Note on Format

In the following pages, we usually begin with the translation of the cātu poem, followed by the original in Telugu, Tamil, or Sanskrit. (To identify which language is used, please refer to the index of English first lines.) Background information, contexts, and sources are noted at the bottom of the page. When no source is mentioned, the verse has been drawn from our memory. When a narrative is integral to the context, or to understanding the verse, we have presented it along with the poem. Such narratives are also part of the tradition as we know it, retold in our words.

Transliteration follows the cātu recitation forms and spelling, as distinct from the scholarly written spellings, throughout.