

# SATTANAR

(6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> c. CE)

**Lived:** in south India, probably between 500-650 AD

## Life

Unfortunately, we know very little about the life of Sattanar, the poet who wrote the Tamil epic *Manimekalai*. Tradition maintains that he was born in the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE, in the city of Madurai. It is thought that he was the son of a grain merchant and that he became a poet in the court of the Chera King, Senguttavan, on the west coast of India, in what is now the state of Kerala. Again, it is said that he became an ascetic and befriended the poet Ilango Atikal, also a recluse and the author of the *Cilappatikaram* (an epic that is a prequel to *Manimekalai*). Aside from the *Manimekalai*, only one other work (a short didactic poem) has been attributed to Sattanar.