



Veddas observing traditional customs at an offering to God Kataragama

"The Lord of Kataragama, delights with the gracious worship of Veddas in the jungle" - In his THIRUPPUGAL PAMALAI, Arunagirinathar thus salutes lord Muruga.

Kataragama's pride of place is far beyond pre-historic times. Still we witness the affectionate pooja performed to Lord Murugan in Kataragama which is par excellence.

The devotees who visit Kataragama know well that the custom of reciting Vedic MANTHRAS is not practiced there. It is a well known fact the pooja is performed in Selvasannathy temple in Jaffna by completely covering their mouths, is prevalent even today.

Arunagirinathar was dedicated devotee of Lord Murugan. He had never visited Sri Lanka. However, he had heard much about the piety of Lord Murugan of Kataragama, through the devotees who made pilgrimages during the seasons. He has, to his credit, 21 devotional songs.

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LORD MURUGAN OF KATARAGAMA AND THE VEDDAS

GNANASIRONMANI K. KURUSWAMY

Kataragama is famous for devotional worship. Lord Murugan showers His graces with joy the poojas of Veddas, who perform the rituals without amusement and entertainment. Even today, it is indicative, that Lord Murugan of Kataragama graces His bliss on the devotees:

"O Lord, who romanced the Vedda maiden,
The name Kugan thee adorned
As thee light the darkness drear abides,
Thee who possessed the name Kumaraesa,

To reveal the tenderness
 Of all the Eternal Youthfulness,
 Thee who reflect the four Virtues,
 Bless me with no rebirth;
 Bless me attain the Eternal bliss,
 Lord, who dwell in Kataragama,
 The Divine Light ! "

Birth and Death are fetters for the Soul. Birth and death are the results of past deeds. Good deeds and evil deeds are fetters made of gold and iron. Lord Murugan has no birth and death. He is eternal. His tenderness is Eternal. He adorns the ever-youthful divinity. Therefore, He is sole. The greatmen seek to swim the sea of birth. As such, Arunagirinathar bows to His Lord to bless him with no birth and seeks the eternal bliss.

(The world GUHAN is a significant wone. This explains the truth that Lord Muruga destroys the ignorance filled in the heart and shed light it with knowledge and immanents. He provides the four Virtues-the merit, wealth, joy and the attainment of Eternal bliss).

Arunagirinathar makes clear in his divine songs scientific principles of godliness by proving the fact that Lord Muruga is not a human being, who takes births and suffers.

Science never mentions anything contradicting the principle of godliness. Nature is beyond the reach of human power. Even scientists are unable to control the nature. A great power, a force, exists which controls the whole universe. It is a known fact that, it cannot be controlled by human power. It is a scientific conclusion that neither such great force be man nor the man be such a great force. The spiritualists call such a force as God.

Manivasagar in THIRUVASAGAM says, " we call by thousand of names who has neither name nor form..."

Arunagirinathar also emphasizes the same idea distinctively. It is a fact that devotees of Kataragama to be proud of.

The following divine song indicates the timeliness and pre-eminent of Lord Murugan of Kataragama:

"Thee, is the "A" of all letters
 Thee is the Lord of the whole world
 Thee is above all the tenderness,
 Thee the NANMUGAN, creat'd the universe.
 Thee THIRUMAL, protects the souls,
 Thee the RUDRA, destroys the whole,

Thee, the above all the three,
 Thee, the whole that exist.
 Thee, the joyous and real
 Thee, who praised by INDRAN,
 Thee the ever youthful Divinity,
 Thee who delighted
 the Pooja of Jungle Vedda!
 Thee who with peacock
 Dance and dance and dance;
 Thee who dwell in Kataragama..
 Thee now in Palamuthirsolai.."

This proves that Kataragama is older than Palamuthircholai in India, which is considered as one of the six sacred dwellings of Lord Murugan.

The researchers on anthropology note that the indigenous people of the mankind are the Stone Age people, and that their occupation being hunting. Resarchers consider the palaeolithic period is the period belongs to BC 5000 years. The people who lived in that Age are known as Veddass or hunters. They sharpened the stones, slained the prey, ate the flesh and dressed the skin of the animals. We know the origin of these people lived in Sri Lanka too. Lord Murugan of Kataragama became the Saviour of those Veddass, as Arunagirinathar points out.

Theoretically, life, which is called as the Soul. Baccuse of the Soul the body takes the form of life. The five senses-body, mouth, eyes, nose and ears-never function independently. If there is no soul the body becomes lifeless. While the soul rises, it bows to the feet of God. Therefore, it has been clarified that the Pooja of Veddass was of true pooja dedicating the soul, kindled by kindness.

Everyone knows that the poojas now being held in Kataragama is the precedence of the Vedda poojas.

Veddass dedicated themselves to Lord Murugan to obtain His grace, favours and protection. They never knew MANTRAS to recite during rituals. They covered their mouths and offered poojas. Therefore, when we think of Lord Murugan we cannot ignore Veddass. Veddass followed principles of self-satisfaction, without jealousy and showed great kindness. It is the bounden duty to safeguard the living principles of the Veddass.