

VAIKAASSI VISHAKAM

Why do we celebrate Vaikaassi Vishakam ?

The answer to this question explains why human beings exist on the surface of the earth. As human beings we are born, we live and we die and the cycle of life existence goes on. Swami Vivekananda, a well known world spiritual leader having mastered psychology, sociology, ethics and spirituality, has clearly mentioned that the ideal purpose of life for a nation and for an individual is religion and moksha.

By religion the Swami means living with God, the Creator and the ultimate goal of a human being is moksha and for a nation is liberty to attain liberation, full independence in peace for all citizens without any distinction. Therefore human beings have to experience God.

God made Himself human so as to guide his creatures towards salvation, I mean moksha, back to God Head, ultimate peace in bliss. The birthday of God as a human saviour needs to be celebrated to give hope to human beings who undergo sufferings of all kinds. There is also tyranny being inflicted by cruel people upon other people which calls for God to intervene in the life of people. Then the celebration of God's birth is vital for the human mind to reflect on God's meaning to our life, especially at a time when human species are being jeopardised.

Why Lord Muruga had to take birth ?

The common worry of all inhabitants of Heaven and on earth that this universe was doomed to disappear because the growing load of evil. This type of thinking exists since immemorial time. It is said that every yugam { e.g--tetra yugam with period of 1.7 million years } terminated with some destruction of the world. Evil exists in all forms-- There are sukra charyas, the gurus of the demons who are fakes who love themselves than anything else. Evil ways continue to affect human behaviour and the remembrance of God being close to human beings recomfort our mind against evil attacks. Tarakasuran was a real demon of non-redeemable nature whereas Singamuki and Surapadman were redeemable demons who could be transformed into good beings.

This was the purpose for Lord Murugan birth in this universe. To save this universe. History of civilizations shows how human beings had been driven to live in the thick forests and on mountain slopes where upon their gods and goddesses became fierce and destructive on their enemies in defence of their existence. If the cults were wild and bloody, these people faith in their gods and goddesses were truly genuine.

They did not have the literacy to convince any foreigner of their culture of truthfulness but their acts were noble enough to please their gods and goddesses. Acts are mostly delivered by hands as dictated by the head. All our emotions, however, good or bad, have to be transmitted to the mind which by spirit orders the hand to act upon. Therefore any wrong doing is caused by the hand with the instruction of the spirit located in the head. Then the head and the hand are to be safeguarded against evil effect.

The mind with only good thought can never wrong anyone. But the mind is difficult to control and if the mind becomes divine, the whole world is transformed into heaven. The human body is made up of 5 elements--fire, air, water, ether, earth. The self is the sixth element made up of the soul mixed up with the spirit which re-incarnates after the physical death. The soul does not die. The soul is divine and stays in every human being as long as life is sustained.

The creation of Lord Muruga .

It was this divine soul emitted from the internal self of Lord Shiva, along with the fire element, through the frontal eye and carried down by the air element down the watery element of the Ganges into the peaceful pond of Saravanapoigei onto the six fertile lotuses. and the six babies were nursed by the six feminine angels in the sky --the Kritikas--and Adi parasakti who embodies the whole of Nature in the form of Korravai like Kaliammen or Karumariamman, got hold of the six babies and merged them together transforming all into one body and six heads and 12 arms or hands, and called Him Skanda with the blessing of Lord Shiva. This is the birth of Lord Murugan as known to us nowadays.

In some North Indian ancient history, it was stated that six devilish female spirits were released by the demon Tarakasura to nourish the Lord with their poisonous milk but on seeing the magnificent beauty of the Lord in the baby form they changed their mind and were redeemed into angels. Murugan means divine beauty. The female demons became the angels now called the Kritikas. The six kritikas were released in the sky after their nurturing duties and they still remind us of the birth time of Lord Muruga. Every month the star appears in the sky and is reflected in the science study of the panjanganam. It is time to remember that Lord Muruga came into the world to save humanity from destruction, as asuras are still invading the earth surface. Therefore celebrating the Lord birthday is a good means to believing in proximity of the Lord. The hope for a better world is still here.

The six heads and the 12 arms of Lord Muruga are clues for the ongoing surety of life on earth. The Lord has come as the son of God directly from the Self of Lord Shiva. He continues to play the roles of God by his six heads and twelve hands. To be able to understand the various functions of God in our most ancient religion we need to define God in our own knowledge. It is true that God is unique and He is formless and He is given a form to be approachable by human beings. He is given attributes by our illusive mind. In a religious approach it works to make us comfortable with a form of God who has been given these attributes as given by us, to appraise the completeness of GOD

Sovereign

Omnipotent and Omniscient.

Most loving and forgiving.

The answer to our prayers

Impartial

Rational

and Organized into rules for application of JUSTICE.

We do not know the original date of the Lord's birth. Forgetfulness is a part of the mystery of creation. No body can tell, out of real experience what he was doing during the nine months in the womb of the mother. We can say something with reference to reading or film but we can't say our personal experience. So our knowledge of God is restricted through the Kaalams--age of time. Now let us see this vivid imagery of Lord Murugan called by innumerable names, with one body, two feet, nine heads and twelve arms

All these characteristics\ attributes pertain to the birth of the Lord.

The six babies were assembled by the Goddess Mother in one baby-body. There is only one reality---One Supreme creator, we call GOD.

When Lord Muruga, the holder of the pranavam secret OM, the real source of creation, redeemed Arunagirinathar, on the top of Thiruvannamalai kovil, T. Nadu, his first instruction to him was to keep quiet "SUMMA IRU" and The Lord told him to go and tell all the world there is only ONE GOD--One body which is His, the one and supreme reality.

The two feet are the two pathways which lead to Godliness--one is pure faith in God , similar to the chosen path of Lord Ganapati going round Siva Sakti --the shortest but surest path to Salvation and the second path is through karmic life ,a longer path --going around the world in the cycle of birth and death.

An example taught by Lord Muruga in the parable of the sacred fruit as an ultimate reward. The soul transmigrates through many births and deaths before reaching salvation or moksha in Sayuccham ,merging with Lord Shiva. To reach the level of god is to be in the union of all opposites when evil no longer exists,as in the case of Surapadman. In this situation ,Lord Muruga as God is understanding,tolerant,forgiving,non judgmental,inclusive,and accepting. These attributes are given to Lord Murugan in His divine mission to redeem the world. It is believed that Lord Muruga as the son of God redeems the Karmas of all people and is therefore the God we have to pray to .Our mission on earth is to burn off all karmas in our existence to be able to enter the domain of God.The two feet help us to walk through the way of the life force of which all bodies come into existence and through the way of the vital force the force by which we live and without which we can do nothing. Then the imagery of God with twelve arms and nine heads should be welcoming to the devotees of the Lord.The Lord is Omniscient--This first Head is Supreme Knowledge--He alone knows the meaning of OM ,the secret of creation.

He teaches back this ultimate mystery to Lord Shiva himself.The Lord is Omnipotent--This second Head is Supreme power--God doings are immeasurable.He can do anything .There is no contra force to finally counteract with Him.The Lord is the Supreme Justice. This third Head reassures humanity that divine governance is the solution to manage this world in perfection.No body can escape divine judgement.The law of Karma is supreme.

God creates ,sustains and destroys.

God is Truth ,God is honest.God rewards sincere devotees.This fourth Head of righteousness reassures any sincere devotee that God responds to prayers.To some the timing may be quick and to others there may be some delay,Rest assured that God ,like Vigneswara has largest ears for listening and answers the bequest of devotees.He saved Idumban and Surapadman by listening to them.

God loves humanity and all His creation.This fifth Head --AMBE SIVAM--reassures humanity that God takes birth to save humanity from destruction. The world's continuity is assured. This head is approachable by human beings.As a child he came to Avvaiyar Lord Muruga is a loving God.He loves both Atman, the Soul ---Deivayanai personified in heaven and Valli , the Karmic life on earth.This sixth head is most assuring for human salvation.

All the six in one to create and maintain the total control of the Self,namely

- 1 control of the mind
- 2 control of the external sense organs
- 3 control over endurance of dualities such as heat and cold,joy and grief and the like
- 4 control by withdrawing of the sense organs and mind from the external objects of pleasure
- 5 Control by discriminating of the eternal from the non-eternal
- 6 control by detaching from the enjoyment of the fruits of righteous acts in this world and heaven.

Murugan love for Valli and Deivayanai is never physical but divine.

In our prayers ,we should allow the Lord to help us control our five physical senses by concentrating on NAMASIVAYA and our sixth sense--our internal intuition by focusing on the Sacred Sound AUM.

Once our higher self is awakened ,our life force becomes the Vel of the Lord to eliminate any threats of adversities and diseases.

Once our mind is controlled ,all our activities are under control.We may benefit from the grace of the Lord through his twelve hands.

- 1 To release our soul from mortality to eternity by subduing our karmas;Saint Arunagirinathar says this in his thirupugaz
- 2 To grant us his grace to meet the vicissitudes of life on earth.
- 3 To wield the Vel to protect us from the demonic natures of human beings
- 4 To guide us in all undertakings on earth.
- 5 To teach us wisdom to attain divine knowledge
- 6 To show acts of love to our Soul ,the beloved Deivayanai
- 7 To show acts of love to our karmic life,the beloved Valli
- 8 To ride the peacock --to lead us from darkness to light.
- 9 To carry the Seval Kody {cock banner} to keep us awake by the light of Divinity
- 10 To cure us of all karmic diseases. The Supreme healer,Vaiteswaran.
- 11 To save us whenever we need his help.On record Lord Muruga proacts for devotees.
- 12 To welcome our soul to his heavenly abode --Avinankudi .

The Lord demonstrates to us ,as a Guru, how we must conquer the Self--we must watch over our bodily activities by the powers of the six heads granted by the Lord and strive to avoid all unnecessary expenditure of energy by receiving grace through the twelve hands of the Lord. In our human body,we may recreate the birth of Lord Muruga in the following pattern.

Our Divine Spirit,in our head{Lord Shiva} sparks the Divine thought giving birth to Murugan identity which flows down our brain{Ganga source} down into our heart { saravanapoigai} and this divine energy is propagated to rest and activate on our six fertiles lotuses--the six chakras in our astral body --heart chakra,solar plexus chakra,spleen chakra, navel chakra, mooladara \spine chakra and throat chakra. To note that the sparks are emitted from the crown chakra{seat of Lord Shiva}through the forehead chakra {seat of Shakti} and down to all six chakras in the body case.

We note that this Son-God of Lord Shiva is known as Murugan in Tamil Nadu only. Lord Murugan in this country ,his birth is reportedly at Saravanapoigai which still exists and the six Aarupadei kovils prove his existence in this country.His transforming the demon Surapadman into his mount and his banner was performed at Thiruchendur ,the only place where his kovil is on the low land and near the sea in Tamil Nadu.His ascension to heaven happened at Kadirkaamam in Sri Lanka. In Tamil Nadu Lord Murugan is not a bachelor .He is married to Valli at Thiruttani kovil ,Tamil Nadu and wedded to Deivayanai at Thiruparakkundram,Tamil Nadu.

He revealed the sacred AUM on the hill of Swamimalai in Tamil Nadu.He redeemed Idumban at Palani Malai which He claimed as his countryland ,Sen Tamiznadu.Lord Murugan is known as God of the Tamils. His cult ranges from tribal culture to Sanskritized rituals .He appeared to Arunagirinathar on Thiruvannamalai ,Tamil Nadu and gave him the Thirupugaz to propagate to all devotees of his kovils in Tamil Nadu.This Tamil God is well known through out India.He eliminated Tarakasura at Tripura in the northern region.He left this place to be totally destroyed by his father ,Lord Shiva. This son of Lord Shiva is known as Skanda ,Karthikeya ,kumara,gnanapandita in the northern part of India. In these northern regions he is prayed to as a bachelor being born from Lord Shiva himself.In North India ,people focuss their prayers on Lord Krishna who reveals his Identity from Lord skanda as mentioned in the Bagavatgita.

In north of India ,some malevolent aspect of Lord Muruga ,the spirit which issued from him when he had to kill Tarakasura is retained as an important hereditary power .Devotees use this means to

weed out the bad spirits which affect their karmic life through ages in their various births. This may give a clue to the celebration of JANMAKAVADI by numerous families.

There is an annual ceremony at Thiruchendur, Tamil Nadu, after the Skanda shasti festival, in December, whereby a yagam is done as a remorse by Lord Muruga to have killed --it is not in good nature to kill in Divinity. But the Lord was in human form and he had to kill. This concept of dharmam, duty is re-emphasised by Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the Bagavatgita. In Maharashtra, the kumara form of Lord Muruga is mostly focussed in Lord Ganapati in the spirit of Pranava Om. However the Southern regions of India give most reverence to Lord Skanda in the name of Lord Subramaniam. Subramaniam means the personifier of Brahman, an undescrivable name of God. Lord Subramania is venerated at Kuke temple in Karnataka. The body rolling on the temple yard floor is famous to release bad and evil spirits out of bodies. In Kerala, Lord Murugan in the form of a serpent, Nagasubramania, is venerated by crowds of people lining in thousands from morning to night daily to receive the darshan of the Lord at Kannimangalam. The miracles ensued are so many. This practice is a sign of humility and modesty. There is none more humble than snake which crawls on the ground to move its way forward. This is the secret of true fame. Lord Muruga wants to show to us that Only humility and love {children behaviour in crawling} is the combined attribute to obtain moksha.

Sri Subramanya Swami temple is situated at Katravullapalli, in Andhra Pradesh where the annual Balasubramaniam Shasti is held in November.

Another temple, in Mopidevi, attracts daily crowds of natives who suffer from karmic diseases like sharp dosha, affected by Ketu and Rahu. They come to get cured. It is there that Lord Subramania did penance in the form of a snake. One can often see children piecing their ears to get rid of sarpa dosha --serpent astral effect and adults shaving their heads as hair is depicted as pride for arrogance. The Lord has come as a Guru to teach people to shed away their ego. Tarakasura, Idumben, Soorapadman and Singamuki are symbols of the basic evils--greed, anger and jealousy which are expressed by pride and arrogance. Married people come to obtain good children and for their welfare against a vow to lead a life of humility to serve others in need of food, clothing, and shelter. Annadaanam is the penance in Kaliyugam under the surveillance of Lord Skanda\Subramania\kartikeya\Muruga and his derivative Lord Krishna.

Humility is a human behaviour which steps up human character to the peak level in fame. It has been found that humble people are always looking healthy which prods to say that humility is a remedy in itself. The name of Subramaniam is powerful and reciting the name as a mandiram SUBRAMANYOGAM ! is in itself a remedy. Most of our kovils in Mauritius dedicated to Lord Murugan are very ancient and they are in the name of Lord Soopramanier e.g the Kovil at Clemencia, on Corps de Garde hill, Q. Bornes and one low level street Kovil in Vacoas, Siva Soopramanier. They are genuine Murugan Kovil because they all have an Idumben Sannidi by which Saint Idumben guards the entrance of

a Murugan Kovil as ordained by the Lord himself to the former. This is why I consider it an absurdity to see tamilians arguing over the usage of sanskrit language in the prayers offered to Lord Subramaniam, i.e Lord Murugan. It would be good to remind people that Saint Arunagirinathar who gave us the Thirupugaz was a learned person in Sanskrit. Sri Ramana Maharishi was an exponent in Sanskrit too. So was Saint Thiruvalluvar. We should at least differentiate between Tamil as a political administrative language and Tamil as a spiritual language wherein Sanskritam is present. The language we speak to God is a language of love appealing to all. Humility is basic for transferring communication to God. We should never forget that Lord Murugan and Lord Subramania are the same Son of Lord Shiva.

Beware of some evil -minded political oriented people who shamefully create confusion in the minds of helpless devotees.

It is high time to get rid of them. One of Lord Muruga's head signifies Truth and if we love the Lord we should practice Truth only.

The Tolkappiyam ,one of the oldest document still in existence since the Sangam Age points out that Seyon ,Lord Murugan is the Lord of the Kurinji region,the mountain country. It is in accordance with this that Murugan's temples were built on the top of hills. In Mauritius ,there is a differentiated practice which marks the celebration of Kodietram. It is noted that some Tamils are behaving in a sect-wise manner.In Paripadhal,the peacock is mentioned as his banner and in Thirumurugaruppadei ,also loved by the Tamils ,the cock is mentioned as his banner. Rationally speaking the cock would give a better meaning if we realize that Lord Murugan is the ultimate Guru. The cock signifies

Awakening as we have to be awake at all times to guard against evil. The period of fasting is to keep away evil from our mind, and daily activities. If we adopt the peacock it would only mean that we have to beautify all our actions and the mount of the Lord is the elephant which portrays Lord Ganesha as the carrier of wisdom. Which is more appropriate ? It depends on the need of the time. The cock was found to be popular in the north of India as per the coins collected in Ujjain .

The ram or goat was earlier mentioned as the mount of Lord Muruga.

We only know that the cavadee bearing started and followed as an outcome of Saint Idumben carrying two mountains Shakti giri and Shivagiri as ordained by Siddar Agastyar from the domain of Lord Shiva and Parvathi in the Himalayas down to Tamil Nadu when he was stopped by the young Balamurugan at Palani ,the abode of Dandayudapaani,

The place was so sacred that moksha is bestowed to all God lovers who make it a must to die there.e.g The chinese Bogar.

We are reminded that one of Lord Muruga's heads is to forgive and love. He redeemed Surapadman and Singamukhi and Idumben.

This is why we must rejoice on Vaikaassi Visakam day--Redemption is assured for any one who wants to have a better living.

This is why we should remember Lord Murugan's order " Why are afraid when I am here ? Yaam irukka Bayam Yern ? "

We need comfort when we feel lonely.Loneliness is coupled with fear.We do not ever have to face any situation alone or handle any painful relationship in isolation .The angels accompanying Lord Murugan who guide us and protect us are as close as our thoughts.They dissipate all our fears.Our thought must be in the Higher Power,Lord Murugan and this sacred belief must be stronger in our heart and mind on Vaikaassi Vishakam day-Friday 24th May 2013.

AUM SARAVANA BAVA
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