

Adiyongal Thirumadal

ISSUE 48

SRI SYDNEY ANDAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

Jun 2019

Welcome to the **Forty-eighth** issue of Adiyongal Thirumadal!

Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swami's visit

Sri Velukkudi Krishnan swami is visting Sydney from **Nov 14th (Thu) to Nov 17th (Sun) 2019** to deliver spiritual discourses both during mornings and evenings. Venue details and topics will be published as soon as they are finalised.

Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi

With Perumal and Thayaar's anugraham, **Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi** was grandly celebrated on the May 11th (Sat) 2019.



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This sthalam is situated in Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu. This sthalam is one of Azhwar's Navatirupathi. ThirukkuLandhai, also known as perunguLam/pAlika vanam is part of navathiruppathi (9 dhivya dhEsams) located in and around AzhwAr thirungari. mUlavar in this dhivya dhEsam is named as vEnkatavANan (srInivAsan) – as proclaimed by nammAzhwAr in this thiruvAimozhi 8.2. uthsavar is named mAyakkUththan (magnificent dancer) as well as chOra nAttian (one who steals the hearts of devotees through his divine dance).

Sthlapuranam : A brAhmaNa named vEdhasAran was a devotee of vEnkatavANan (srInivAsan) emperumAn. He had a beautiful wife named kumudhavathi. They prayed to bhagavAn for offsprings and with the grace of vEnkatavANan emperumAn's grace they begot a daughter named kamalAvathi.

In Himalayas, an rAkshasa named silAsaran, wanted to marry 1000 beautiful girls at the same time to obtain some special power. He captured 998 beautiful girls already and was searching for just two more. He was flying in sky and he found kumudhavathi who is the wife of vEdhasAran.

He captured her too and took her to Himalayas and he went searching for the last girl to marry. In the mean time, vEdhasAran approached vEnkatavANan emperumAn to get back his wife. Immediately vEnkatavANan emperumAn mounted on his garudAzhwAr and went to Himalayas to recover kumudhavathi. He freed all the girls and easily brought kumudhavathi back to thirukkuLanthai and returned her to vEdhasAran.



Subsequently, the rAkshasa reached Himalayas and he found all the girls were missing. He finds out what happened there and he arrives at thirukkuLanthai to fight with vEnkatavANan. A fierce battle takes place between emperumAn and the rAkshasa on the banks of thAmirabharaNi river. Finally, emperumAn broke his legs and danced on his head. Because of this divine dance he became to be called as mAyakkUththan and chOranAttian.

KamalAvathi, the daughter of vEdhasAran starts doing a penance towards emperumAn to marry him. emperumAn appears in front of her on thai (makara) month sukla paksha dhvAdhasi, pushya (pUsa) nakshathram, converted her into a small maNi (bead) and placed her on his chest. Hence thirukkalyANA uthsavam is celebrated on thai (makara) pUsam (pushyam) every year. garudAzhwAr is also given special status in this dhivya dhEsam and is seated along with mAyakoothan in his sannidhi.



108 Divyadesham – 14 Thirukkulandhai – Continued...

thAyAr is named kuLanthaivalli nAchiyAr and the dhivya dhEsam is also named after her. Another thAyAr is named alarmEl mangai nAchiyAr (divine consort of vEnkatavANan/srInivAsan emperumAn).

There is a big pond in this dhivya dhEsam, so the place is also known as perunguLam (big tank/pond).



mAyakkUththan and nammAzhwAr

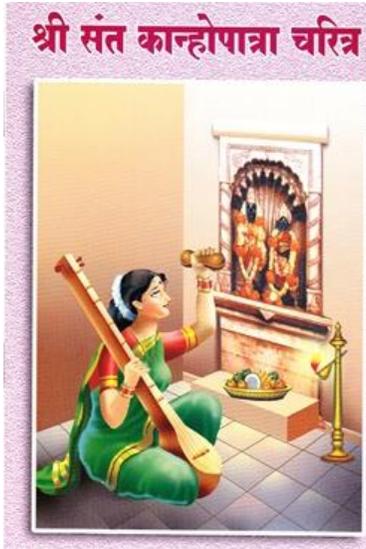
nammAzhwAr performed mangalAsanam to this emperumAn in his thiruvAimozhi thiruvAimozhi – 8-2. Also, In thiruvAimozhi 8-5-1, AzhwAr says “mAyakkUththA vAmana ... vAsath thadAgam pOl varuvAnE” (vAmanan emperumAn arrives like a fragrant pond). The place near this temple is named as “vAsath thadAgam” and is believed to be the place where emperumAnand AzhwAr meets (mAnaskam – AzhwAr in his thoughts).

azhagiya maNavALa perumAL nAyanAr in his AchArya hrudhayam chUrNikai 172 brings out nammAzhwAr's divine emotions for this emperumAn and explains that this emperumAn will beautifully reveal his magnificent leelAs to the ones who are greatly attached to him.

During nAyakkAr kings Period, the king built a Mandapam known as nAyakkAr maNdapam in AzhwAr thirunagari to receive navathiruppathi emperumAns who arrive from their dhivya dhEsams during vaikAsi brahmOthsavam to Alwarthirunagari to wait before the mangalAsanam. He offered a gold kavacham (armour) for the emperumAn who arrives first to the maNdapam. Though, mAyakkUththan emperumAn arrives from a far distance and usually arrives at the end, but that particular year, he arrived first and accepted the kavacham from the king and blessed the king.

Sri Bhakta Vijayam - Saint Kanhopatra - Ramesh Varadarajan

Shyama, a dassi lived in the town of Mangalvedha near Pandharpur. Shyama had a beautiful daughter by name Kanhopatra who was well versed in singing and dancing. Shyama wanted to take her daughter to see the king with an intention to get some money and ornaments. Kanhopatra refused saying that she would only marry someone who is very handsome.



One day a group of pilgrims who were going to Pandhari singing the praise of Vittal. Kanhopatra bowed to them and asked them where they were going. The pilgrims replied that they were going to Pandhari to see lord Vittal and said how even lord Brahma and others were unable to describe his glory and that his beauty exceeds that of Lakshmi a billion fold. Kanhopatra then asked if lord will accept her. When the saints told her that He will definitely accept her, she told her mother and went to Pandhari with them. She joined the pilgrims in singing the praise of lord and reached Pandhari. When she had the darshan of Vittal, she decided to remain in the temple and sing His praise.

One man from Bedar saw her beauty and told the king about her beauty. On hearing this, the Mohamedian king sent his guards to get Kanhopatra. The guards told Kanhopatra of the king's orders and they would have to take her forcefully if she fails to comply. She told them that she would visit Vittal for one last time and come back with them to the king. She went in and prayed to Vittal the whole world will blame him, if he abandons her. As she pleaded, her soul merged into His. As per Vittal's instructions to the priest, she was buried at the southern gate of the temple. As soon as they buried her, to every one's surprise, a tarati tree sprang up immediately in that place. We can still see this tree in Vittal Rukmani temple in Pandharpur. When the king's guards who were waiting in the main gate came to know of this, demanded to see her corpse and the priest told them that it has changed into a tree. The guards arrested the priest and took him to king. The priest offered coconut and bukka from the temple to the king as Prasad and narrated what happened. When the king saw a hair on the coconut, he demanded how a hair can be found in the offering to God? The priest covered up by saying it was Vittal's hair. When the king did not believe this the priest asked the King to come to Pandhari and see if it is true. At this, the king decided to come to Pandharpur and check for himself. He entered the temple paid his respects to Vittal and went to inspect in His bed chamber. He was awe struck when he saw Vittal's brilliant crown, beautiful curly hair, his lotus eyes, his crocodile ear rings and the kaustubh around his neck. He told the priest that he saw the lord just the way they had described him. He then prostrated before Vittal and embraced his feet and said that it was Kanhopatra's fortune to get united with Vittal.



Unknown Story – Chi Pranav

We all know about the story Sudhama, commonly known as Kuselan the beloved friend of Sri Krishna who by His blessings was freed of all abominable problems when he was blessed by Krishna. But isn't that surprising to you all to hear there was also a Kuselan in Ramayana living with by Rama's blessing? The name of this Kuselan in Ramayana is...Ananthan.

Rama along with his brothers Lakshmanan, Bharathan and Shathrughnan was doing vidyabhyasam in Vashister's Ashramam. At that time his best friend was Ananthan. He was extremely poor he was doing kaimkaryam to his guru Vashishta to get blessings. In school, Ananthan was very happy when he helped Rama, Lakshmanan, Bharathan and Shathrughnan. Especially, the care and respect he showed towards Rama was exceptional. In return, Rama showed a lot of care and love. Together they were happy friends in their school days.

Ananthan kept Rama's palm scripts, sharpened his writing nails, polished his bow, kept his arrows safe and sharp and he served food and he did this all out of respect and love for Rama. Ananthan and Sri Rama were the best of friends and even if Rama is not there for one day, Ananthan would long for him. They helped and cared for each other in their school days.

Every month on some days, Ananthan went to the valley to collect darbhais, as this was Ananthan's job. Once, when Ananthan went to the valley, in school Sri Rama completed his work and with his brothers left for Ayodhya. Though Sri Rama went to Ayodhya He constantly remembered Ananthan. Without seeing Rama, Ananthan was also very sad. He decided to meet Rama and went to Rama's palace in Ayodhya. There, another surprise was waiting for him. Just then Rama, Lakshmanan and Maharshi Vishwamitra had left for yaga samprokshanam. Hearing this news Ananthan's throat choked with sadness. He started crying because Dasarathan had permitted Rama to go with Vishwamithrar to the treacherous forest. He was extremely sad about the poor child Rama going to the treacherous forest.

Oh, Sri Rama is in the forest what will he do? Who will help him? For daily Poojas, who will collect darbhais for him? Like this he cried and cried. He decided to look for him immediately. Without even telling his guru Vashishta, he walked straight towards the vast forest. In the deep forest, he shouted 'Rama...Rama...', as he searched and searched for Sri Rama. In the forest, he forgot his route and came into a dark path. In there he stayed in search for some days, without seeing Rama he got very sad. Without seeing Sri Rama, he did not want to go back. 'Rama...Rama...' he kept on yelling, without food, in that forest he sat down in Rama dhyanam. Then, slowly an ant hill formed around him, but whatever happened Ananthan did not get up from his Rama dhyanam.

Time ran fast most of the Ramayana happened, Vishwamithrar's yagam, Sita and Rama's marriage, Rama going to the forest, Sita getting abducted by Ravana, with Hanuman's help, locating of Sita, Rama going to Lanka and killing Ravana, bringing back Sita, Rama and Sita going back to Ayodhya. For His coronation, preparations were being made. Even after all of this, knowing none of this, still in the ant hill, saying 'Rama...Rama...' Ananthan was still in deep dhyanam.

To take part in Rama's coronation kings and Maharishis and normal people from India's every part came to Ayodhya. At that time, some Maharishis that were going through the forest where Ananthan was in his Rama Dhyanam were singing Rama's name. One of the Maharishi's feet broke the ant hill which disrupted Ananthan's dhyanam. 'Rama...Rama...!' where are you my Rama? Ananthan shouted, like a child shouting for his mother.

He did not realize that many years have gone by and he had become older. He still searched for Sri Rama like a little child. Then some in the group of Maharishis enquired who he was and

Unknown Story – Continued...

learnt the details of what happened. He then told what happened to Rama and the good news Rama will soon have His coronation and that is why they are also going to Ayodhya. Hearing the terrible things that happened to Sri Raman Ananthan cried, but hearing that Ramar will be soon King, he also went to Ayodhya with them to watch the ceremony.

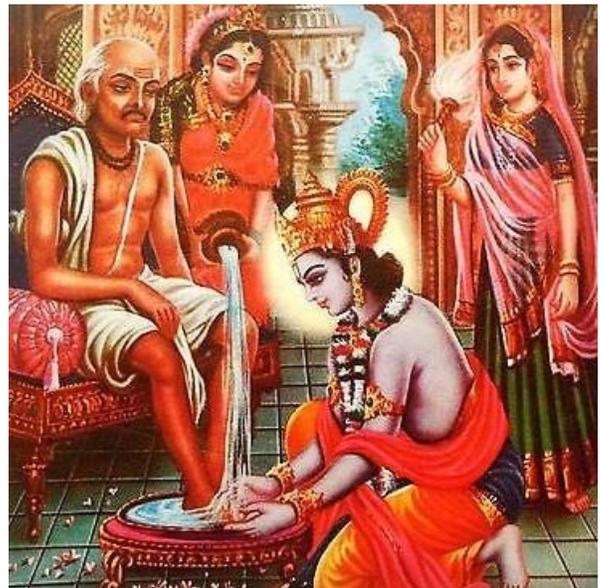
Ayodhya was fully decorated for the ceremony. That day was the coronation. Everywhere there were vedam chanting and beautiful songs. Kula guru Vashishter and Vishwamitra were taking charge of the preparations. People, kings, gods and goddesses were coming.

Sri Raman took bath in sacred water bath early morning, wore his clothes, prayed to His family deity, lord Surya and all gods and the goddesses and walked majestically towards golu mandapam. Then everyone was surprised, because in a loud voice Ananthan shouted, 'hey Rama, where were you for these many days! 'How many days have I been looking for you? Saying this Ananthan walked towards Raman.

He then tightly hugged Raman. Everyone was surprised to see this man in ragged clothes, with a ponytail and dirty look calling Rama, 'hey Rama' and hugging Him. 'Some foolish man is doing this' thought the angry guards and tried to pull him away but Sri Raman pushed ordered them to go away and hugged Ananthan, wiped his watery eyes and said 'please forgive me Anantha!' 'Without telling you I came from school.' 'Now I understand how much my separation has affected you.' 'Please forgive my mistake.' He was talking like how they used to do when they were at Gurkulam together. Everyone was very surprised. Hanuman's eyes watered, realizing Ananthan's bhakti. Then Vashishter asked Rama 'Rama...who is he? When he said 'do you not recognize who he is?' He is my school friend said Rama, your disciple...Ananthan. In this whole country everyone calls me 'lord' or 'great king'. Only my father used to call me like this and I was upset when he passed away. Fixing that problem and replacing my father is this Ananthan!' said Sri Raman. Like Raman, Vashishter also hugged Ananthan and blessed him. In everyone's eyes there were tears of happiness!

'For these many days Ananthan was in my dhyanam. Without stopping he kept on saying my name and was searching for me. It is my duty to show respect Ananthan.' said Sri Raman. He then walked towards Hanuman, 'like you, a person that shows this much affection towards me, what should I give him? Sri Ramar asked Hanuman. 'Oh lord!' you said he resembled your father. Before you sit on the throne, making him sit on the throne. Respecting him is not only for him, but for us also!' answered Hanuman.

Anathan doubted if he deserved this big of an honour. Even when Ananthan said 'no and no' Rama still made him sit on the throne, Ramar put a garland on Ananthan and showed him respect, Sri Ramar also did a pada pooja for Ananthan. Only after that, Ramar started his coronation ceremony.



In Rama avatar, Ananthan was bound by Rama's love and lived happily. Maybe it was Ananthan who came back in Krishna avatar as Sudhama.

73. உடம்பை வெறுத்தேனோ நறையூராரைப் போலே

73. udambai veRuththEnO naRaiyUrAraip pOIE

Pillai Thirunaraiyur Araiyaar was a noble Srivaishnava acharya. One time he and his family went to a place called Thottiyam to worship at the Vedanarayana Perumal temple there. At that time, some antagonists set fire to the temple. Seeing that everyone ran away from the temple, Araiyaar saw that the divine archa rupam of the Lord was about to catch fire. Unable to tolerate that, he embraced the Lord's form and protected Him. Seeing that, his family including his children too offered their bodies to protect the Lord. In the fire, they all lost their lives.

His devotion and love for the Lord is celebrated by Pillai Lokachariar in his Sri Vachana Bhushanam Pen Pillai recalls this and asks Ramanuja "Did I let go of my body for the sake of the Lord like Pillai Thirunaraiyur Araiyaar did?"



74. என்னைப் போல் என்றேனோ உபரிசரனைப் போலே

74. ennaip pOI enREnO uparisaranaip pOIE

Uparicharavasuv was a king who ruled his kingdom as per dharma. He was famed for his knowledge of dharma and following it sincerely. Due to that he was blessed by the dharma devata so that he could move about without touching the ground. One time, during his rule, an argument broke out between rishis and the devas about the sacrificial offering during a yaga. There is a rule in the Vedas about not killing any animal. But there is also a special rule about being allowed to sacrifice an animal during a yaga. It is said that a goat can be sacrificed after the reciting of specific mantras during a yaga.

Due to the rule that animals should not be killed in general, the rishis created the form of a goat using grains, made it sacred with the mantras and sacrificed it in the yaga. The devas did not accept this sacrifice. They wanted a real animal sacrificed in the yaga. Therefore, the devas and the rishis took their case in front of the king Uparicharavasuv and asked him to give a dharmic solution.

Uparicharavasuv respected all souls equivalent to his own. His belief was that the animal had as much right to live as he himself did. So, he accepted the argument of the rishis. Angered by this, the devas cursed him that he would touch the ground as he moved about from that time onward. In either case, Uparicharavasuv comes across as a selfless person.

Thirukkolor Ammal is asking "Did I follow dharma completely and show that all beings are the same as one's self like Uparicharavasuv did?"

Junior Madal

Match the following:

Vamana Wished for this to king Mahabali	Krishna
Avatars widely taken by Sriman Narayana	Vishwakshena
Nrusimha	Surya Vamsa
Sriman Narayana Killed Kamsa in this Avatharam	Varaha
Other Avatharam Lord Srirama Encountered during his life time	10
In this Avataram Sriman Narayana Killed Hiranyaksha	Parasurama
Commander in chief of Sriman Narayana	Syamantaka Gem
Koorma	Half Lion Half Man
Rama's Dynasty	Tortoise
Krishna's fight with Jambavan for	3 Feet of Land

Picture Courtesy: ramanujamission