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#RamanujaDarshanam
#SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam

This Sarvari year, am excited for a one more reason:

The great Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar, the first & foremost Shishya of Swami Manavala Mamunigal, blessed adiyEn with the Thirunakshathram details of 3 more of His Ashtadiggajas!! ■



Had known & celebrated (yadha shakthi) only 2 earlier: Sri Appachiyaranna (Avani Hastham) & Sri Shuddhasathvam Annan (Maasi Swathi).

This year's bonanza (will be celebrating for the 1st time in my life):

1. Sri Dhoddayangar Appai - Thai Swathi (All set for Feb 4th)
2. Sri Ramanujam Pillaan - Panguni Punarvasu
3. Sri Kalamoor Varadhamunigal - Chithrai Shravanam

Search on for more.

So, what can be a greater kinkaryam towards the joy of my cherished Sri Dhoddayangar Appai than talking about Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar, His exalted Acharya?

So, shall share a few happy facts regarding the great #SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam for 2-3 days.

#SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam

*** 1. Introduction ***

Srivaramangala Nagar or Vaanamaamalai or Gaganagiri or Vanadri Kshetram is one of the 108 Divyadesams & also, one of the Svayamyaktha Kshetrams.

Perumal of this Kshetram is Deivanayakan & Thayar is Srivaramangai.



Swami Nammazhwar's "nOtra nOnbilEn" decad of Thiruvaaimeozi decorates this Kshethram while Swami Nammazhwar's Thirumeni decorates the Sri Shatari of Sri Deivanayaka Perumal.

The esteemed charithram of Swami Manavala Mamunigal has been detailed in Sri #YathindraPravanaPrabhavam by Sri Pillailokam Jeeyar.

Sri Pillailokam Jeeyar has highlighted the greatness of Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar at several places in this grantham.

"Gaganagiri Muni Charithram" - a Sanskrit grantham - is the book that details the great charithram of Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar.

It was written by Sri Sundararyar, the grandson of Sri Ramanujam Pillaan (the Gnana Puthra of Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar).

Sri Sundararyar is considered to be an amsham of Sri Deivanayaka Perumal.

Gaganagiri Muni Charithram was later translated in Thamizh as Sri Varamangai Muni Vaibhavam.

Smt.Sumitra Varadarajan Ammangar has written the English translation:

<https://t.co/iMfDrGtOls>

#SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam

*** 2. About Sri Dhoddayangaar Appai (a.k.a. Sri Mahacharyar) ***

Sri Kandhadai Dhoddayangaar Appai is a scion of the glorious Swami Mudhaliyandan (one of the prime Shishyas of Swami Ramanuja) lineage.

He sought refuge in the feet of Swami Manavala Mamunigal & requested the Acharya to accept Him as Shishya.

However, Swami Manavala Mamunigal directed Him to become the Shishya of Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar!

Hence, Sri Dhoddayangaar Appai became Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar's Shishya.

Sri Dhoddayangaar Appai also composed the Nithya Thaniyan for Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar on the command of Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

Nithya Thaniyan is the slokam to be recited everyday while Thirunakshatra Thaniyan is recited on the birth star of a specific Azhwar / Acharya.

An overjoyed Swami Manavala Mamunigal ordered the Shishyas to recite that Nithya Thaniyan immediately after reciting the famous 'Srishaileshadayapathram' Thaniyan of Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

This norm is followed by all shishyas of the Sri Vanamamalai Matam.

Sri Dhoddayangaar Appai also composed Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar Dinacharya, Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar Prapatthi and Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar Mangalashasanam.

So, wherever possible, let us also enjoy quotes from these beautiful sthuthis.

You can enjoy them in full here:

<https://t.co/kyeH0Cji8V> by [@KoyilOrg](#)

#SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam

*** 3. Avathara Rahasyam ***



Sri Adishesha always has an insatiable desire to serve Sriman Narayana by taking as many forms as possible.

“Adishesha” means He is the first & foremost servant of Sriman Narayana.

This is why, when He was born as Lakshmana, He could not stay in Ayodhya – He pleaded with Sri Rama & went along with Him (to serve Sri Rama in the forests).

It is quite famous that Sri Adishesha descended as Swami Ramanuja. He had also descended as Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

Another far less known secret is that He also descended as the first & foremost Shishya of Sri Manavala Mamunigal! He took birth at Vaanamaamalai & is known as Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar.

He is the first Jeeyar of the Sri Vanamamalai Matam.

He also known as:

* Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar

* Srivaramangai Muni

* Sri Ponnadiyaam Sengamalam i.e. the Golden (Red) Lotus Feet of Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

Sri Dhodayyanga Appai explains: Sriman Narayana descended as both Badari Narayana (Guru) & Nara (Shishya).

Likewise, He descended as Swami Manavala Mamunigal & Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar.

शिष्याचर्यातनुद्वयीं निरभजत्प्रायेण लक्ष्मीपतिः
ह्येकोऽभून्नरसंज्ञकस्तदपरो नारायणाख्यः पुरा ।
अद्य त्वेकतरः कृपामृतनिधिः सौम्योपयन्ता मुनिः
तच्छिष्याग्रसरोऽपरो विजयते रामानुजाख्यो मुनिः ॥

முற்காலத்தில் ஸ்ரீய: பதியானவன் தானே ஆசார்யனாகவும், ஸ்ரீஷ்யனாகவும் இரண்டு திருமேனிகளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டான். அதில் ஸ்ரீஷ்யன் நரன். மற்றொருவர் ஆசார்யனான நாராயணன். இப்பொழுது அவர்களுள் ஒருவர் கருணைக்கடலான மணவாளமாமுநிகளாகவும் மற்றொருவர் அவருடைய ஸ்ரீஷ்யர்களில் தலைவரான வாநமாமலை இராமானுஜ ஜீயர் ஸ்வாமியாகவும் அவதரித்து விளங்குகிறார்கள்.

Note: Since Acharya is saakshaath Sri Hari, Sri Dhodayyanga Appai says that Emperumaan descended as Swami Manavala Mamunigal & Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar.

Ponnadikkaal (i.e. Pon + Adikkaal) means the golden foundation.

After Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar became the Shishya of Swami Manavala Mamunigal, several wonderful Adiyaars became the Shishyas of Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

Everyone took the blessings of Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar before They sought refuge in the Feet of Swami Manavala Mamunigal



Once Swami Manavala Mamunigal received a Srimukham (letter) from Sri Vishwaksenar of Sri Vanamamalai Divyadesam.

The letter asked Swami Manavala Mamunigal to send Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar to Sri Vanamamalai Divyadesam for nithya kankaryam (i.e. regular, daily kankaryam).

On that day, it was the turn to recite the last decad of Sri Thirumangai Azhwar's Periya Thirumozhi.

When They did so, one of the pasuram lines that had the word "Aranganagarappaa!" was recited.

रम्योपयन्तृमुनिवर्यदयाऽनुभाव -
संसिद्धसद्गुणगणौघमहार्णवाय ।

रामानुजाय मुनये यमिनां वराय

नाथाय मामककुलस्य नमोऽस्तु नित्यम् ॥

அழகிய மணவாள மாமுநிகளுடைய தையால் பெறப்பட்ட
நற்குணக் கூட்டங்களுக்கு கடல்போல் இருப்பவரும்,
முநிவர்களுக்குத் தலைவரும், எங்கள் குலத்திற்கு நாதருமான
இராமானுஜ ஜீயர் ஸ்வாமிக்கு எப்பொழுதும் வணக்கம்
உரித்தாகுக.

And then, Sri Periya Perumal (Sri Ranganatha Moolavar) blessed Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar with His garland, Theertham, Sri Shatakopan, etc. and gave Sri Jeeyar a grand send off to the Matam with great pomp & ceremony.

Even today, Sri Aranganagarappan is the Perumal worshipped at the Sri Vanamamalai Matam of Sri Vanamamalai Divyadesam.

His Thiruprathishtai was done by none other than Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

*** 5. Thiruvekatavan Reveals #SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam ***



Note:

When Swami Manavala Mamunigal was still in Gruhasthashrama, His Thirunaamam (name) was Sri Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Nayanar.

Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar took Sanyasa before His Guru did!

When Sri Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Nayanar went to Thiruvencatam for the first time, the Sri Periya Kelvi Appan Jeeyar (of those times) saw a dream:

He was standing in a garden on Sri Venkatachala Hills and the sacred hill range was nowhere to be seen!!!

Instead of the Seshachala hills, a householder Sri Vaishnava (dressed in white panchakaccha robes), of a gigantic size, was lying down on the ground, just the way Sri Ranganatha does at Srirangam, and an ascetic Sri Vaishnava stood (with joined palms) near His lotus Feet.

In the dream, a puzzled Sri Periya Kelvi Appan Jeeyar asks some people standing around to identify who these two Sri Vaishnavas are.

They say that the holy one lying down on the ground is Sri Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Nayanar, the Thiruvaimozhi Eedu 36000 Padi Expert.

They identify that the other is His beloved Shishya whom the Acharya addresses as "Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar" & that the Acharya refers to the Shishya as His Praana Suhruth (i.e. Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar is a bosom companion akin to the very life-force of Swami Manavala Mamunigal)!!

Sri Periya Kelvi Appan Jeeyar accorded them both a grand welcome the next day.

Thus Thiruvencatavan revealed that both Sri Manavala Mamunigal and Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar are the amshams of the Thiruvencatam Hills i.e. Sri Adhishesha.

*** 6. Thiruvattiyooraan (Varadaraja Perumal) Reveals #SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam ***



Sri Koil Kandhadai Annan, another phenomenal Shishya of Swami Manavala Mamunigal, become Swami's Shishya because He was instructed to do so by Swami Ramanujacharya and Sri Mudhaliyandan in a dream.

At the same time, Sri Koil Kandhadai Annan's nephew Sri Varadharyar (aka Sri Anna), who lived at Sri Kanchipuram, had a dream.

Sri Varadharaja Perumal appeared in that dream and said:

"O Anna! Proceed to Srirangam immediately!

Take refuge in the feet of Sri Vanamamalai Jeeyar, who is devotedly involved in kankaryam towards Swami Manavala Mamunigal and hence, is very close to His Acharya's heart!"

Sri Varadharyar rushed to Srirangam and informed Sri Koil Kandhadai Annan regarding the divine dream.

Later, Sri Varadharyar went on to become Sri Appaachiyaranna, one of the celebrated Ashtadiggajas of Sri Ponnadikkal Jeeyar.

Sri Dhodayangar Appai captures that beautiful moment in the Prapatthi (one of my top fav shlokas! ■■■■).

वाधूलवंशतिलको वरदार्यवर्यो
वात्सल्यसिन्धुरखिलात्मगुणोपपन्नः ।
निक्षिप्तवान् निजभरं सकलं ययोस्तद् -
वानाद्रियोगिचरणौ शरणं प्रपद्ये ॥

வாதூல குலதிலகராய், வரதார்யன் என்ற திருநாமத்தை உடையராய், வாத்ஸல்யம் முதலான குணங்களுக்கு கடல்போன்றிருப்பவராய், அனைத்து ஆத்மகுணங்களோடு கூடியிருப்பவரான அப்பாச்சியாரண்ணா, எந்த திருவடிகளில், தன்னை ரக்ஷிக்கும் பரத்தை ஸமர்ப்பித்தாரோ, அந்த வாநாமாலை ஜீயர் ஸ்வாமினுடைய திருவடிகளை உபாயமாகப் பற்றுகிறேன்.

Note: Vadhoola Vamsham here refers to Sri Mudhaliyandan's Kandhaadai Thiruvamsham

And yes, Sarvari year threw me another gift - after a long search, came to know that Sri Appachiyaranna is Sri Ponnadikkaal Jeeyar's Padhuka Thirunaamam. Man, I beamed. ■

*** 7. Srivaramangai sametha Sri Deivanayaka Perumal Reveals #SriVaramangaiMuniVaibhavam ***



There is a sweet story behind how Srivaramangai Devi reached Sri Vanamamalai Divyadesam.

When Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar had started to perform His service at Sri Vanamamalai Divyadesam, there was no Uthsava Vighraha for Srivaramangai Thayar.

Sri Jeeyar went on a Yathra to Thiruvencatam & stayed there to explain Swami Nammazhwar's Thiruvaimozhi meanings to several Shishyas for 1 year.

The night before He was about to start His journey towards Vanamamalai, Sri Jeeyar had a dream:

A young, beautiful, little girl climbed onto Jeeyar's lap and said, "Appa! Please take me, your daughter, to Vanamamalai along with you. Perform my marriage with Sri Deivanayakan!"

She repeated this several times in Her sweet voice.

Sri Jeeyar woke up with a start and discussed this dream with some key Adiyaars in Thiruvencatam.

Surprisingly, they too said that they all had a dream where a sweet, little girl had said:

"Send me to Vanamamalai tomorrow along with my father, Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar!"

Everyone was astonished but none understood the background of these dreams.

Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar then met the main Jeeyar who managed the Thiruvencatam Temple administration.

The Thiruvencatam Jeeyar smiled & said, "O Jeeyar! I too had a similar dream last night!"

"The same sweet little girl asked me to accompany you and Her to Vanamamalai and give Her a send off! I know who She is!

She is Mahalakshmi Devi Herself.

Several years back an Uthsava Vighraha had appeared at Thiruvencatam."

"As Sri Venkateshwara already has Alarmelmangai Padmavathi as His Divya Mahishi, we did not know what to do with this new Uthsava Vighraha but installed Her in a safe place.

She is the one who appeared in my dream last night."

"She has declared you as Her father! Pray do perform Her marriage, O fortunate most Jeeyar!"



A jubilant Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar escorted Srivaramangai Naacchiyar and gave Her Hand in marriage to Sri Deivanayakan in a fantastic, grand event.

He also offered wedding gifts to His Son-in-law!

Even today, the Kanu Uthsavam, an occasion where daughters go to their parents' homes and receive gifts, is grandly celebrated at Sri Vanamamalai.

Srivaramangai, along with Sri Deivanayaka Perumal, visits Sri Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeeyar at His Matam to receive festive gifts! ■