

SRI SOUNDHIRA PANDEESWARAR TEMPLE- A HISTORICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The daughter of Soundhira Pandian, who came from the Veera Marthanda Varman dynasty that made Kalakad the capital, had a chronic mental illness. It was incurable by anyone and did not require treatment. The king declared that whoever cured his illness would be given her in marriage and half the kingdom. At that time, a person from Kerala, who was on his way to Kasyatri, came this way, met the king, and cured his daughter's illness. That Anthana, who refused the king's daughter and the kingdom, built a temple in the northern part of the area near a Thirukula where elephants crawl, and then advised the king to consecrate and worship the idol of Nataraja, who had lost his right to come here. As told by Kerala Anthana, King Soundhira Pandian built a beautiful big temple, consecrated Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar and Gomati Ambal there, and waited for Sthapathi's arrival. One day, when Sthapathi, who had lost his right, came there, the king was pleased to see him and immediately ordered him to make an image of Nataraja. Even with the loss of his right hand, the talented Sthapathi fitted the wood blocks and, with their help, carved a magnificent statue of Nataraja, more beautiful than before. Enchanted by the beauty of the statue, Sthapati tried

to caress its right cheek, and with the grace of Lord Shiva, his right hand grew, and he immediately merged into the kingdom of Shiva. The idol with the pinched scar was placed in the Shiva temple at Karvelankulam. Sthapathi's pinch scar can still be seen on the Utsava statue. Thalavirutcham of the temple is the Nelly tree.

Keywords: Karivelankulam, Sthapati, Karis, Syamala River, Thiruvadhirai

Introduction

Karivelankulam is situated in a breathtaking natural environment at the foothills of the Mahendragiri mountain range, a part of the Western Ghats. A green river called the Syamala River, which originates in Agathiya Koodum, flows around the town. Devotees worship Lord Nataraja in this holy bath. Wild elephants from the wild parts of the Western Ghats used to come here to bathe in the pond. Due to the presence of Karis (elephants), it came to be known as Karivelankulam. Named after the king who built the temple, Lord Shiva is raised toward the east with the name Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar.

Location

Karivelankulam village is located in Kalakad Municipality in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli District. Karivelankulam is located at a distance of 45 Kilometers from Tirunelveli, 14 Kilometers from Nanguneri, 21 kilometers from Vallioor, and 18 Kilometers from Cheranmahadevi. Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar Temple is located in the northeastern part of Karivelankulam Village.

History of the Temple

The daughter of Soundhira Pandian, who came from the Veera Marthanda Varman dynasty that made Kalakad the capital, had a chronic mental illness. It was incurable by anyone and did not require treatment. The king declared that whoever cured his illness would be given her in marriage and half the kingdom. At that time, a person from Kerala, who was on his way to Kasyatri, came this way, met the king, and cured his daughter's illness. That Anthana, who refused the king's daughter and the kingdom, built a temple in the northern part of the area near a Thirukula where elephants crawl, and then advised the king to consecrate and worship the idol of Nataraja, who had lost his right to come here.

Namasivaya Muthu Sthapathi

In Tirunelveli district, there is a copper ambalam in the Nellaipar temple and a Chitra sabha in Tirukkutamam. Apart from these, Rajavallipuram, Sepparai, Karichujunthanmangalam, Kattari Mangalam, and Karivelankulam are also important Nataraja places in this district. It is said that Namasivaya Muthu Sthapathi himself sculpted the beautiful Nataraja murthas found at Chitambaram and these four sites.

Sthapathi who lost his hand

The tyrannical Northern king Singavarman realised his mistake and wanted to enshrine Nataraja in Chidambaram as advised by the sages of Tirundi and Patanjali Vyagrapada. Namasivaya Muthu Sthapathi, who cast two Nataraja Thirumenis in gold and copper, presented the gold Nataraja to the king and brought the other to his residence, Tirunelveli, 13 Kilometers from there. At a distant hospital called Rajavallipuram, the king named Mulutunganda Ramapandiyan performed the consecration by order.

Petty King Veerapandiyan was a vassal of King Ramapandiya. He came to the Sepparai Nellaippar temple for darshan. The beauty of the idol of Nataraja there attracted him. Similarly, he told a Sthapathi that he wanted two idols as well. The work of making the idol began. He intended to place one of these in the Katarimangalam Shiva temple under his jurisdiction and the other in the Karishunthanmangalam Shiva temple. Task completed. Seeing the beauty of the idols, the king was delighted. He also performed consecration in the respective temples as per his wish. Similarly, thinking that the beautiful idols should not be available to anyone else, he ordered the guards to kill Sthapathi. The soldiers took pity on Sthapathi and cut off only his hand. Hearing this, Ramapandian got angry with Veerapandian. He cut off the hands of Veerapandiyan, who had cut the hand of Sthapathi.

Arrival of Sthapathi

As told by Kerala Anthana, King Soundhira Pandian built a beautiful big temple, consecrated Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar and Gomati Ambal there, and waited for Sthapathi's arrival. One day, when Sthapathi, who had lost his right, came there, the king was pleased to see him and immediately ordered him to make an image of Nataraja. Even with the loss of his right hand, the talented Sthapathi fitted the wood blocks and, with their help, carved a magnificent statue of Nataraja, more beautiful than before. Enchanted by the beauty of the statue, Sthapathi tried to caress its right cheek, and with the grace of Lord Shiva, his right hand grew, and he immediately merged into the kingdom of Shiva. The idol with the pinched scar

was placed in the Shiva temple at Karvelangulam. Sthapathi's pinch scar can still be seen on the Utsava statue.

Thalavirutcham of the Temple

Thalavirutcham of the temple is the Nelly tree. A tall Nelly tree is in the left corner. Theertham is Gomati Theertham. Thirukkulam Gomathi Theertham, where charcoal crawled, is located in front of the temple. All around this beautiful Thirukkulam are carvings that look like elephants crawling.

Entrance of the Temple

As you enter the temple, you will find the Nataraja Thiruvadhirai Mandapam directly opposite, with ancient paintings on its walls. In the central, four-legged mandapam made of wood, Lord Nataraja gets up with Sivakami and Manikkavasakara during the Tiruvadhirai days. Devotees enter the temple through the south gate, which is the main gate.

Mahamandapam

Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar is standing as a two-foot-tall lingam in the sanctum next to the Mahamandapam, Artha Mandapam. There is an altar and a flag tree in the Mahamandapam. After this, the statues of Purusha, Mrigam, Bhima, and Archuna with amazing artistic quality on the pillars of the hall amaze us.

Lord

Like other temples in Pandyan country, Goddess Gomati Ambal is standing on the left side of Lord Shiva, facing the east. The Lord has arisen with Sri Subramaniam Valli-Devasena in a solitary sanctum among the sanctuaries. Hence, it is considered a Somaskandhar temple. At the entrance of Amman Sannadi, there is Shasta on a pedestal, with Shiva Lingam and Navaneetha Krishna idols nearby.

Shrines

There are shrines of Abhikaran Nandi, Surya, Chandran, Juradevar, Kannimoolai Ganapati, Subramaniam, Kashi Viswanadha, and Bhairava. All these idols are very beautiful. Sculptures of King Soundhira Pandian, Avan Devi, and the mentally ill Kumarati can also be seen in one of the pieces in the Maha Mandapam.

Pujas

The temple is open from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for pujas. In this temple, five period pujas, the Pradosha program, Mada Thiruvadhirai, Shivratri, and Karthikai Somavaram special events are conducted.

Margazhi Thiruvadhirai festival

The Margazhi Thiruvadhirai festival is celebrated for 11 days in a grand manner along with the Thertha festival. Then a large number of devotees make siniputtu nivedana and distribute it to the devotees. An old legend has the following reference to the ingredients required for making this Chinese pudding: "One step of rice, one coconut, one step of ghee, nine strengths of machini."

Tiruvadhirai Thirunal

Kalakad, Sengottai, and Ambasamutram were the areas of Tirunelveli district under the rule of the kings of Travancore princely state, known as Venatu kings. Therefore, Kerala devotees celebrating the Thiruvadhirai festival can be seen in Karivalangulam in large numbers on these Thiruvadhirai festival days and monthly Thiruvadhirai days. People of Kerala state celebrate Margazhith Thiruvathira, the day of Lord Shiva, like Onam and Chitrai Vishu. Married women fast for two days from the previous day of Mahayiram (Magam) to Tiruvadhirai to wish their husbands a long life.

Newly married couples are diligently celebrating this Thiruvadhirai tomorrow as Booth Thiruvadhirai. Women who are awaiting marriage fast only on Tiruvadhirai. On Thiruvadhirai day in Tamil Nadu, a sweet called Thiruvadhirai kali is offered to Lord Nataraja as an important offering. However, in the state of Kerala, women perform a dance called Kaikotik Kali called Tiruvadhirai Kali (Kali = Velaiyattu) to the music of a special song called Tiruvadhirai Pattu. Every month, on the day of Thiruvadhirai, Kerala devotees in traditional attire can be seen in large numbers in this temple. Thousands of Kerala devotees can be seen in this temple during Margazhi Thiruvadhirai.

Important events

The people of Kerala, who have Lord Sri Nataraja as their deity here, also conduct important events like Annaprasana, birthdays, etc. here.

Conclusion

Thus the Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar temple in Karuvelankulam had many historical features. The village of Karuvelankulam also contains many historical information and

historical antiquity. Sri Soundhira Pandeewarar temple history, pujas and festivals this historical feature was explore by this research.

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