



6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THIRUKKURAL

6ஆம் உலகத் திருக்குறள் மாநாடு

www.internationalthirukkuralconference.org

Youth Competitions – Thirukkural QA

Questions and Answers

1. Selected English Translation:

Oh rain! You not only create everything we eat,
you are the indispensable food yourself.

QUESTION: What is the main value of rain according to this Kural?

ANSWER: Basic necessity for Food production ✓

2. Selected English Translation:

World can't survive without water
and morality can't exist without rains.

QUESTION: What is the basis of morality in the world?

ANSWER: Rainfall from the sky ✓

3. Selected English Translation:

Righteousness is all about removing the four faults –
envy, desire, anger and harmful words.

QUESTION: What are the four bad qualities must one avoid to practice virtue?

ANSWER: envy, desire, anger and harmful words

4. Selected English Translation:

True joy blossoms only due to righteous deeds;
all else cause unhappiness and disrepute.

QUESTION: What brings true happiness according to this Kural?

ANSWER: Virtue of good deeds ✓

5. Selected English Translation:

Only those who don't listen to their baby's sweet words
will claim that a flute or yaazh sounds melodious.

QUESTION: Who says flute sounds better, without hearing this?

ANSWER: Only those who don't listen to their Baby's words ✓

6. Selected English Translation:

Loveless people hold everything to themselves.

Those who are filled with love bear even their bones to others.

QUESTION: Who do those filled with love live for?

ANSWER: For others ✓

7. Selected English Translation:

A life without love will be stung by the righteous path like a worm that is burnt by the raging sun.

QUESTION: What is the suffering of a person without love is compared to?

ANSWER: A worm that is burnt by the hot sun ✓

8. Selected English Translation:

Only a person who follows the path of love, is truly alive, else it is just a skeleton dressed with skin.

QUESTION: Who are considered as truly alive?

ANSWER: Loving persons ✓

9. Selected English Translation:

Humility and pleasant words are the true jewels for anyone and not anything else.

QUESTION: What are the true jewels for an individual?

ANSWER: Humility, kind words ✓

10. Selected English Translation:

To say harsh words when you have nice words, is like plucking an unripe fruit when ripe ones are nearby.

QUESTION: What is it like to speak harshly instead of kindly?

ANSWER: Plucking unripe fruit when sweet ripe fruit is available ✓

11. Selected English Translation:

It is not right to forget the help rendered by others; but to forget any harm, the moment it is done.

QUESTION: How is forgetting gratitude described?

ANSWER: Wrong ✓

12. Selected English Translation:

Restraint will result in a place among the divine beings;
lack of it will lead to utter darkness.

QUESTION: Whom will the modest put you among?

ANSWER: Gods ✓

13. Selected English Translation:

Those who don't learn to abide by the decorous ways of the world,
even if well-read, are unwise.

QUESTION: Even if someone studies a lot, what must they learn to be wise?

ANSWER: Good conduct ✓

14. Selected English Translation:

Great ascetics who conquer hunger, by fasting,
are lesser than those who endure harsh words from others.

QUESTION: What is considered greater than being an ascetic?

ANSWER: Tolerating personal insult ✓

15. Selected English Translation:

Speak, such that what you speak is worthy;
speak not what is worthless.

QUESTION: What kind of words should we speak?

ANSWER: Useful ✓

16. Selected English Translation:

Giving to the poor is true charity;
all else has a trace of seeking returns.

QUESTION: What is true charity?

ANSWER: Giving to the poor ✓

17. Selected English Translation:

Give, and live with fame;
there is no other gain for lives.

QUESTION: What is the true reward for life?

ANSWER: Charity ✓

18. Selected English Translation:

The poor do not possess this world;
likewise, the uncompassionate do not inhabit the next.

QUESTION: What is not accessible to uncompassionate?

ANSWER: Heaven ✓

19. Selected English Translation:

Truth is defined as
speaking words that cause no harm.

QUESTION: What is the meaning of truth?

ANSWER: Harmless speech ✓

20. Selected English Translation:

All light is not light; for noble scholars,
truthfulness is the true light of enlightenment.
What is the true light for the wise?

ANSWER: Truthfulness ✓

21. Selected English Translation:

Restrain anger where anger will be effective;
does it matter whether one restrains it or not?

QUESTION: Where should one restrain anger?

ANSWER: Where anger will be effective ✓

22. Selected English Translation:

Those who yield to anger are as good as dead;
those who've shed anger are in effect saints.

QUESTION: Who is Thiruvalluvar comparing those who yield to anger?

ANSWER: The dead ✓

23. Selected English Translation:

The way to punish those who harmed us is to
shame them by doing good in return.

QUESTION: How should we punish someone who did wrong?

ANSWER: Doing good in return ✓

24. Selected English Translation:

Can one be called wise,
if he does not treat others' pain as his own?

QUESTION: A wise person should treat others' pain like what?

ANSWER: as their own pain ✓

25. Selected English Translation:

If you harm others in the forenoon,
harm will visit you, by itself, in the afternoon.

QUESTION: What happens if you do harm to others?

ANSWER: harm will come to you ✓

26. Selected English Translation:

Sharing food and taking care of all lives, is supreme
amongst all virtues compiled in all scriptures.

QUESTION: What is considered the highest virtue in all texts?

ANSWER: Feeding the needy ✓

27. Selected English Translation:

Great wealth accumulates like a crowd watching a play;
when it goes, it vanishes like the crowd at the end.

QUESTION: What is wealth compared to?

ANSWER: Theatre crowd ✓

28. Selected English Translation:

Who was there yesterday, is gone today:
the world is thus.

QUESTION: What is the nature of this world?

ANSWER: Uncertain ✓

29. Selected English Translation:

It doesn't matter what anything seems to be,
wisdom lies in seeking to grasp its true nature.

QUESTION: What do wise people seek?

ANSWER: True nature within everything ✓

30. Selected English Translation:

Even if knowledge comes through profound books,
one's innate wisdom remains dominant.

QUESTION: What is more important than the book knowledge?

ANSWER: Inner wisdom ✓

31. Selected English Translation:

A righteous king who renders justice, and nurtures his people
will be hailed as an almighty God.

QUESTION: What is a just and kind king considered as?

ANSWER: as God ✓

32. Selected English Translation:

Learn, what is to be learnt, with no flaws;
once learnt, stand by what you learned.

QUESTION: What must you do after learning?

ANSWER: stand by what you learned ✓

33. Selected English Translation:

The learned have eyes;
the ignorant have on their faces, two gashes.

QUESTION: Who is considered blind despite having eyes?

ANSWER: Ignorant ones ✓

34. Selected English Translation:

The deeper a well is dug, the more the water that emerges;
the more one learns, the more the wisdom it brings.

QUESTION: What is wisdom compared to?

ANSWER: Sand well, which yields water as much as you dug ✓

35. Selected English Translation:

Learning is the indestructible, and significant wealth;
other riches are not true wealth.

QUESTION: What is the highest imperishable wealth?

ANSWER: Education ✓

36. Selected English Translation:

The wealth of listening is the wealth amongst all wealths;
the foremost wealth.

QUESTION: Which is the greatest wealth of all?

ANSWER: Listening to others ✓

37. Selected English Translation:

Even if you can't learn by reading, listen;
it is the crutch in times of crisis.

QUESTION: What should you do if you can't read?

ANSWER: Learn by listening to others ✓

38. Selected English Translation:

Unless one is an intense, attentive aural learner,
that one will be have a humble tongue.

QUESTION: Who easily speaks with humility?

ANSWER: Good listener ✓

39. Selected English Translation:

Duty demands no recompense; to clouds of heaven,
By men on earth, what answering gift is given?.

QUESTION: What are the persons who help without expecting anything in return
is compared to?

ANSWER: Rainfall from the sky ✓

40. Selected English Translation:

The wise have everything; the unwise have nothing,
irrespective of whatever they may possess.

QUESTION: Who truly possesses all wealth?

ANSWER: Wise person ✓

41. Selected English Translation:

What flaw could fall upon a leader who rectifies
his faults before observing and assailing others' faults.

QUESTION: Whose faults must be corrected first?

ANSWER: One's own faults ✓

42. Selected English Translation:

Do charity, but within your means;
that is the way to utilize, and protect, wealth.

QUESTION: How should charity be done?

ANSWER: By knowing your limits and the receiver's needs ✓

43. Selected English Translation:

This task – he can do, using these resources :
leave the task to him.

QUESTION: What should be done before assigning work?

ANSWER: Think well about the capacity of the person ✓

44. Selected English Translation:

The king punishing, severely, those brutal murderers,
is akin to clearing weeds from the crop.

QUESTION: What must a king do to cruel criminals?

ANSWER: Control them by legal punishments ✓

45. Selected English Translation:

It is huge; it has sharp tusks; yet, the tusker
is frightened when the tiger attacks.

QUESTION: What frightens even a big elephant?

ANSWER: small Tiger's attack ✓

46. Selected English Translation:

Smile in times of trouble; it is without equal,
in repeatedly trouncing trouble.

QUESTION: What should you do in tough times?

ANSWER: Smile with the hope that next will be good ✓

47. Selected English Translation:

If he speaks capably, flawlessly, and fearlessly,
it is impossible to confront and defeat him.

QUESTION: What is gained by fearless speaking?

ANSWER: Victory ✓

48. Selected English Translation:

Easy it is, to say; rare it is,
the ability to do what one says.

QUESTION: What is hard to do?

ANSWER: Do what we say ✓

49. Selected English Translation:

He who possesses these six things, an army, a people, wealth, ministers, friends and fortress, is lion among kings.

QUESTION: What are considered six great things ?

ANSWER: An army, subjects, wealth, ministers, allies and forts ✓

50. Selected English Translation:

It is not the spear that gives victory for a king,
but the impartial sceptre.

QUESTION: What gives a monarch his triumph?

ANSWER: Impartial ruling ✓

* Please note: During the competition, selected english translation may not be provided when asking question.