variation (BnF Indien 8, U3, f[1]r, 1m)



அடிமுடி வ வரண  
வரணமுடி ந ரு க  
கருவா ழககருவ க  
வ வரண அஃபுடிமுடி



# Auspiciousness

- *naṅrāka*, “Let goodness be”
- *X-kaṭākṣam*, “The grace of X”
- *X-kirupai*, “The grace of X”
- *X-cakāyam*, “The support of X”

# Credo / Reverence

- *hari ōm*
- *tiruccir\_rampalam / śrīreṅkam* (BnF Indien 551d)
- *civamayam*, “The essence of Śiva”
- *śrīrāmajeyam*, “Victory to/of the glorious Rāma”
- *X caraṇam*, “X is the refuge”
- *X keti*, “X is the way/the refuge”
- *kuru vālka*, “Long live the preceptor/master”
- *kuruvē tuṇai*, “The preceptor/master is the support/refuge”
- *X tuṇai*, “X is the support/refuge”

*X tuṇai*, “X is the support/refuge”

445 out of 1929 = ~ 23% of the blessings

- *X tuṇai*
- *X tuṇaiyāka vēṇṭiyatu*
- *X tuṇai yuṇṭākavum*
- *X tuṇai yuṇṭāka takavum*
- *X tuṇai yuṇṭākak kaṭavatu*
- *X tuṇai yākavum*



# “The master is the support/refuge”

- *kuruvē tuṇai*
- *caṛkuru tuṇai / caṛkuru pātan tuṇai*
- *kurupātan tuṇai / kurupātam tuṇai / kurupātamē tuṇai*
- *civakuruvē tuṇai*
- Named *kurus*: *ñāṇatēcikaṇ tuṇai / caṅkaratēcikaṇ patamē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 318)
- *mātāpitākuruteyvan tuṇai* (BnF Indien 340)
  
- *kaṭavuḷ tuṇai*
- *āti tuṇai / aṇāti tuṇai*

# Hindu X *tuṇai* formulae: Gods

- *viṇāyakaṇ / viṇāyakar / kaṇapati tuṇai*
- *ārumukan / ārumukam / murukaṇ / murukar tuṇai*
- *civa/civaṇ / civacuppiramaṇiyar / civakāmi / civakaṇapati tuṇai*
- A *liṅga* (that is, Śiva): *tattuvaliṅkan tuṇai*

# Hindu *X tuṇai* formulae: the Goddess

- *aṇantavaḷḷiyē tuṇai*
- *varākiyammanuṭaiya pātamē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 5a)
- *aṇṇaṇāyaki tuṇai* (BnF Indien 64)
- *cāratāmpāḷ tuṇai* (BnF Indien 953)
- *periyaṇāyaki tuṇai* (BnF Indien 963)



# Hindu *X tuṇai* formulae: specific forms of gods

- *tirukkāḷatti liṅkan tuṇai*
- *cokkaliṅkam tuṇai* (Śiva in Maturai)
- *tiruppātirippuliyūr civakkoḷuntīcurar tuṇai* (BnF Indien 30b)
- *tiruccentūr murukar pātāravintamē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 375)
- *tirukkāvalūr nāyaki tuṇai* (BnF Indien 227)
- *cōmacuntaramūr̥ti tuṇai* (Bnf Indien 317)
- *cōmacuntarēsparar tuṇai yuṇṭākavum* (BnF Indien 531)
- *caravaṇapava-caṇmuka-kumāracuvāmi tuṇai, ver̥rivēlāyutak kaṭavuḷē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 329)

# Hindu *X tuṇai* formulae: specific forms of gods

- *nārāyaṇacuvāmi tuṇai yuṇṭākavum, śrīraṅkaṇāyakar tuṇai yuṇṭāka vēṇṭiyatu* (BnF Indien 329 366)
- *tampikki ellānammaiYuM uṇṭāvat' ākavuM* (BnF Indien 380)
- *nilāyataṣci nilāyataṣci amaṇaṇ tuṇai* (BnF Indien 420)
- *nilātāṭciyammaṇ tuṇai* (BnF Indien 308)

# Hindu *X tuṇai* formulae: Varia

- *verrivēl urra tuṇai* (ubiquitous on Ariel's scribe title page; but found also elsewhere)
- *vēlumayilum tuṇai*
- *tiruccirrampalam tuṇai*
- *civacitamparam tuṇai uṇṭu* (BnF Indien 76)
- *aḷakiya tiruccirrampalan {tuṇai}* (BnF Indien 990a), *civacitamparam caccivanantam {tuṇai}* (BnF Indien 991)
- *aruṇācalam tuṇai, aruṇakiri tuṇai* (BnF Indien 88)



# Hindu *X tuṇai* formula: varia

- *aṇṇāmalaiyar tuṇai yākavuM*
- *uṇṇāmalaiyā! [sic!] tuṇai / uṇṇāmulaittāyē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 308)
- *civacupparāyar {tuṇai}* (BnF Indien 991)
- *teṣṣaṇāmūrṭtipātāravintamē tuṇai eppōtum uṇṭākavuM* (BnF Indien 101)
- *ampalattāṭumaiyyar tuṇai*
- *kuvanūr poyyāta meyyāṇ tuṇai yuṇṭākavuM* (BnF Indien 512)

*vēyurutōḷipaṅkaṅ tuṅai*

He who has the one with bamboo shoulders as his share

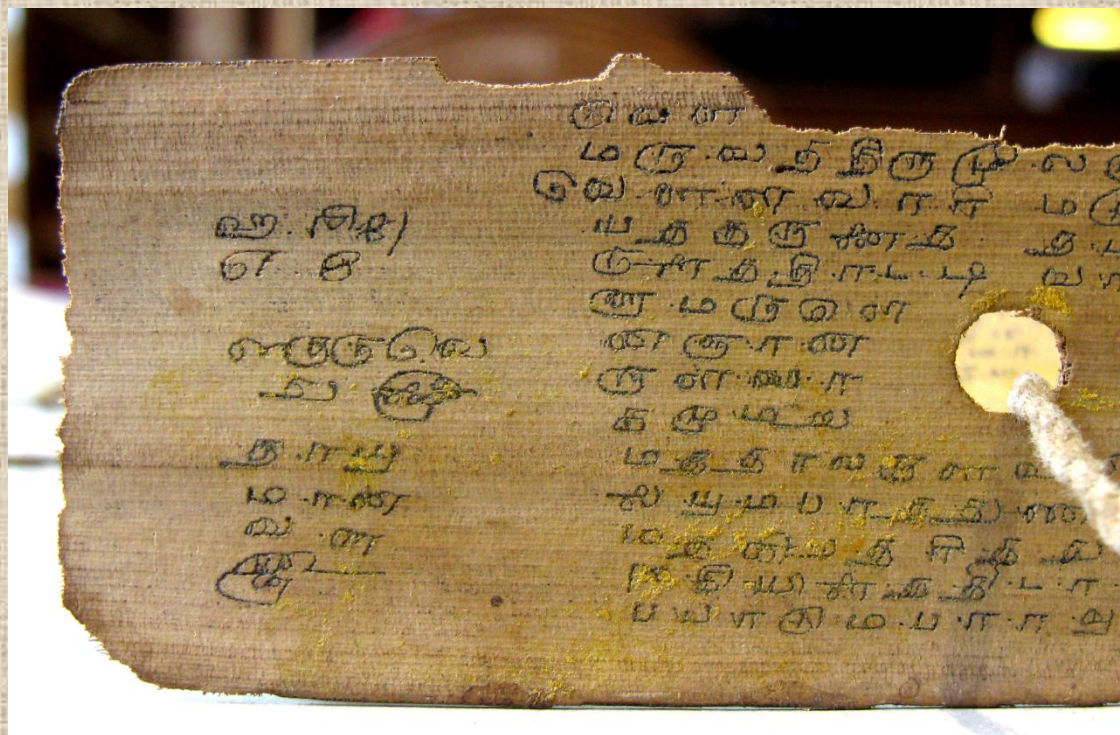
Cf. incipit of *Tēvāram* 2.85

8 occurrences (Ariel MSS, by the same copyist/hand):

- 3 in BnF Indien 105 = Collection (6 works by Akattiyar)
- 2 in BnF Indien 129b = Kaṭai Kāṅṭam Cūttiram
- 1 in BnF Indien 30a = Kantarantāti-y-urai
- 1 in BnF Indien 336 = Kantapurāṅacurukkam
- 1 in BnF Indien 98b = Caranūl

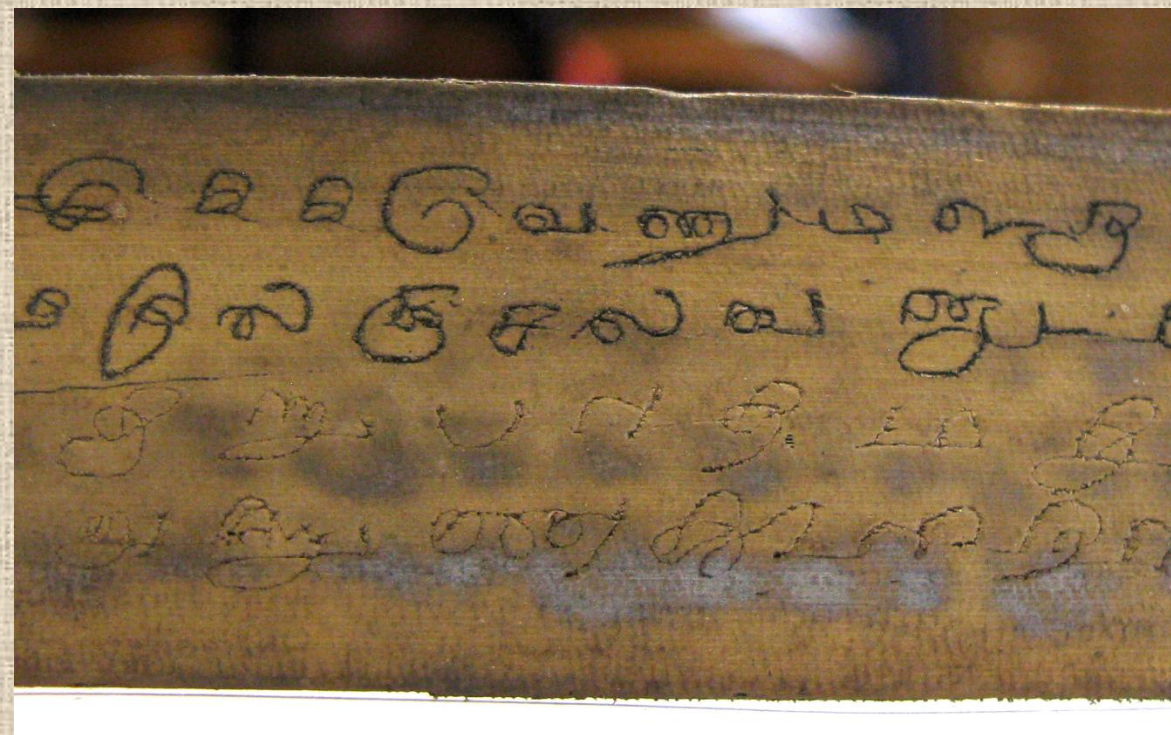


[author of work] *tuṇai*



*tāyumāṇavan* {*tuṇai*}

(BnF Indien 991 = Tāyumāṇavar Pāṭal, U2, f[1]r, 1m)



*a(ru)ṇakirināta-tuṇai uṇṭākavēṇum*

(BnF Indien 399 = Kucalavanāṭakam, U2b, f134v5)



# Christian *X tuṅai* formulae

- Christian holy family

*yēcu tuṅaiyāka vēṅtiyatu* (BnF Indien 434b)

*yicēcu mariyē cūcē tuṅai* (BnF Indien 434a)

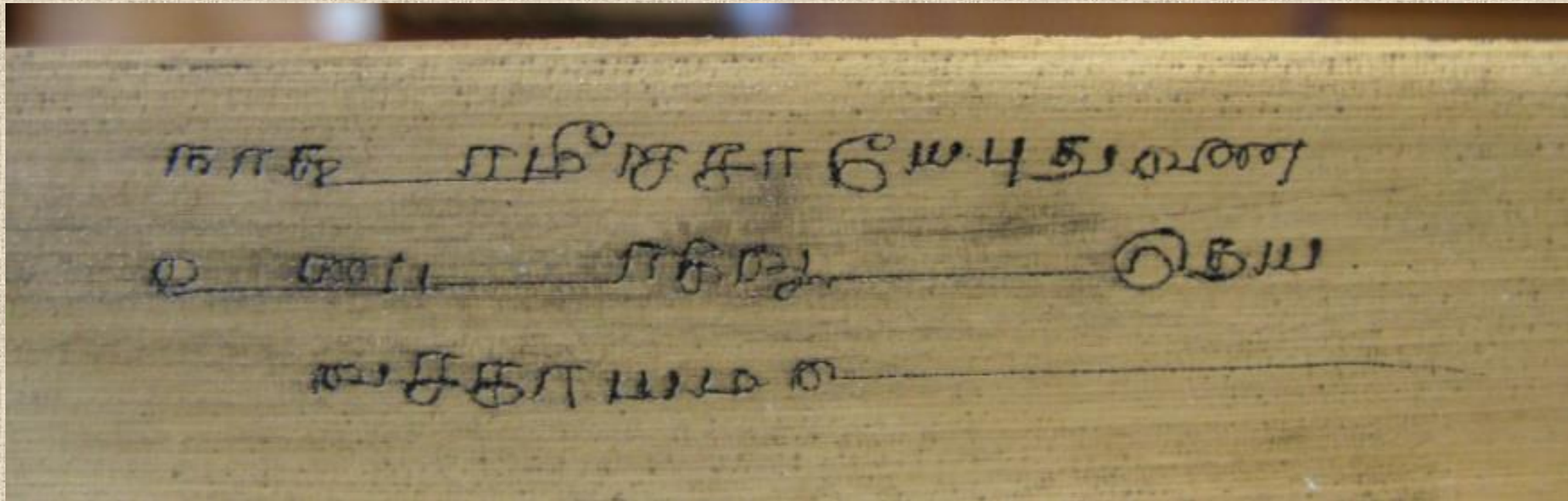
*yēcu mariyē tuṅai* {latin cross} (BnF Indien 458)

*cēcu mariyē cūcai tuṅai*

*cēcu mariyē cūcē reṅciyum*

- *tēvamātā tuṅai* (BnF Indien 434a, BnF Indien 434b)
- *antoṅiyār tuṅaiyāka vēṅtiyatu*

# Muslim X *tuṇai* formula



*nākūr mīrācāyepu tuṇai uṇṭākavum*

(BnF Indien 548, U2, f60r, c2) = Shahul Hameed Nagoori (16<sup>th</sup> c.)

*X keti*, “X is the way/refuge/final deliverance”

- *kumāracuvāmi patāravintamē keti* (BnF Indien 329)
- *aruṇācalēcupara-pātāravintamē keti* (BnF Indien 504)
- *civāṇanta-kuru-pātamē keti yuṇṭāka tākavuM* (BnF Indien 62)



*X caraṇam*, “[The feet of] X is the refuge”

*caraṇam* usually preceded by *tiruvaṭikaḷē*

Vaiṣṇava mostly

- *ālvār tiruvaṭikaḷē caraṇam*
- *jīyyar tiruvaṭikaḷē caṛaṇaM*
- *tirumaṅkaiyālvār tiruvaṭikaḷē caṛaṇam*
- *emperumāṅār tiruvaṭikaḷē caraṇam*
- *appaṇ tiruvaṭikaḷē caṛaṇam*

*X caraṇam*, “[The feet of] X is the refuge”

But also Śaiva

- *civaṇāṇatēcikaṇ tiruvaṭi caraṇam* (BnF Indien 506)
- *civāṇantacarḱuruṇātaṇ tiruvaṭikaḷiḷē caraṇam* (BnF Indien 509a)
- *civañāṇatēvaṇ tiruvaṭikaḷē caraṇam* (BnF Indien 59)
- *ñāṇaliṅkacuvāmiyār tiruvaṭikaḷē caraṇaM* (BnF Indien 59)
- *evvuyirattum potuvāṇ kaṭavuḷ pātamē caraṇam* (BnF Indien 955)

*X-kir<sub>u</sub>pai* , “The grace of X / X is grace”

*kir<sub>u</sub>pai* more frequent than *kirupai*.

- *kuru-kir<sub>u</sub>pai* (BnF Indien 994)
- *civakir<sub>u</sub>pai unṭāka tākavum* (BnF Indien 244)
- *śrīkokilāmpāḷ kir<sub>u</sub>pai* (BnF Indien 337)
- *śrīmakāleṣcumi kir<sub>u</sub>pai unṭu* (BnF Indien 76)
- *śrīmaṇ-ṇārāyaṇar kir<sub>u</sub>pai yunṭāka vēṇum* (BnF Indien 951)
- *cuppiramaṇiyar kir<sub>u</sub>pai yunṭāka vēṇum* (BnF Indien 310)



# *X-cakāyam*, “The help of X”

Tēvi mostly.

But also Mary, Kṛṣṇa, Kaṇapati.

- *kaṇakacapāpati-cakāyam* (BnF Indien 531)
- *devi-sahāyam* (BnF Indien 308)
- *kiṣṇa-cakāyam* (BnF Indien 567)

# *X-kaṭāṭcam, X-kiṭāṣcam, etc., “The grace of X”*

- *kuru*
- *civa / civakuru*
- *lakṣmī*
  
- *kurukaṭāṣcam uṇṭāka tākavuM* (BnF Indien 33c)
- *civakitāṣcam vuṇṭākavuM* (BnF Indien 342)
- *civakiṭāṣcam vuṇṭāka vēṇṭiyatu* (BnF Indien 366)
- *civacuppiramaṇiya-kaṭāṣcam* (BnF Indien 60)
- *cīvakuruṇātaruṭaiya kaṭāṣṣam* (BnF Indien 95)

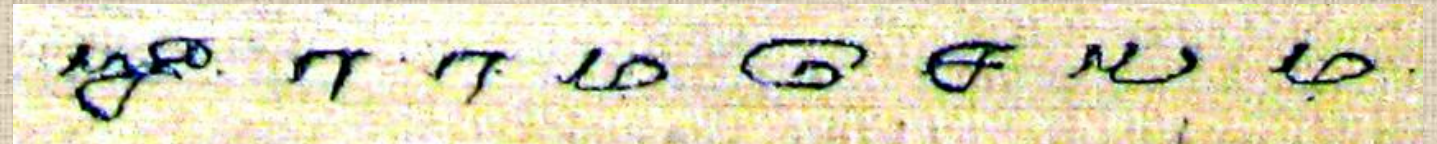
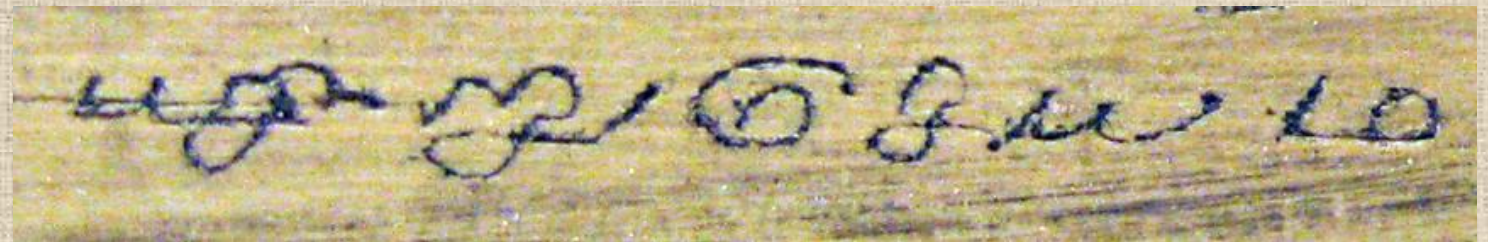
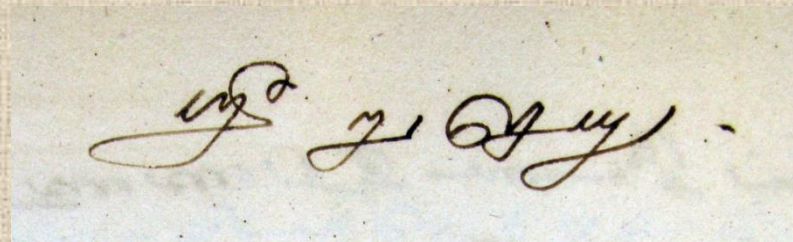
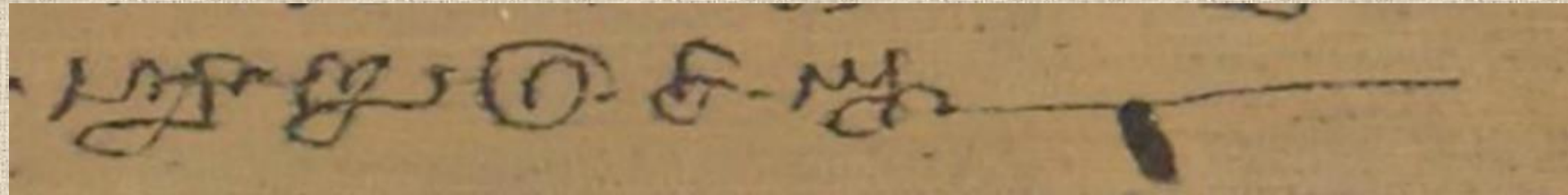
# X Protection

- *kuru laṣakkavuM* (BnF Indien 1034a)
- *cuppiramaṇiyaraṣṣikkavuM* (BnF Indien 33b)
- *rāmacāmi laṣcikka vēṇum* (BnF Indien 399)
- *icēcuvē ireṭciyuM* (BnF Indien 484)
- *ciluvaiyil uḷḷa cuvāmi yireṭcikka* [sic!] (BnF Indien 448)



śrī-rāma-ceyam

“Victory of/to the glorious Rāma”



# X *namas*, “Homage to X”

- *cīraṅkaṇātāya nama / śrīraṅkanātāya nama* (BnF Indien 321)
- *śrīsarasvatyai namaḥ* (BnF Indien 500)
- *paramatiruvē namā* (BnF Indien 515)
- *śrīmatē rāmānujāya namā* (BnF Indien 515)
- *aṭiyēṅ rāmānujāya namaḥ, rāmānujāya namaḥ, śrī śrī śrīmate rāmānujāya namaḥ* (BnF Indien 550b)
- *viṅāyakāya namam* (BnF Indien 983)
- *vāṇi-namas tu / vāṇi-namas ttu / kalai-vāṇi-namas tu / vāṇi-namā* (BnF Indien 308)
- *aṅāti-namas tu / aṅāti-namā*

*X astu, “Let X be”*

- *avighnam astu*
- *cupam astu*
  
- *namo ‘stu*
- *vāṇi-namo ‘stu*



# *X munṅirka*, “Let X come in front”

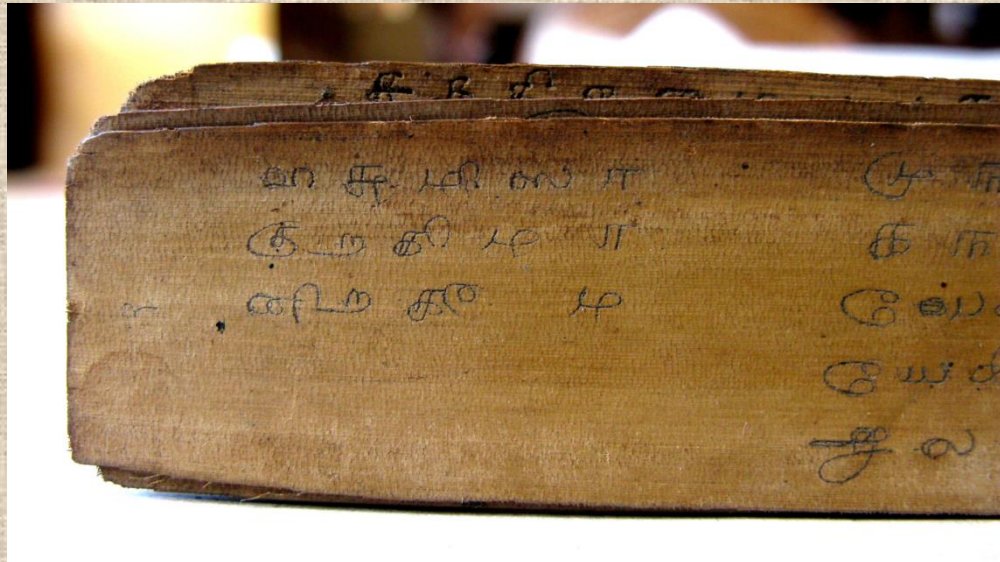
- *kuru munṅirka* (BnF Indien 433, U2, f[1]r)
- *kuru munṅi[r]kka vēṅum* (BnF Indien 101, U6, f207v)
- *kuru munṅirkkavum* (BnF Indien 992, U2, f[1]r)
- *kaṅapati munṅirka* (BnF Indien 324, U2, f[1]r)
- *viṅāyakar tiruvaṭi munṅirka* (BnF Indien 71, U3 f1r)

# Christian Blessings

- *āmeṇ cēcu*
- *aṇāti namā, aṇāti namas tu* (BnF Indien 488)
- *aṇātiyē namarkaruṇām paramamariya cakāyaM* (BnF Indien 474)
- *mariya-cakāyam*
- *pitā cutaṇ yicuppirittu cantu ṇāmattiṇālē* (BnF Indien 452)
- *yecuṇāyakacūcaimari* (BnF Indien 463)
- *ēcu mariyē cūcaiyē tuṇaic cey* (BnF Indien 486)
- Bernolle 1 (full of Christian blessings): *mariyaṇāyaki kirupākiṭāṣcam uṇṭākak kaṭavatu*

# Muslim Blessings

- *allā utavi ceyyavēṇum* (BnF Indien 987, U1, f[1]r, 1m)
- *nākūr mīrācāyepu tuṇai uṇṭākavuM* (BnF Indien 548, U2, f60r, c2, 1-2)  
[but also in the same MS: *tēyvacakāyam*, *verrivēl urra tuṇai*]



- Basmala  
*vicumi l=lāku rakimāṇi rakīm*  
(BnF Indien 987, U2, f[1]r, 1m)

See

<https://tst.hypotheses.org/2516>



## BnF Indien 2: several peculiar blessings

- *civakaṭāṣṣam uṇṭāy ñāṇotayakirupai uṇṭāy viḷaṅkak kaṭavatu*
- *ñāṇatēcikaṇ riruvaṭikkamalamē tuṇaiyākak kaṭavatu*
- etc.

# Varia

- *viṇāyakaṇ tiruvuḷam* (BnF Indien 308, U2a, f[1]r)
- *ārumāmukamum vāḷ* (BnF Indien 309, U2 f1v)
- *vēttivēḷ vāḷi vāḷi* (BnF Indien 309, U2 f1v)
- *civa civa civa civa civa citamparam* (BnF Indien 361)
- *kukaitēcikaṇ ṛiruvaṭikaḷ caraṇam, kukaitēcikaṇ tiruvaṭikaḷē caraṇam, kukaitēcikaṇ tiruvaṭikaḷē tuṇai* (BnF Indien 504)
- *kuru-kirupā-kiṭāṣcam* (BnF Indien 504)
- *laṣcumikiṭāṣcam tuṇai* (BnF Indien 504)

# Varia

- *civāṇantacar\_kurunātan\_ tiruvaṭikaḷilē caraṇam, meñcāyññāṇakuruvē tuṇai, meyññāṇatēcikakurukiṭāṣcam uṇṭākavum* (BnF Indien 509a)
- *maṅkai*
- *śrī\_rakuṇāyakar cītālaṭcumikirupaiy uṇṭāka tākavum* (BnF Indien 532)
- *turōpataiyammaṇ\_ pātāravintamē* (BnF Indien 567)



# Location

- In left-margin header.

Folio 1r, but also other folios (e.g. isolated *nanrāka*, *śrīrāmajeyam*, etc.)

- In in-text in completion statement, in colophon.

E.g. *tiruccirampalam*.

- Some found in both locations; some with a preferred or exclusive location (X-etc. usually found in-text).

# Location

- BnF Indien 307 (Tirukkalukkunrapurāṇam), U2b: recurring *civamayam*, left-marginal or intertextual at the end of chapters.
- BnF Indien 983: *tiruccirampalam* used in intertitles, completion statements.
- BnF Indien 28: full of *tiruccirampalam*.

# Series of Blessings

(f. 17v)

(2) [...] ॐ <sup>100</sup>ॐ ॐ hari Om nanrāka kuru vālka kuruvē  
tuṇai ॐ mutalāvatu teyivappeyar-

(3) t tokuti mu;ttu?m ॐ parācatti kirupai ॐ Uṇṇāmalai-  
yaḷ tuṇai ॐ civamaya=M ॐ tevīcakāya=M ॐ

BnF Indien 236, U4, f17v2-3 (at the end of a chapter of a Nikaṇṭu)



# Series of Blessings

(f. 295r)

(2) [...] vālka vālka yivvakilam ellām : <sup>100</sup> : caiva-neri y-uraitta paṭalamurum ॐ tiru-ccirrampalam ॐ {Āka} Uttirakāṇṭam

(3) paṭalam 2k=ku viruttam <sup>2</sup><sup>100</sup><sup>3</sup><sup>10</sup><sup>2</sup> {Āka} kāṇṭam 3k=ku paṭalam <sup>7</sup><sup>10</sup><sup>3</sup><sup>k</sup>=ku viruttam <sup>3</sup><sup>1000</sup><sup>2</sup><sup>100</sup><sup>4</sup><sup>10</sup><sup>5</sup> ॐ teyvānaiyammāḷ purāṇa=M nanrākavum ॐ

(4) nilātāṭciyamman tuṇai ॐ civāya nama (śi)vāya nama piraṇa[?]vāya namā kuruvē tuṇai vāṇi-namā devi-(sahā)yam kaṇapati tuṇai Uṇṇāmulaittāyē tuṇai ॐ

BnF Indien 308, U2c, f295r

# Series of Blessings

Indien 9b, U1, f75r

(f. 57r)

column 1

- (1) (pīra)cōtpitti {varuṣam} Āṭi {mācam} 6 {tēti}
- (2) cukkuravāra-nāḷ cavuntariAla-
- (3) kiri y-eluti mukintutu muḷt-
- (4) tu?m ᱚ Atu kaiyk kaṇṇamai
- (5) kirupā-kiṭāṣcam Uṇṭā-
- (6) ka tākavum ᱚ

column 2

- (1) cok=ka-nāyakar-uṭaiya kirupā-kiṭāṣcam
- (2) Uṇṭāka vēṇṭiyatu ᱚ ᱚ
- (3) vikkiṇēs·parar-uṭaiya kirupā-kiṭāṣcam
- (4) Uṇṭāka vēṇṭiyatu ᱚ ᱚ
- (5) vayiravar kirupā-kiṭāṣcam Uṇṭāka
- (6) vēṇṭiyatu ᱚ civa-mayam ᱚ ᱚ

# BnF Indien 83

- *civam*
- *civañāṇacaṛkurupātāravintamē keti*
- *civañāṇacaṛkurupātāravintamē keti uṇṭāka tākavuM*
- *civañāṇacaṛkurupātāravintamē tuṇai yuṇṭāka tākavuM*
- *civañāṇacaṛkurupātāravintamē yuṇṭāka tākavuM*
- *śrīkuruvē namā*
- *śrīparipūrṇa śrīmakākurucuyampiṛakācacuvāminē namā*
- *śrīparipūrṇakuruvē namā*



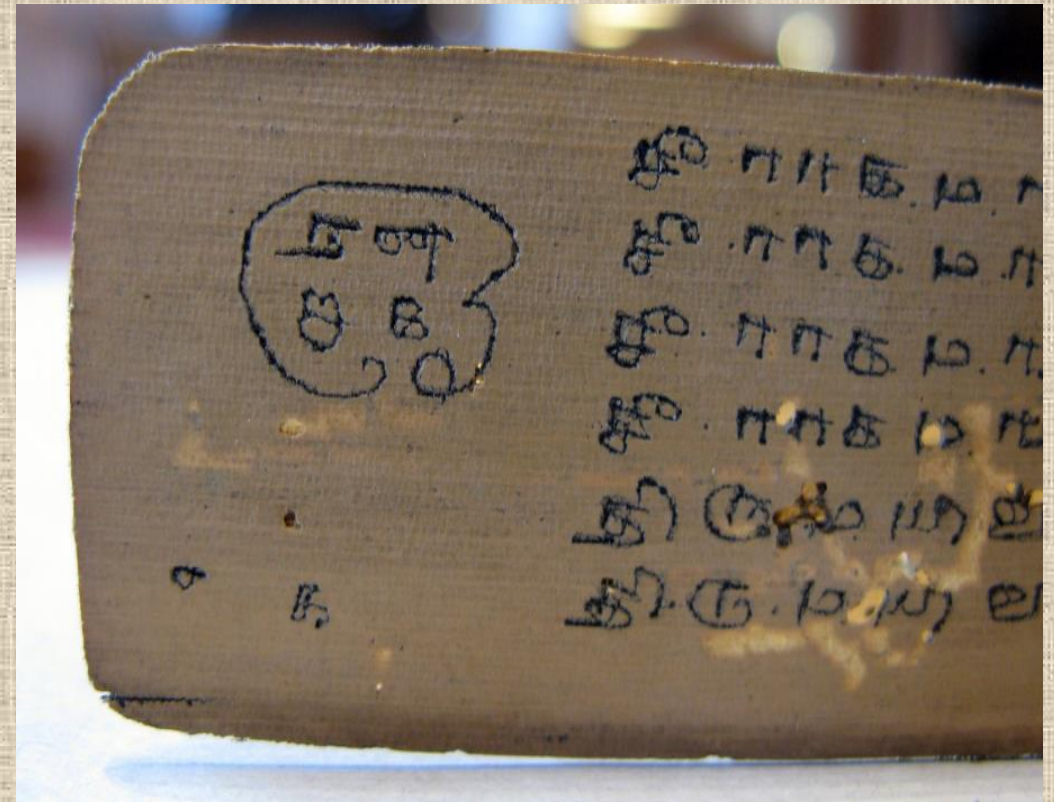
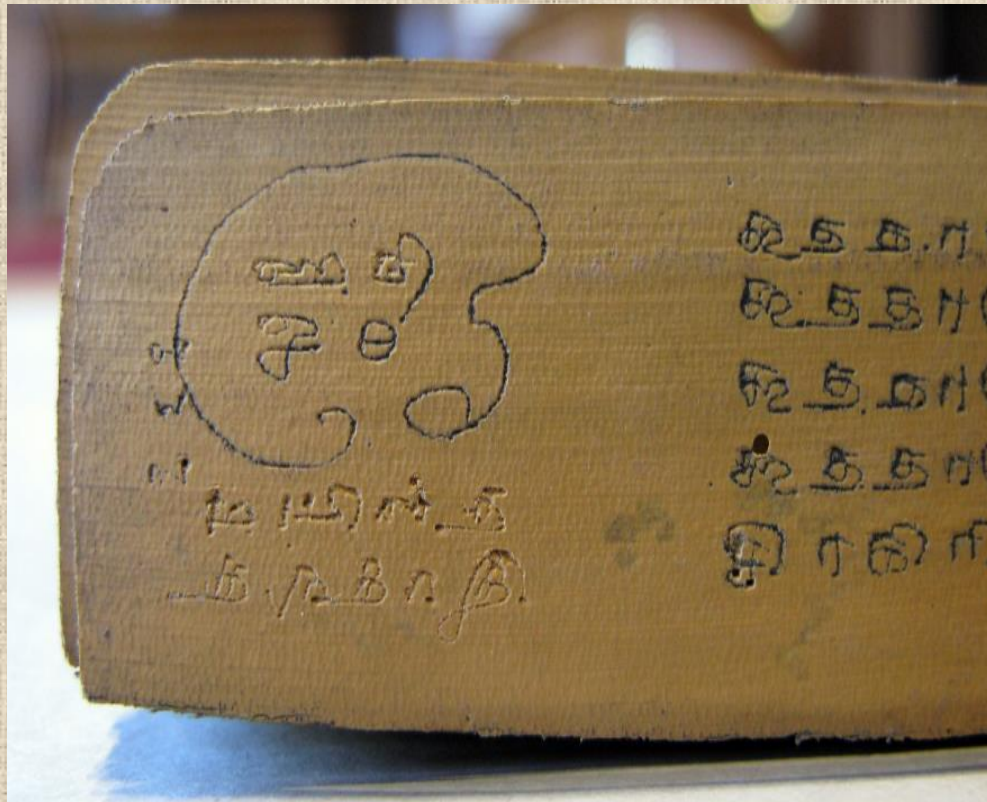
# Pictorial Blessings: the $\bar{O}m$ Symbol



BnF Indien 1, f75r, 1m

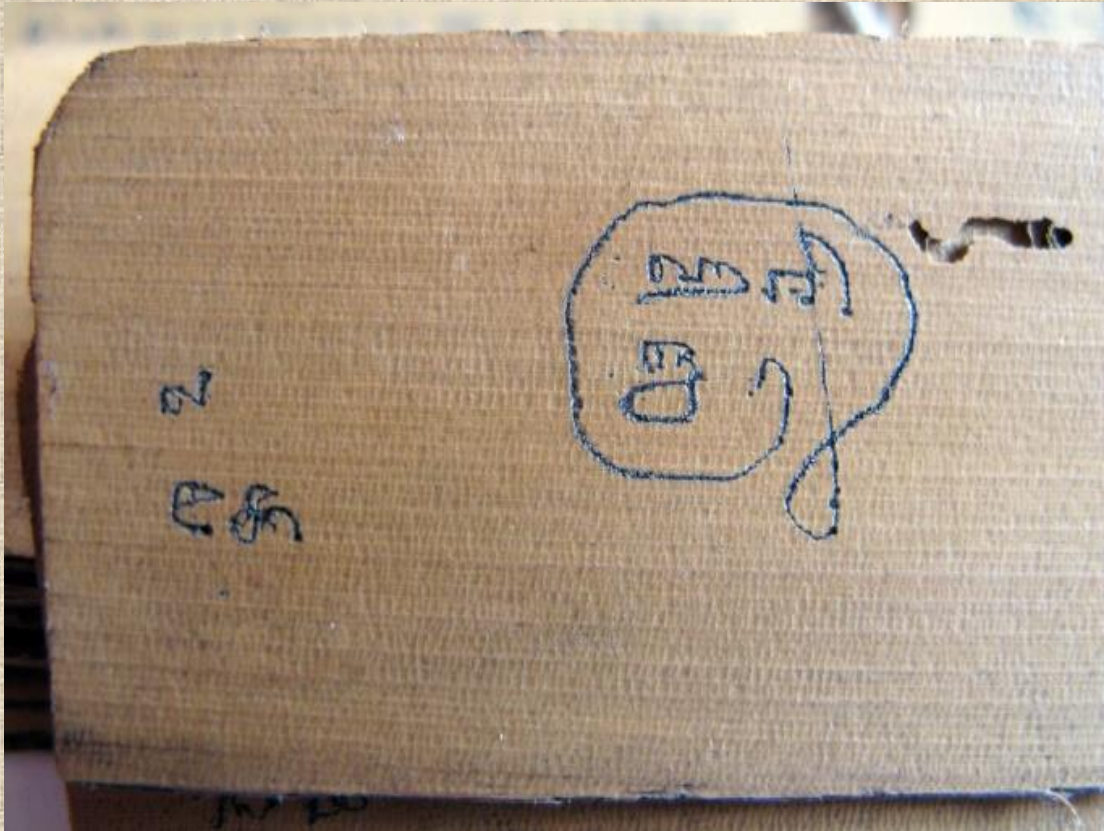
# Pictorial Blessings: the *Om* Symbol

Framing other blessings (BnF Indien 524)

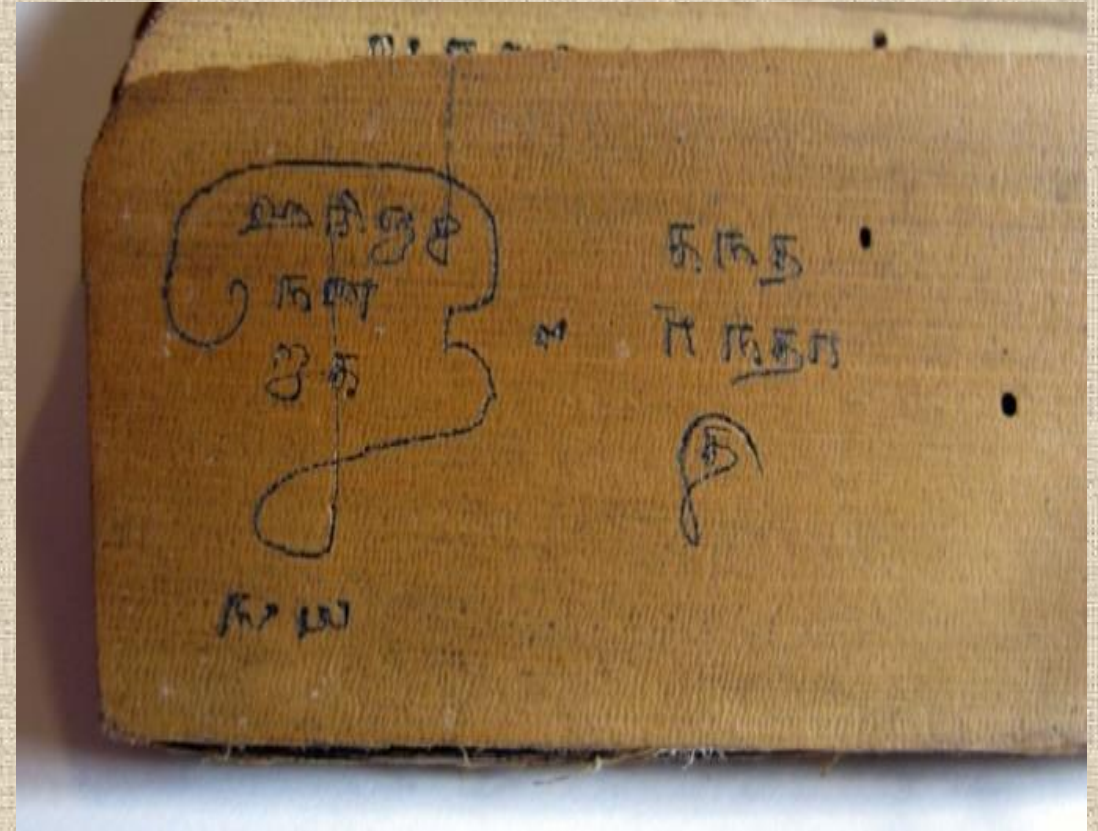




# Pictorial Blessings: the $\bar{O}m$ Symbol



Final  $m$  framing the blessing  
(BnF Indien 375)

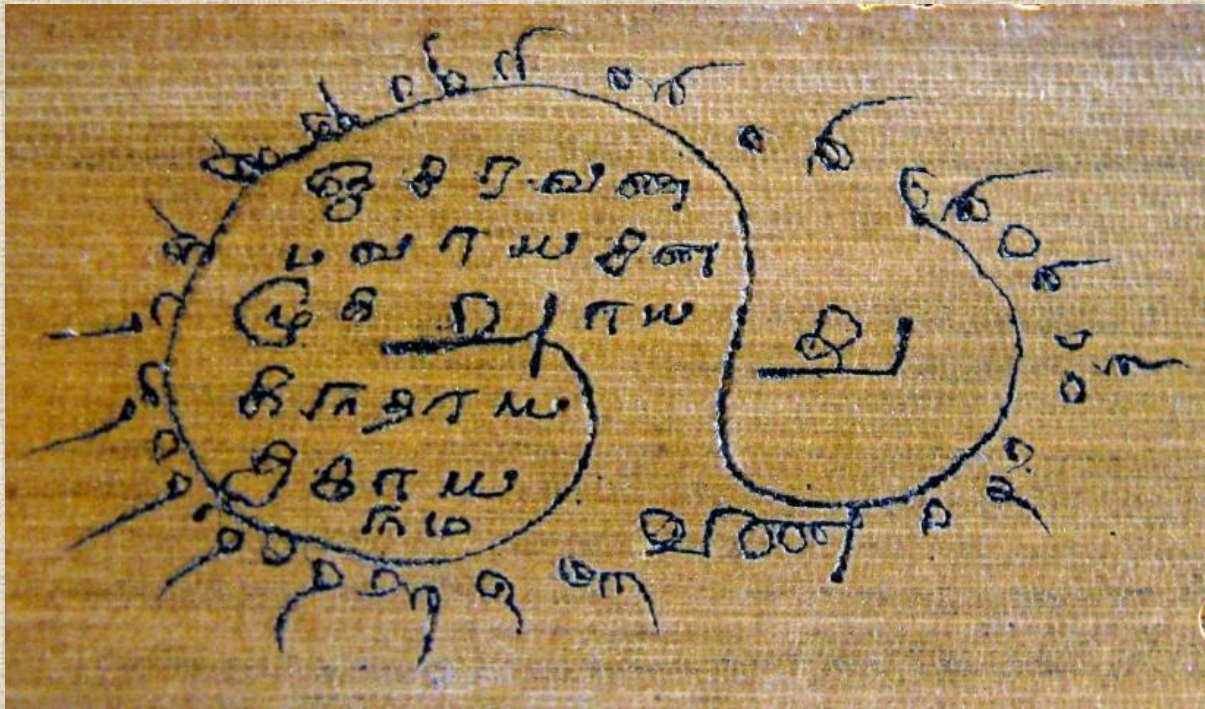


Framing other blessings  
(BnF Indien 375)



Indien 308, U2a, f[1]r, Im3

*Om caravaṇapavāya caṇmukāya kantāya kukāya nama {Āka} tuṇai*



The symbol {Āka} (?)  
framing the whole blessing

# Conclusions

- All at the same time reverential, auspicious, credos
- Generic, ecumenical, ubiquitous blessings
- Religiously tainted blessing (Śaiva, Vaiṣṇava, Christian, Muslim) (Jaina?)
- Generic and peculiar Śaiva and Vaiṣṇava blessings (Śiva or the Śiva of this place)
- Adaptations of Hindu formulaic blessings by Christians, Muslims
- Peculiar blessings linked to peculiar copyists (*vēyurutoḷipaṅkaṇ tuṇai*)