

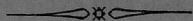
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MURUGAR THUNAI

MAILAM THIRUKKOVIL THIRUMADA VARALARU



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MAILAM

HISTORY OF THE MUTT AND TEMPLE



Mailam is a village in Tindivanam Taluk. There is here a famous shrine of God Sri Subramanya—the Lord of the Universe, the Unchanging youth, the Eternal bliss, the Omniscient divinity and Perfect love. Here is also a mutt—the institution of Veera Saiva cult. This village is so called because of the shape of the mountain. There is a tradition too that it is so called as Surapadma became a peacock and worshipped Our Lord here. There is an inscriptional evidence to prove that this temple was in good condition in the reign of Vikrama chola.

By the grace of God Sri Subramanya this mut was founded by a great saint Balasiddha by name. He was one of the Sivaganas, who was sent to this world from Kailas by our Lord Paramesvara. He was so called because he was a beautiful youth and performed wonderful miracles. He followed and preached the Veera Saiva Cult.

He was succeeded by his disciple—the son of Srimati Ammavaiyar born in the family of Pachaikkandar. The successor attained the Sivagana—the great truth—by the blessings of His Holiness Balasiddha and our Lord Sri Subramanya.

He used to take milk only as his daily food. He was, therefore, called Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal. Since His period each and every successor is called Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal as they follow the same path.

By the grace of His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal III (1645-1695 AD), the great Tamil poet Sri Vaidyanatha Desikar of Thiruvavoor, the author of *Ilakkana vilakkam* in Tamil, wrote *Pasavadaipparani* and *Mailam Murugan Pillai Tamil* in Tamil verses.

Dupleix, the French governor of Pondicherry met His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal VI (1734-1746 AD) at Bommayapalayam, presented Him a fine cloth and two bottles of rose water and honoured Him.

The Nawab of Hyderabad ordered his officers to help His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal VII (1747-1761 AD) by making necessary arrangements for His holy pilgrimage.

His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal XIV (1818-1843 AD) was honoured by the East India Company. Mr. C. D. Durge on 16th October 1826 ordered the police and the other officers to help His Holiness whenever necessary. His Holiness built the front and middle portion of the mandapam at the Bommayapalayam mutt.

His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal XV (1844—1887 AD) built the tower (Gopuram) of the temple at Mailam. His figure is sculptured in the northern wall of the eastern gate. It was during His period that Thyagarajakkavi, a great poet, translated the Sanskrit Sthalapurana (the ancient history) of Mailam, into Tamil.

To increase the income of the mut^t and the temple, His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal XVI (1888—1916 AD) bought some wet lands and had also built some buildings at Mailam and Bommayapalayam. It was during His period that Sri Dhandapani Swamigal of Thiruvamathoor wrote Mayilachala kalambakam in Tamil verses. Sri Kumaragurudasa swamigal of Pampan arrived at Mailam on some day in the month of September 1900 and sang some verses in praise of God Sri Subramanya.

His Holiness Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal XVII (1917—1927 AD) improved the flower garden. His successor, the present head of the mut and the Devasthanam has founded the Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal Tamil College at Mailam. He has electrified the mut and the temple. He has published the anthology of the books wrote by Sri Sivaprakasa swamigal, Murugan Pillai-tamil, Mayilachalakkalambakam and Mayurachala Puranam. His hospitality makes him known to all.

The founder of the mutt and His successors.

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1.	His Holiness	Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal I—Balasiddha.			
2.	"	Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal II.			
3.	"	(Kunnampalayam)			
4.	"	Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal III			(1645—1695 AD)
5.	"	(Chidambaram)	IV		(1696—1727 AD)
6.	"	(Kandappanoor)	V		(1728—1733 AD)
7.	"	(Karaamputhoor)	VI		(1734—1746)
8.	"	(Mathoor)	VII		(1747—1761)
9.	"	(Kumaracharvay)	VIII		(1762—1770)
10.	"	(Sivakunram)	IX		(1771—1773)
11.	"	(Viruthachalam)	X		(1774—1784)
12.	"	(Chidambaram)	XI		(1785—1809)
13.	"	(Kalyanappattinam)	XII		(1810—1817)
14.	"	(Viruthachalam)	XIII		(only for 18 days)
15.	"	(Chidambaram)	XIV		(1818—1843)
16.	"	(Nallathoor)	XV		(1844—1887)
17.	"	"	XVI		(1888—1916)
18.	"	(Chidambaram)	XVII		(1917—1927)
			XVIII		(1928—

His Holiness Balasiddha—the Founder of the mutt.

Sri Sankukanna, one of the Sivaganas, was a guard at the western gate of Kailas. One day the Goddess Umadevi ordered him to allow none to enter into the garden while she was taking bath in a tank with her maidens. But it happened that our Lord Siva entered there and the guard did not prevent Him. Our Lord Siva saw his consort Umadevi put to the blush and therefore cursed the guard to descend to the earth. But, at his request, He felt mercy and told him, "Sankukanna, you will happen to fight with the Lord Sri Subramanya while you will be preaching the Veera Saiva cult on the earth and with His blessings you will arrive here.

Sri Sankukanna, therefore, descended to the earth and became a boy of ten years old on the seashore near Bommapuram a village at a distance of 20 miles east of Mailam. He was a Lingayat monk (Sanyasi). He taught Vedagamas and preached the Veera Saiva cult to those who happened to meet him. He performed wonderful miracles. So, he was called Bala Siddha.

He wanted to get rid of the curse. As Naradha advised, he came to Mailam, commenced his penances and performed a great Tapas. Till the end of the 35th year he had not attained the blessings of Sri Subramanya. He, therefore,

worshipped His two consorts Valli and Devasena who requested our Lord to help him. As He refused, both of them decided to help him, left their consort, arrived and stayed at the place where Balasiddha was.

Sri Subramanya, Our Lord, one day, arrived at Mailam and entered into the residence of His consorts. As He was in disguise of a hunter, Balasiddha the guard, asked Him not to enter. So, there arose a fight. During the fight, Balasiddha came to know that his opposite was the Lord Sri Subramanya himself. He therefore begged His pardon and requested Him to relieve him from the curse. Lord Subramanya blessed him. Our Lord asked him to stay with Him for ever at Mailam to propagate the right path. He, at the request of Balasiddha took both of them Valli and Devasena as His Consorts. Sri Balasiddha requested Him again that He should stay for ever to bless his disciples and devotees, and the head of this mutt should always be one of those who came in the family of his disciples. Our Lord blessed him so.

Sri Balasiddha used to take the juice of square spurge (Sadurakkalli) as His daily food. Sometimes before He attained Sayujya. He ordered His disciple Sivagnani—the son of Srimati Amma-vaiyar—to be the head of the institution established by him and to follow and propagate the Veera Saiva cult.

His grave (Samadhi) is situated between the two shrines—one of Vinayaka and the other of Sri Subramanya at Mailam. There is a tradition that he lived for about 1000 years (from Kaliyugapta 3246 to 4246) and this Balasiddha was called Sadasiva Balayaswamigal.

Sri Sivagnana Balaya Swamigal II.

The successor of His Holiness Balasiddha the founder of the mut, was the son of Srimati Ammavaiyar born in the family of Pachaikkandar. Our Lord Sri Subramanya himself taught him the truth—(Sivagnanam) and asked him to be the Guru of Veerasaivites and to serve for the same. Mailam and Bommayapalayam were His capitals. He used to take milk only as His daily food.

During His stay at Kanchi, His Holiness made alive one who lost his life by a snakebite. His Holiness blessed the wife of the then Nawab of Hyderabad to be got ridden of her disease. Some Vellalas at Cheyyoor, in order to test His Holiness, presented him a pot of sands. His Holiness distributed it to all. They found it to be sugar and were ashamed. A magician of Koonimedu, a village near Bommapuram came to know His fame. The jealous magician told Triampaka Maharaja of Gingee that His Holiness had been cheating the public. The king, at once, arrived at the place where His Holiness was and decided

to find out the truth. He ordered a boatman to take both of them—His Holiness and the magician—in a boat and to leave them in the deep sea. The boatman did so. A big fish—keluthi—ate the magician, but His Holiness reached the shore without any hindrance. Therefore, the king and the boatman prostrated themselves at His feet, begged His pardon and requested to bring the magician alive. The fish was called for and ordered to bring forth the magician alive. The fish did so and His Holiness blessed the magician. Then His Holiness, with His blessings, turned into black the grey hair of a young lady the daughter of the king Triampaka. The king, therefore, became His disciple. With His order and blessings the king reconstructed the temples and muts at Mailam and Bommapuram and presented some villages too. He presented him the sixteen divine emblems (ensigns) too.

Sri Chidambara Bhoopathi a king of a small territory in Nadu Nādu, drove his enemy away with His blessings and became his disciple. During the life time of Bhoopathi the Saint Arunagirinathar visited Mailam.

Sri Santalingaswamigal of Poroor and Sri Sivaprakasaswamigal of Thuraimangalam attained the blessings of His Holiness and became His disciples.

There is a tradition that His Holiness lived for about five hundred years.

May the truth shine for ever in its pristine purity.

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