

IYPASSI MAASAM

the 7th month of the Tamil Calendar ,  
17TH OCTOBER TO 15TH NOVEMBER 2012

Since AADI MAADAM, The nine universal saktis ,are being propitiated in the homes of Tamilians. What is universally accepted by all people inhibits the main characteristic of GOD. A regional deity is not God but a part or ANSH of GOD. There is only ONE GOD ,and the unicity is harmonised by God and the inherent self energy making God in cosmic partnership ,a rejuvenator of life. The Atma, the soul, is part and parcel of Paramatma, the Supreme God. The ATMA is God in any living creature as sung by Manickavasagar who has given us the Holy book, Thiruvaasagam. The month of IYPASSI gives much importance to Shiva-Shakti along with the Primal Shakti ,Skanda, known as Murugan in Tamil Nadu. Lord Krishna, the original Skanda, was hailed as the Universal protector in the month of Purattaassi and it goes on to consolidate the human beings and the environment with the celebration of Navarathri poosai in a stretch continuously for 10 days.

NAVARAATHRI POOSAI

Lord Vishnu ,the preserver of the universe was in deep meditation and soon after Lord Brahma ,having noticed it, requested Lord Vishnu to disclose the identity of this ultimate power' Lord Vishnu informed Lord Brahma that He was praying to AADIPARASHAKTI ,the creatrix of this universe and that shakti resides in him as Sri Laxmi and through his own shakti he communicates to the highest Shakti AADIPARASHAKTI. Lord Brahma realised that his own Shakti is Kaleimagal \Saraswati. Lord Shiva later disclosed that AADIPARASHAKTI is the supreme ,that his own Shakti originally Sati is Parvathi. He added there is no Shiva without Shakti. Our Soul imbued with Shakti only can reach its destination So our life is meaningless without Shakti. As our life is threatened by evils \demons we need to go to Shakti for protection and survival. Goddess Durga originated from Parvathi the consort sakti of Lord Shiva rides on a lion and is the destroyer of demons. At the beginning of time there were only good beings {SURAS} and some good beings out of jealousy of their own creator turned out to become Asuras {evil beings} who chose to live in a separate world {Asuralogam} their own creation.

Every time Evil wanted to invade good in Deivalogam Shakti had to manifest to destroy that evil .After so many yugams of existence ,evil has come closer to human beings and has inhabited the one and same body of any being. We should never forget that salvation to reach God is through the life of a human being. Lord Krishna tells us that human life is the most precious for God and we should not waste it. Then shakti has become the real partner of any human being seeking salvation from God. Karaikal Ammayar ,the only woman Nayanar ,among the 64 saints closest to Lord Shiva, was praying only Shivaperumane neglecting attention to Parvathi. This Karaikkal Ammayar loved the Lord so extremely that she walked the thousand and eight steps of the Himalayas on her head not to soil them with her feet. She was so dear to Lord Shiva that the Lord called her AMMA my mother.} Shiva wanted her to pay tribute to Shakti ,When she reached the doors of Shivalogam ,Lord Shiva took some time to receive her, just to allow Shakti to intervene. When Karaikkal Ammayar saw Parvathi, unknown to her at that time. She asked for some water as she was tired after that very very long journey and Shakti coolly told her " You have come to the source of the holy water and can't you recognise it?" Karaikkal Ammayar got her final illumination and recognised the Shakti of Lord Shiva and the doors of Shivalogam opened and Lord Shiva came running to embrace the old woman whom he welcomed as his mother. There is no Shiva without Shakti-Parvathi There is no Vishnu without Shakti-Laxmi. There is no Brahma without Shakti-Saraswati; There is no human life without Shakti.--Our Soul.

It is said that Parashakti leaves annually her real domain in Heaven and come into the universe

in the month of Aadi and stays for three months and leaves in early Iyassai month which coincides with the Navarathri festival. The Navarathri ceremonies in South India aim at purification of the Soul through purification of body and mind. The fasting with some dieting helps the body to shed some extra fat and the prayers and rituals keep the mind on the Shakti, the primal energy of the human being. The devotees develop good dutiful habits and sharing becomes part of the culture and they reap the joy of giving. The houses are decorated with natural make-up and lights. As the internal decoration is boosted up so the internal body system is rejuvenated.

Ten Shaktis are venerated, one each day. We note that Sati, the original SAKTI of Lord Shiva became Parvathi who extrapolated herself as Durga after killing Durgam, the demon which created fear.

1 Tripurasundari --Sati origin, also known as Shailputri, she alone is adored and worshipped on the first day. Her Shakti assisted Lord Shiva in destroying TRIPURA, the wicked city ruled by the devilish sons of Taraka, that demon had to be killed by Lord Murugan. Therefore we pray to her to give us courage and fearlessness to overcome all obstacles and adversities. She teaches the spirit of sacrifice. She had provided energy to all. Her temples are found in north and south of India.

2 Kanyakumari ---Sati origin, also known as Brahmacharini. Started the system of fasting to win the love of Lord Shiva. She became so strong by her fasting, she destroyed Basmasuren who wanted to kill Shivaperuman. We pray her to assist us in the fasting exercise yet to grow stronger in facing adversities and overcome enemies. She oversees the seaside of Kanyakumari.

3 Kamakshi ---Sati origin, --whose creatrix force is felt in the universe. She provided energy to all creation. She gives power and helps us to get rid of all world turmoils. She gives peace and prosperity. She is the supreme Goddess at KANCHIPURAM. St. Arunagirinadar called her the dark mother of Lord Murugan, Skandamaataa.

4 Meenakshi --Sati origin--also known as Mahagowri has very strong powerful eyes and have cured many people who could fix her eyes while praying. She is adored with Lord Shiva, Sandeswarar at Madurai.

5 Vishalakshi--Sati origin. Also called Vaisnavodevi is the sakti of Lord Shiva, KAALABAIRAVAR. The name of this sakti means vast-eyed. She grants the wishes of devotees, facilitating marriages, child-birth. Vishalakshi has her temple at Varanasi.

6 Durgai Sati -origin -the destroyer of Mahisasuren has temples all over India. She eliminates fear from the heart of devotees and assist them in destroying difficulties. She is none but the primal Shakti who killed the demon DURGAM symbolising Fear and took his name as Durga so that she replaced that fear, Fear is a common denominator for so much unhappiness. Fear of loss, of being killed, of falling sick, of losing jobs, fear of adversaries and fear of death--a longest list of problems caused by fear.

Fear is the basic weakness of one and all. Praying Durga will surely eliminate fear.

7 Kaalikaammen, commonly called KAALI, the destroyer of devils in the form of negative ego which haunt human beings. Unfortunately there are devils in this world of kaliyugam and Kaalima is here to help devotees getting rid of these devils. After eliminating devilish ego and enmities, we can trace up our spiritual path. The effort must be destructive to obstacles.

8 Sri Laxmi, the sakti of Lord Vishnu, the provider of happiness, light, love and health and wealth. She has temples all over India, Lakshmi denotes abundance in everything for the good of mankind.

9 Sri Vidya or Saraswati or Kaleimagal, the Sakti of Brahma, the dispeller of ignorance, the provider of knowledge, wisdom, skills and artistic values is well known over India.

10 The merging of all the saktis as AAGILANDASWARI to re-become Devi, the original creatrix AADIPARASHAKTI.

The celebration of Vijayadasami resumes all this successful effort for a win-win situation After spending 9 days and 9 nights with the ParaShakti devotees should feel refreshed and prepared for a better life.

In Mauritius as in India , different societies celebrate Navarathri differently but the essence is the same. Some societies would call the ceremony as Durga puja because the seven saktis of Lord Shiva dominate over the ceremonies. One common denominator is the importance of Shakti , this prime energy for our life. The SAKTI OF GOD is most important for us than God himself. Navarathri prayers are very intensive and it has been found by chanting the mantras regularly , morning, noon and evening, devotees experience a net gain not just in energy but in usable spiritual energy. People who previously had no noticeable aura, now had one ; some become healers , some grow wiser and most become more stout in determination and will. In our self Shakti is described as a serpent like power cell- coiled sitting at the base of the spine. During intensive prayers this shakti is connected wireless- like to the Para Shakti, the supreme force that exists throughout the entire manifest universe. By praying to mother Sati in all her forms such as Durga, the devotee develops ICCHASAKTI, Willpower and capabilities to attain objectives.

By praying to Sri Laxmi, devotees develop KRIYASAKTI , the art of action through illumination and creativity , means to do right things rightly. By praying Saraswati, the devotees develop GNANASAKTI , the power of the intellect , of real wisdom, to memorise, to invent and to remember for overall communication to the universe. The interaction of inner shakti and outer shakti is possible by the forces of kundalini shakti which is a living reality in every human being. The celebration of Navarathri or Durgapuja is the appropriate occasions for devotees to develop life and spiritual energies to the maximum and enjoy a happy living on earth. Shaktis are important to improve on our karmas with a view to facilitate salvation and eternal peace in God's world. How can we differentiate between good knowledge and bad one? We need the help of a guru to make the difference. A wise teacher is averse to teach a person who does not ask for instruction. But he may impart it to deserving ones who have genuine faith in the teacher and great interest in learning this teaching, Religious faith, loving adoration, humble questioning and moral purity make one eligible for seeking such precious matters. Why Navarathri came into this world? Several thousand years before our time . Sage Agasthyar related the event.

Who was St Agasthyar? He was delegated by Lord Shiva to install Shiva-Shakti in the Southern part of India. Lord Murugan had already mapped out that region now called Tamil Nadu and had occupied the Kurinjhi valleys and hilly grounds for the development of his civilisation. Without Shiva -Sakti the Murugan Philosophy would have been incomplete and Agasthyar munivar knew the place very well. In TetraYugam , Lord Rama had to take the advice of St Agasthyar who told him to invade Sri Lanka and not Tamil Nadu as it was not the land of Demons but Sri Lanka was. Agasthyar got his instructions direct from Parvathi herself. On the way back from the victory over the Demons , Lord Rama halted in Tamil Nadu to thank AGASTHYAR for his advice. This is why the Tamilians light lamps one night before other Indians on Teebavali Day. St Agasthyar with the help of Sri Ganesha watered the soil of South India during a severe drought creating the Cauvery river which water is still being disputed by the governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

St Agasthyar was the initial teacher of Tamil language upon instruction of Lord Murugan. St Agasthyar was the favourite of Shiva and Parvathi. Agasthyar was instructed by them to teach

Rama and Sita the content of Sri Lalitha Sahasranama. Agastyar had to recite the Hymns of Sahasranama to be familiarised with them and by continuous practice ,He had the vision of Sri Lalitha,the Divine Mother,the Devi who combined all Shaktis combined ,whose origin is none but AADIPARASHAKTI.Lord Rama took the blessings of Durgaiammen before waging war on Iravanan.That was the day of Vjayadasami . Celebrating Navarathri without reading solemnly Lalitha Sahasranama is an incomplete ceremony.The Lalithasahasranama is recited on the Sri Chakra symbol resting on the Sri yantra.In any house of the Tamilian celebrating Navarathri, there is a display of dolls along the set up of the Sri Chakra and Sri Yantra all infused with the holy tunes of Sri Lalithasahasranama.

Sri Lalithasahasranama contains the 1008 names of Devi and in one sitting the devotee invokes all the existed names of Adiparasakti . As from this Navarathri it is advisable to familiarise oneself with the Lalithasahasranama available in all south Indian languages.Navarathri celebrations are most beneficial to all in the country.This is why Navarathri festival is celebrated in grandiose at regional levels throughout India. In Mauritius it is rather a spiritual event.The celebration starts on the 16th October and ends on the 24th October 2012 .NAVARATHRI NAL VAAZTUKKAL. AUM SAKTI AADI PARASAKTI.

#### ANNAABHISEGAM

Rice cultivation originally started at the feet of the Himalayas by the will of Shiva-Shakti. Rice is the basic food of South Indians and it is customary to offer food to God before consumption.The typical family offers food to God and ancestors every morning before taking same ,However ,many Indians go without food every dayThe world faces food crisis at this moment .Some two millions of people die for lack of food and some 800 million people suffer from lack of proper food.So it is our duty to pray to God to give us protection against hunger.The world is afflicted by natural calamities such as drought and floods and tempests which threaten the growth of foodcrops.Only the Almighty Creator can protect humanity from hunger.Therefore the Tamils offer special prayers to Lord Shiva ,the giver of food. Once a year,ANNAABHISEGAM is being held in all shiva temples.

This year the special prayer is to be held on the 29th October 2012. An abhisegam is firstly performed with water,milk,honey,coconut water,rosewater,curd,vibhuthi, sandanam and kungumam on the Shivalingum,then cooked plain rice is applied covering the lingum part and fruits and flowers are spread over the pedestal of the Shivalingum .The panjamirrdam is offered as prasadam to all devotees Some of the rice offered are spread over riverwater for nourishing the countryside to produce food crops for the country.This ceremony is a thanksgiving occasion for people to remind one and allthat God is the real provider of food.It is noted that the offering of rice is performed on a shivalingum and on no other murthis.This is ANNAABHISEGUM.In Tamil Nadu ,harvesting rice is the focus activity of the people.After performing ANNAABHISEGAM,we should involve ourselves in sharing foods with the have-notsin annadaanam activities.

#### TEEBAVALI

Teebavali or Divali is a well known festival through out the world.Anational holiday in India and in Mauritius.Alot of money is being spent at the time of Divali.A big business time for many people.However Teebavali had its origin in spirituality and religious tradition.It started in the tetrayugam when Lord Rama returned to Ayodya after his victory over Iravanan the demon king of SriLanka.Lord Rama was welcome with lighted lamps and joyful celebrations.Later in Dwaparayugam Kannaperuman and Satyabhama gave moksha to a demon king Narakasuren and in memory of this event South Indians got up early in the morning and offered their prayers

to Lord Krishna and this memory was later converted for ancestors worship in certain sections of the community;The lighting of lamps is devoted to Lord Rama and to Sri Laxmi the bestower of light ,beauty and wealth In general people celebrate the victory of good over bad ,the victory of light over darkness ,the victory of wisdom over ignorance,and the victory of God over evil.

Teebam aavalee means a row of lamps lit to show the path for godliness. In certain sector Laxmi poosei is celebrated by lighting lamps all over the dwelling places.in History it is mentioned that in earlier times ,Divali was an occasion to gamble on money matters.These people believed that Sri Laxmi showered monetary prosperity on all gamblers.The common practice to-day is that the love of sharing is upheld in good dharma by distributing cakes,foods,clothing and cash to the poor and relatives and friends.

#### KEDAARA GOWRI NOMBOO

Gowri nomboo is an oldest ceremony starting with Parvathi [Gowri] fasting to obtain the relationship of Lord Shiva.Sometime later in history,ninth century A.D , ST .ANDAL fasted for the relationship of Lord Krishna.Actually the relationship between husband and wife is reinforced with the celebration of nomboo viratham,as the name suggests it means fasting and this fast is observed during 21 days .The fast starts in the month of Purattaassi and closes on Teebavali day.Wives would fast for their dead husbands too.Some devotees would fast for the welfare of their beloved friends ,relatives and family members.This fasting is really dedicated to Lord Shiva as the soul is the relationship with Lord Shiva.There are 21 centres in the astral body which are vital for life ---the 7 main chackras and the 14 nadis ,minor chackras all over in the body.When all the 21 chackras are in balance life is at its best.The nomboo ceremony is marked by 21 fasting days ,21 legumes dieting food and 21 saffron threads with 21 knots each.All this to remember that the 21 chackras in the body have to be always in balance for an optimum life.The 21 threads are only lifelines of the living body.This year Teebavali day falls on 13th November 2012 and Nomboo falls on the 14th November with the commencement of Skanda Shasti Viratham.

#### SKANDA SHASTI VIRATHAM

Lord Muruga accomplished his mission --transforming evil into a part of divinity ,chasing Surapadman ,a demon who fled up to SriLanka ,retrieved back by Lord Murugan . Thirucheniyoor now THIRUTCHENDUR in the southern part of southeast of Tamil Nadu .The demon hid himself out of fright in a mango tree but the Lord being supreme gnanam--pure knowledge spotted him with the Vel of his mother and father ,opened the trunk of the tree and caught Surapadman by the neck and pierced him with his sacred Vel that the demon remembered his own divine nature ,pleaded guilty to the Lord and asked for forgiveness and repented of all his sins.The Lord responded with his divine mercy and by granting the possibility of Surapadman to stay by his side as a rooster to fly high his divine glory up on his flag and to serve as his mount as a peacock on all his trips to fulfill the wishes of devotees.The memorable day is Skanda Shasthi---a six days event at Thirutchendur.

Lord Murugan was born from six sparks of Lord Shiva coming directly from the six chakras of Lord Shiva through his frontal third eye.In fact there had been an earlier reactive merging of SHIVA-SHAKTI ,that is the Triangular forces of Brahma-Visnu-Shiva.the Supreme Creator with their triangular inner energies--shakti of Saraswati-laxmi and Parvathi in an upside down intersection and produced Skanda with six pointed stars fitting in six taamarei pookkal which are the love of six beauties ,the krittika maidens.They nursed the six starring babies until Parvathi as a legitimate mother released the babies by bringing them into one person ,a single human form ,yet keeping the six heads,the supreme intelligence embodying the five senses and the 6th sense ,the guru intuition to guide the world.The six maidens were blessed to join

together as the kartigai star to brighten at least a day per month to remind the world that the son of God is present in the universe so that any believer can be saved and restored back in moksha with Lord Shiva. This is the primary mission of all creatures. To unite with God. Sri Krishna as the incarnation of Lord Murugan kindly reminds us that whoever thinks of God or of Him at the moment of death is saved by getting moksha as Surapadman got it. Lord Krishna gave Moksha to the once evil Kamsa who finally repented and asked forgiveness. Lord Murugan and Lord Krishna are the same identity, the two sides of the same coin which were only different through time and ages.

The THIRUTCHENDUR KOIL showed Lord Murugan reversing the position of his vel upside down showing that the vel has achieved its mission by killing the physical body of Surapadman and Lord Murugan prayed to the Pancha Linga of Lord Shiva to get rid of the dosha considered to be bad after killing a living creature---Tarakasura., although he redeemed Surapadman and Sinhamukam by making him the vehicle of mother Durga. The THIRUCHENDUR KOIL is one of the Aarupadei KOILS of Lord Muruga which coils. He asked St Arunagirinadar to visit after his illumination. What is interesting is that Koil is not on the top of a hill as the other five are but at the lowest level below sea level. Nobody would have thought that Lord Murugan would have chosen this holy place to show his eternal presence on earth. In fact on 26th December 2004, Lord Murugan stopped the raging waves of the Tsunami from entering the kovil yard of Thiruchendur although the latter was below the sea level. This divine exploit still defies the law of physics and nobody can explain why this flowing water did not fall in but got reversed up onto the sea. It was found while searching in the ancient sacred book that Varuna as god of the sea made a promise to Lord Murugan after his victory over Surapadman at this same Thiruchendur place that He {Varuna} would not touch the spot where Lord Murugan had set his feet on in due respect for the divinity of the Lord.

There is another well known place in Kerala where Lord Murugan is worshipped and miracles are often witnessed by devotees. It is at KANNIMANGALAM where three temples exist, one for Shiva, one for Devi and one for Lord Nagasubramania. At this place Lord Muruga is worshipped in his snake form. Any person visiting a Brahmasthanam in the ashram of Sri Mata Amritanandamayi would notice this form of Lord Muruga. Now going to Kannimangalam, people would flock to receive the darshanam of the Lord. The miracles are daily happenings. Sick get cured, deaf become normal, unemployed get job, unmarried get married, broken families get united and people come flocking everyday. YAAM IRUKKA BAYAM YERN are in fact the words of Lord Nagasubramania. Almost all the best drummers and musicians assemble for KUMARASHASTHI as the ceremony is called and it is on a yearly basis to call for the Shakti of Lord NAGASUBRAMANIAN. The music performed on this occasion is so divine that some musicians cannot perform similarly outside this temple.

How did Lord Muruga come to be worshipped in the form of a snake.?

It started with the Pranava Aum when Lord Muruga wanted every deity to understand the meaning of AUMKARA, this source of existence. He explained the meaning firstly to his father, Lord Shiva who humbly converted himself as a STUDENT to his son who became His Guru, as Skandaswami. Lord Muruga while delivering the meaning to all felt his little ego had gone beyond his own grasp and he soon realised that he had to quash the ego which was and still is the cause of human failures and destructions. On Skandashasti Day Lord Muruga vanquished Surapadman, a demon created out of Ego. Ego is still our basic cause which calls for our evil nature. We have to squash our ego which is our own enemy and our own devil. This is why the Lord Muruga resides in our AARUPADEIVEEDU, the six main chakras in our body like a coiled serpent which arouses and distributes cosmic energies out of faith. Lord Shiva displayed his egoless state by calling Kartikeya, his Guru. Lord Muruga, knowing the deadly

effect of Ego.wanted to teach the world that ego had to be crushed by all means and that God himself should show the good example for the benefit of Humanity.He subdued Himself with the thought " SINCE I THOUGHT I AM HIGHER THAN THE HIGHEST,LET ME BECOME LOWER THAN THE LOWEST." He transformed himself into a snake which by crawling shows that nothing can be lower than it.Lord Muruga's MOTHER, Parvathi had to undergo a severe fasting called Shasti Viratham for 108 times so that Lord Muruga could resume his normal form as Balamurugan.However this snakeform Nagasubramania is still maintained and is blessing Murugan devotees at Kannimangalam, specially those affected by planetary effects.There are other places in Tamil Nadu where Lord Muruga is worshipped in snakeforms .

Skanda shasti Viratham is simply a means for every human being to decrease his weight of ego which affects adversely his ownself and others.This is why the KAVADI remains a pledge by the bearer to Lord Muruga to enable him to diminish the weightage of his sins .The shoulder remains the most supportive part of the body and this part should be strongest and the Kavadi resting on the shoulder with the purest faith in heart and mind for Lord Muruga is the only hope for survival.Praying Lord Muruga calls for humbleness in our attitude and behaviour.This lesson we have to learn it well on SkandaShasti days{Kandankavinaroumei--14November to 19 November 2012}During this period we chant SKANDASHASTIKAVACHAM ,obtainable on the net.and given to us by DeverayaSwamigal. When the Kavacham is recited properly,the body is cured of physical,moral and spirited sicknesses.

We wish health ,prosperity,wisdom and happiness to one and all .

VETTRIVEL MURUGANUKKU HARO GARA !  
Gopalsamy Pillay Mauree and Jayarani Mauree .