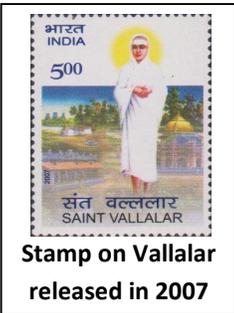


## VALLALAR & VETHATHIRI – ADVOCATES OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD & COMPASSION

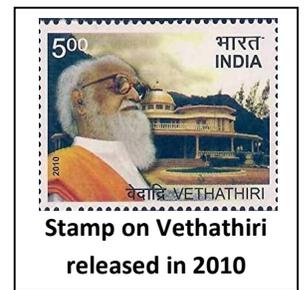
S.Balasundaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Ramalingam, also called **Vallalar**, born on October 5, 1823 in a village called Marudur; Tamil Nadu was a great Tamil Poet and a Scholar. He has written 5818 Poems in Tamil and they are classified as 6 Cannons or “Thirumurai” apart from other prose.

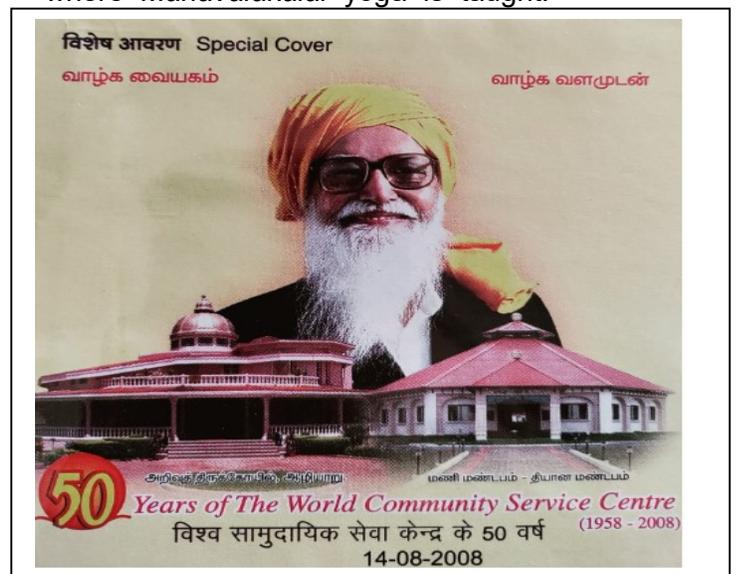


The philosophy of Vallalar is known as *Samarasa Suddha Sanmargam* meaning harmonious, pure and truthful way of life. Vallalar promoted Universal Brotherhood and was against all the differences such as Caste, Creed, Religion, Race, Language and Nationality. His main precepts are based on “*Jeevakarunyam*” or Compassion towards all living beings. He discredited the idea of anything supernatural, asserting constantly that his teachings are based on scientific inquiry. He advocated that if everyone follows compassion to all living beings on earth, the distinction and disparity among peoples would cease, and the principle of Universal Brotherhood will eventually prevail.

**Vethathiri** was born in 1911 in the village of Guduvancheri, south of Chennai, India, into a weaver’s family. From his youth he was driven by the desire for knowledge. Several years of intense meditation and introspection brought him full enlightenment at the age of thirty five. Vethathiri’s life and his teachings offer a holistic way of life to understand the self, morality, charity and duty. Vethathiri thought of the influence of the society on the Individual and advocated everyone to perform his duties without affecting the other person. Man is a supreme being on the earth and his present life style is impacted by the development of science and technology, he said.



According to Vethathiri, every person of civilized society should be grateful to the nature which provide food, clothing and shelter and should not harm anything, whether it is plant, animal and fellow human being. He must show love and compassion for the welfare of his kith and kin and the society at large. To translate his teachings into practice, he established the World Community Service Centre, a service organization in Chennai, India, in 1958, where *Manavalakalai* yoga is taught.



Both the greatmen told that ultimate aim of the human life is to have realization of the self through the journey of consciousness and for this brotherhood and compassion are prerequisites. Their philosophies are identical.

**Special Postal Covers on Vallalar & Vethathiri issued by India Post**