Contents

Acknowledgements i
A Note on Transliteration & Two on Footnotes iv
Abbreviations vi

1. Introduction 1
   i. Hypothesis 1
   ii. Background 5
      a) Ruling dynasties 5
      b) Socio-economic Structure and the State 9
      c) Religion 15
   iii. Sources 33

2. The Ardently Loving Lord: A Promise of Salvation 56
   i. Hypothesis 56
   ii. Background 58
   iii. Evidence from the Hagiographies 69
      a) Āṇḍāḷ Vaibhavam 70
      b) Tiruppāṅ Āḻvār Vaibhavam 73
      c) An Episode from the Parakāla Sūri Vaibhava in the DSC 75
   iv. Analysis 76
   v. The Integration 82

3. Equal before the Lord: Negotiating Caste 90
   i. Hypothesis 90
   ii. Historiography 91
   iii. Evidence from the Hagiographies 98
      a) Tirumalīcāi Āḻvār Vaibhavam 100
      b) Nammāḻvār & Madhurakavi Āḻvār Vaibhavam 103
      c) Kulaśekhara Āḻvār Vaibhavam 106
      d) Tirumankai Āḻvār Vaibhavam 107
   iv. Analysis 113

4. Whose God is the Greatest? Engaging with other Faiths 151
   i. Hypothesis 151
   ii. Historiography 153
   iii. Evidence from the Hagiographies 156
      a) An Episode from the Tirumankai Āḻvār Vaibhavam 156
      b) Ilaiyāḻvār Vaibhavam 157
      c) Incidents from the Account of Appar/ Tirunāvukkaracar 171
      d) Incidents from the Account of Tirujñānasambandar 172
      e) Account of Mūrti Nāyaṅār 173
f) Account of Taṇṭi Aṭikaḷ Nāyanār 173

g) Account of Naminandi Nāyanār 174

iv. Evidence of Jaina and Buddhist Presence in Tamil Nadu 174

v. Analysis and Comparison with Evidence from the Hymns 183

vi. Some Conclusions 208

5. Bathing in Every Tirtha: Patterns of Worship, Pilgrimage and the Saint-Poets 211

i. Hypothesis 211

ii. Evidence from the Hagiographies 216

a) Mutalālvārkaḷ Vaibhavam 216

b) Pēriyāḻvār Vaibhavam 217

c) An incident from Tirumankai Āḻvār Vaibhavam in the Agpp 218

d) An incident from Tirumankai Āḻvār Vaibhavam in the DSC 218

e) Variant telling from the Tirumankai Āḻvār Vaibhavam in the Mgpp 219

iii. Historiography 219

iv. Analysis 221

v. The Integration 253

6. Conclusion 262

Appendices

Tables

I. Jaina Inscriptions, Topographical Chart 2nd- 1st century BCE (2 sheets) 269

II. Jaina Inscriptions, Topographical Chart 1st- 6th centuries CE (2 sheets) 271

III. Jaina Inscriptions, Topographical Chart 7th- 10th centuries CE (14 sheets) 273

IV. Jaina Inscriptions, Topographical Chart 11th- 14th centuries CE (10 sheets) 287

V. Nālāyira Divya Prabandham: Works with their Composers 299

VI. Saints with temples sung about:

a. The four Antādis of the iyarpā & the Tiruccanda Viruttam 300

b. Kulaśekhara, Pēriyāḻvār, Āṇḍāl & Tōṇṭaraṭippōṭi 301

c. Tirumankai Āḻvār 302

d. Nammāḻvār 306

e. The Ciriya Tirumaṭal & the Pēriya Tirumaṭal 307

Select Bibliography 308