Dedication to RamanaMaharishi

In the cold winter month of December, many great men took birth in many parts of the world. In the Land of Bharata (India), Mārgazhi (Mid-December to mid-January) is an auspicious time. A wonderful birth took place in Mārgazhi to bring amity to the people.

Among the help, there was an elderly woman. She was a multiparous woman. She raised many children. Then, her eyesight was poor. She sat in a corner and was dispensing advice to others, which was of great help to others less experienced.

Though she had poor eyesight, her mind was on labor and delivery. She wished the baby emerged healthy.

As soon as the baby was born, they gave the baby in the hands of the elderly woman. Instantaneously, her vision came alive. She wondered, “Was this the baby or a Great Light?” In so dark a place, so bright is the child. The astrology announced the infant was a Mahān.

Budhan in the 2nd house, Sukkiran, in the 5th Guru, very special. This is the evidentiary proof for the birth of Jñavān (Wise man). The 5th place is the site for Pūrva Puṇṇiya Stāṇam (The place for merit from previous birth). The dominance of Guru in Pūrva Puṇṇiya Stāṇam is an evidence of very great man. Sundaram Iyar house had a demerit (சாபம் = curse). A recluse coming for food and lodging many generations ago was chased
and beaten; that predicated the fate that in each generation, one member would become a recluse. This time, no one worried about it.

Venkatraman, the future Ramana Maharishi is born.

Sundaramaiyar’s Kuladaivam (Family deity) was Venkataramana Swami and therefore, the child was named Venkatraman. The child was plump. He grew up smart. What singing, what dancing…what an alacrity! He never stayed still. That worried the mother and made her tired. She raised with love and tenderness.

The parents admitted him in Maṇṇar Sēthupathi School. It was fascinating to see him go to the school, strong of body, with a loin cloth, bare chest, a slate, …

No day without learning.

No fault finding of anyone.

It was ecstasy to see him with folded hands and to hear him read aloud with other children. That child’s praise, the whole world will announce. That child’s words of grace, the world will hear. The people of the world give up all faults, fall prostrate at his feet and enjoy tranquility and rapturous joy. The town or the child’s parents had no concept of the future of this blessed child.

“Hey… Shall we build a ship and launch it?

“We need a heavy paper!” -His friend said.
Venkatraman brought a few sheets of extra heavy paper (for legal documents) and built many ships. He took them and floated them in the temple pond. They floated and sailed the gentle waves propelled by the gentle breeze. They were the home documents scribed on the Stamp paper.

“Let him shed the shirt here and leave town! He can’t come back home. That paper belonged to client of mine. What am I going to tell him?” – Sundaramaiyar coming to know of it, yelled loudly. Venkatraman, terrified, ran away, not to be found.

Evening came. The night was imminent. There was no Venkatraman. The neighborhood people went searching. The whole town went searching for him here and there.

There was not much of a crowd in the temple. Midnight service in the temple was over. The priest having performed Naivēttiyam to Ambal and extinguished the flaming wick, heard something move behind the Ambal idol, exited the premises and shouted, ‘Who is there?’ Venkatraman’s face stuck out from behind the idol.

“Little calf! Are you here? The whole town is looking for you, child! Your mother went around the temple twice. Poor woman is crying. What are you doing here?

“Father will thrash me.”

“Fearing it, you are hiding. Is it the place to hide?”
Śivācchāriyār put the calf on his shoulder and took him home.

Venkatraman knew at that age without awareness to seek refuge with the omniscient God.

Venkatraman went to Dindukkal for higher education. Play first and read later were his modus operandi. Those who pay attention to the worldly activities, there was no need for education: That became his discipline in the future.

‘The sapling (is known) by the sprout.’ It is a proverb. Not all know how to scrutinize. The sprout does not reveal its secrets.

He played well like other children. He won in all play activities because he was of fit physique. Children wished to join him. They beg him to include them in his team.

Finishing fifth grade in Tirucchuzhi, he joined sixth grade in Dindukkal City School. Dindukkal is a bigger town and many friends joined his team.

A fort built by Kurunila kings was in Dindukkal. It went by the name Ūmaiyan Kōttai.’ Ūmaiyan ruled his kingdom from the fort. When the British laid seize on the fort, the king dug a hole in the wall and escaped. When Venkatraman and friends wanted to enter the court, the guards did not allow them in. They jumped the perimeter wall and played inside. The guards chased the boys. Venkatraman led the other boys to escape through that hole in the wall.

Because of these bold and innovative actions, Venkatraman’s fame heightened among his friends. He played hard and slept deep for long time. He was left home alone under an order to study and keep a watch on the house. Once they left the house, he pretended to read for a while, shut his book, the windows, the front doors, and the rear doors. He spread the sleeping mat. He went to sleep. The occupants, returning from the event, banged on the doors, yelled aloud…Venkatraman never woke up.

That sleep was more than deep sleep. It was a bodiless sleep; it was beyond mind; it was deeper than deep sleep. Somehow the occupants of the house found a way into the house, shook him hard and awakened him. Because of birth with a body, he spent his youth sleeping to satisfy the total needs of sleep for the rest of his life and after a certain age, he knew no phenomenal sleep but immersed in Conscious Sleep (‘Wakeful Sleep’). Nobody knew the wonder of Wakeful Sleep he experienced later in life.
They called him by unflattering names: SleepFace, Kumbakarna… Sleep haunted him not only at home but also in the classroom. The teacher twisted his ears, and hit him with the knuckles, to wake him up in the classroom. He was subjected to insults. To avoid going to sleep in the classroom, he tied a thread between his tuft and the nail in the wall and read his book. When he nodded his head with sleep, the pull of the string would wake him up. He had the God-given gift of sleep anywhere, anytime, at any cost…from his childhood.

Venkatraman’s father died in Tirucchuzi when Venkatraman lived in Dindukkal. He left for Tirucchuzi and met his father on the deathbed. His father’s death was traumatic to young Venkatraman and caused life changes. His father’s premature death broke the family unit.

Mother remained in Tirucchuzi; oldest brother, sister, older brother Nagaswamy and Venkatraman took refuge in uncle Subbiah’s house. The uncle and the aunt embraced and supported them.

But, no one knew then Venkatraman would live without the support of the near and dear but only with that of God.

- தரிசிப்ப ொம்... Let us get Darśan

பலம் ந. குமாரசன். Pictures: S. Kumaresan

சத்ரி மீத்தன் - 27 May, 2010 Part 2

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Author: Sarukesi

Māṅgādu Lakshminarayanan talks about the beneficiaries who gained from the Darśan they had of Kanchi Periyava.

Periyava moderated a conference in Tiruvidaimaruthūr near Kumbhakoṇam and planned to go to Kanchi via Tiruvannamalai.
Having come to Tiruvannamalai and leaving without circumambulation of the hill are not proper. He performed the Girivalam starting early in the morning. He returned at three p.m.

On the path, Periyava plucked some leaves and asked, “See, whether there is any cardamom smell?” He would pluck another leaf and say, “look here, it has the green camphor smell.” He continued examining the leaves on the way. “In ancient times, there were many Siddhars. They being alchemists had the knowhow to make gold.” Periyava laughed and said, “They never revealed their alchemistic knowledge to the posterity.”

Later, passing by Tirukkōvilūr on the pilgrimage, we reached Kāñchipuram. We did not stay there long and soon came to Kalavai, wherein is the abode of Periyava’s Supreme Guru.

In Kalavai camp, a special event: VIPs like Indra Gandhi, MGR… came to Kalavai for Darśan. He went for a conference in Madurai and came to Chennai. Indra Gandhi was very hyperactive. She was insistent that she would have Darśan of Periyava, before she left. We told her he was in Mauna Viratam (Vow of Silence) and she could not engage him in a conversation.

She said, ‘It is alright. I will keep my supplication in my mind. Holding the thought in her mind in his presence was enough. He does not have to say anything!’

It happened just as said.
Periyava was sitting by a well and doing the Japam. As if seeing him, Indra Gandhi sat in front of him. She uttered no word.

When Indra Gandhi rose to take leave, Periyava presented her with a Rudrāksha garland, which we placed on a plate and gave it to her. That moment, she wore it around her neck.

It was then election time in Karnataka. Congress minister Gundu Rao came to see Periyava often. Periyava said, ‘There is no need for you to obtain favors from me. Go, supplicate and worship Kāmākṣī Amman. Your supplication will come true.’ Gundu Rao won the election next month and became the chief minister of Karnataka.

Elections in 1977 saw Indira Gandhi lose her seat. Next year, she stood in elections in Sikmagalūr. That time Congress had a cow as its party symbol. She objected to the cow and instead wished for the lion symbol.

In Kalavai, when she met with Periyava, he raised his hand and blessed her. Impressed by the raised hand, she determined to have hand symbol for the Congress party. This is how Indra Gandhi won the elections in Sikmagalūr.

For a special event, Periyava went to Ahōbhilam. Though he walked the distance, the Mutt workers rode the jeep with all the accouterments.

Ahōbhilam is in Andhra Pradesh. There are nine places of worship for Narasimha. They are scattered all over. It is hard to reach them. There are bamboo forests on the ways. The snakes hang from the canopy of bamboo trees. Wild animals abound. Adi Samkara facing the Kapalis bent on killing him worshipped Narasimha and killings took place there.

The doors of the Ugra Narasimhar close at 6 p.m. No one can enter after the closing time. Periyava wanted to visit the temple. He had no fear. His Tapas was of supreme nature, which not only protected him but all the
attendants. He had the Mahā Sakthi that offered protection and prevention of danger. Lakshminarasimhan said that.

- தரிசனம் ததொடரும் = Darśan will continue.