

# Dear Earth



Avvaiyar

Art by Murali Nagapuzha

Translated from the Tamil  
by Geeta Dharmarajan



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 





Dear Earth!





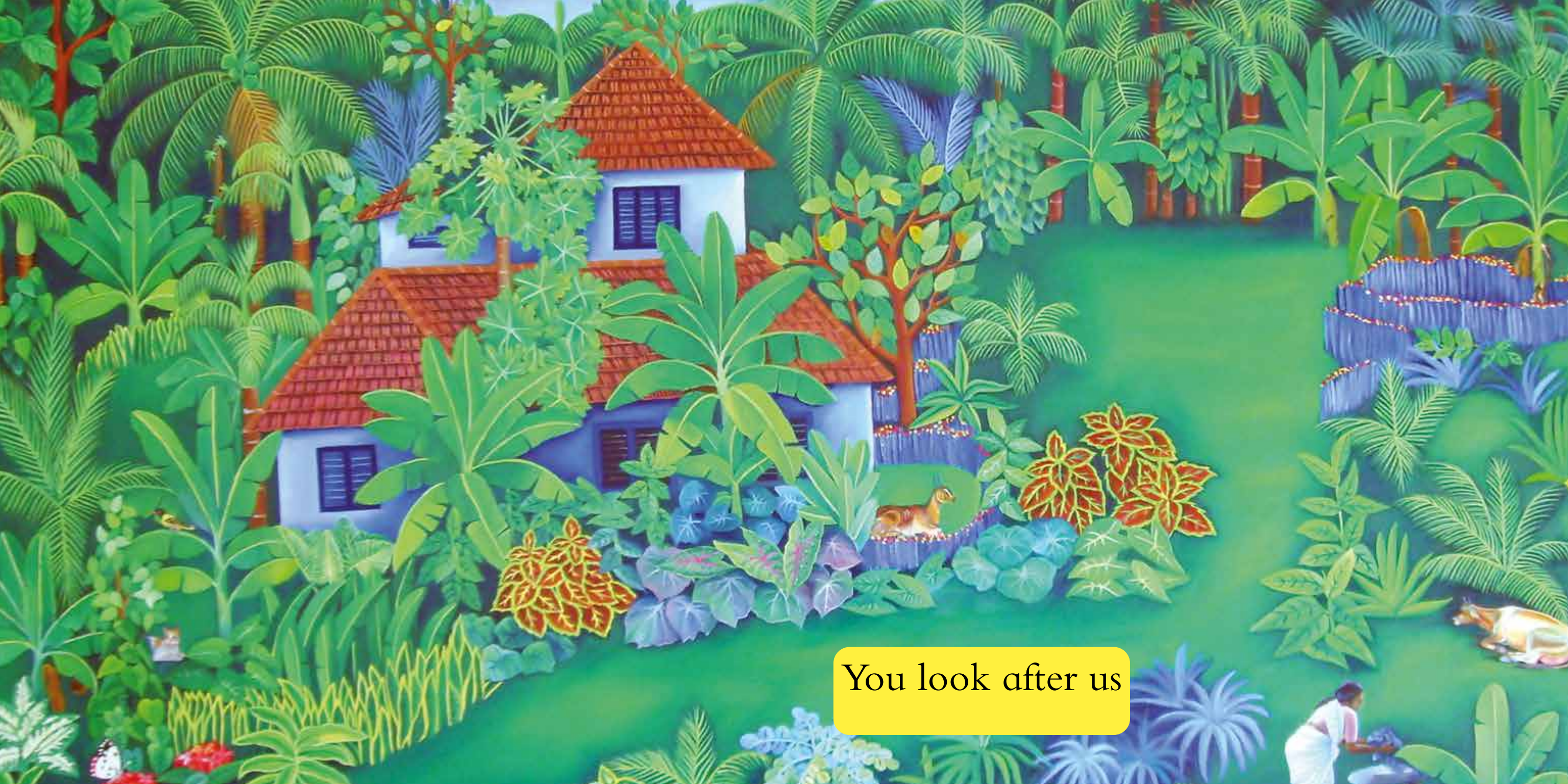
Green field  
or forest





Tall hill  
or valley





You look after us





when we look after you!





Dear Earth,  
May you live long!



# TADAAA!



## Think

A famous writer once said, “If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.” Is he right?



## Ask

Did you learn something different from the 25 word-poem written by Avvaiyar? What is special about Avvaiyar’s Big Idea?



## Act

Trees are Mother Earth’s children. She looks after us through her green children. Can you look after a tree and say “Thank You!” to Ma Bhumi?



## Achieve

This is one more poem by Avvaiyar:

*If on our old earth  
There is one kind child,  
Because of her  
Everyone will receive rain.*

Can you be that kind child who brings everyone rain?



## Discuss

If there is one thing you could do to make our dear Earth happy, what would it be?

**HEAD TO THE  
NEXT PAGE FOR  
SOME REALLY  
EASY WAYS TO  
BE KIND!**





# 9 ways to be **kind**

I can be Kind by ...

Offering  
to help

Being happy  
for others

Saying nice  
things to  
others

Encouraging  
my friends

Caring about  
others

Using good  
manners

Listening  
when others  
speak

Smiling

Sharing  
and taking  
turns







READ!  
UNDERSTAND!  
DISCUSS!

LONG, LONG AGO ...

- About 2,500 years ago, the whole of South India was called Tamilakam.
- Tamilakam was ruled by great, wise kings.
- The kings loved dance, music, poetry and the fine arts.
- They invited many poets to come together and share their songs and poems.

# WHEN 400 POETS SANG ...

- Historians say that there were three Sangams.
- These Sangams are also known as the great gatherings of poets.
- There were around 400 poets who wrote Tamil poetry during the Sangam Age.
- Many poets were invited by the kings for advice.





## THERE WAS A POET CALLED AVVAIYAR ...

- Avvaiyar was a very wise, old woman.
- She was a poet.
- She advised many kings and ordinary people, who listened to her.
- Some say Avvaiyar lived 2300 years ago.
- Many stories say that Avvaiyar walked barefoot from village to village across South India.
- She stayed with farmers and their families.
- She created songs that brought joy to everyone.

## WHERE IS GOD?

Avvaiyar was resting in an old temple. Her feet pointed towards the statue of Lord Shiva. Goddess Parvathi got angry. She scolded Avvaiyar, “How can you be so disrespectful!” Avvaiyar was quiet. She then said, “I am sorry, Ma. Please tell me where God is not present. I will point my feet there.”

Goddess Parvathi smiled. She said, “You are right. God is everywhere!”



**Geeta Dharmarajan** belongs to Tanjavur, a district of Tamil Nadu. A writer for children, she started Katha in 1988. She has received many awards, including the Padma Shri for her work in literature and education.

**Murali Nagapuzha** grew up in a village called Nagapuzha in Kerala. As a child he loved the green all around his home, it is no wonder that Murali's works have plenty of green in them.

# ☛ KATHA

Katha is a globally recognised non-profit organization ([www.katha.org](http://www.katha.org)) that has been working in the literacy to literature continuum since 1988. Our nearly 30 years of experience is in publishing and education for children in poverty.

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*English rendering of this poem translated for children by Geeta Dharmarajan*



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KATHA is a registered nonprofit organization started in 1988. We work in the literacy to literature continuum. Devoted to enhancing the joys of reading amongst children and adults, we work with more than 1,00,000 children in poverty, to bring them to grade-level reading through quality books and interventions.

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