

A STUDY ON SPIRITUAL CONNOTATION OF KARTHIGAI DEEPAM FESTIVAL IN TIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT

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Abstract

Karthigai Deepam is a festival of lights celebrated mostly by Hindu Tamils, as well as by followers in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Sri Lanka. Since ancient times, Tamilakam has celebrated possibly dating back to the beginning of Deepavali or Navarathri, and one of the biggest festivals because the entire South Indian region participates in this enormous event. Outside of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvannamalai, also known as Arunachala, is a terrifying town, about 180 kilometers from Chennai, where this celebration has been observed since time immemorial.

Keywords: Festivals, Heritage, Tamil Nadu, Thiruvannamalai

Introduction

One of the holiest cities in Tamil Nadu is Tiruvannamalai. In this holy place, Siva (Arunachalaswerar) is claimed to have manifested as a column of fire (Sthavara Linga) to demonstrate his superiority over Brahma and Vishnu. Between the 11th and 16th centuries A.D., it was built. It features a Sivaganga Tank, large prakaras (walled and cloistered enclosures), nine beautiful towers, and a massive 1,000-pillared hall. The Karthigai Deepam festival, a noteworthy occasion, takes place on the full moon night in the Tamil month of Karthigai (November-December). At that time, a sizable beacon is lit atop Arunachala Hill, commonly known as the red mountain, which serves as the town's backdrop. Jyothi At Thiruvannamalai, St. Ramana Maharishi meditated for 23 years. Visitors to his ashram on Arunachala Hill come from all walks of life. Thiruvannamalai is a philosophical center that draws many tourists from over the world in addition to being a popular pilgrimage tourism site.

Traditional allusions

Shiva was viewed by Vishnu and Brahma, who both believed themselves to be superior, as an endless blaze of light. They asserted that if they could locate Shiva's head and feet, the validity of their claim could be tested. While Vishnu took the form of a boar (Sanskrit: Varaha, Tamil: Varaham (pandri) and dove far into the ground, Brahma took the form of a swan (Sanskrit: Hansa, Tamil: Annam) and flew into the clouds. After his hunt failed, Vishnu came back. In contrast, Brahma found a fragment of it—the Pandanus odoriferous flower—and discovered from it that it had been drifting from Shiva's head for 35,000 years. He made use of this opportunity by telling Shiva that he had seen the other person's top. Siva acknowledged the trickery, said that He had profited from it, and informed Shiva that he had observed the other person's crown. When Siva discovered the trick, he pronounced that no temple for Brahma would ever be constructed on this

planet. He also prohibited the use of the Pandanus flower in his devotion. Shiva appeared as a flame on this day, which is why it's called Kartikai mahatpa.¹

The Event

The festival is held over ten days. Though each day is a major festival for the people (about 8 to 10 lacs devotees gather in Tiruvannamalai these days), the fifth day when Lord Siva and Goddess Parvati appear in Rishaba Vahanam (Bull), and the tenth day, known as " Deepam Day," is the most significant. The Full moon day falls on Krithika Nakshatram on the eleventh day. At 6 p.m., Lord Arunachaleswara in His " Arthanareeswara " form will emerge from the temple's Sanctum Sanctorum, and a massive fire (Deepam) will be ignited on top of Arunachala Hill in time. For the following 7 to 10 days, this Deepam will remain visible. Even today, on this Holy Karthigai Deepam Day, millions flock to the Hill to see the Holy Beacon lighted atop the hill.²

Ambalavanar Thorough fare Stride

A gorgeous golden depiction of Lord Nadarasa may be seen at the Thiruvannamalai temple. When natives and natives meet face to face with this sight, they are fascinated and sit in amazement for a long time. On Mars, Cummins Mars has a heartbreaking allure. "He lifts his wife upside down and dances," one refers to the other in the case of the globe. The Lord, on the other hand, is claimed to dance with his loved ones upside down. At the Thiruvannamalai temple's shrine of Koothapperuman, Sage Patanjali stands with his hands folded in reverence. Ambalavanar's portrait system,³

The first day

Karthika Deepam festival is marked by the raising of the flag, which signals the start of the celebration, also known as Dwajaroghanam. Lord Arunachaleswarar will be transported out on the silver vahana for procession in the morning and evening. In the procession, the Panchamurthis (Panchamurthigal) are also carried. Lord Ganapathi, Lord Murugan, Lord Sandeswarar, Lord Arunachaleswarar, and Goddess Parvathi are the Panchamurthigal. Following the Deeparadhana in the kalyana mandapam, several processions are performed on various vahanas.⁴

Second day

The Lord Panchamurthigal arrives atop Indira Vimanam, Lord Indira's chariot, on the second day of the Karthigai Deepam celebration.

Third day

Karthigai Deepam festival begins at night with Lord Panchamurthigal riding magnificently in procession atop the Simha vahana, the lion's chariot. Lord Panch Amurthigal appears in a procession that begins at night on the kamadhenu vahanam

Fourth day

Karpaviruksha, the auspicious tree, is likewise on the Lord's side. This tree is thought to grant all of the worshippers' requests without fail. At night, the fifth day of the Karthikai Deepam celebration begins. This silver Rishabh Vahanam procession is enticing and magnificent to see.⁵

Fifth day

At night, the Karthikai Deepam celebration begins. This silver Rishabh Vahanam procession is enticing and magnificent to see. Lord Panchamurthigal rides a vahana that is around 25 feet tall. In the parade, a large umbrella with a diameter of around 17 feet is carried.⁶

Sixth day

The celebration begins with a night parade of Lord Panchamurthigal in his silver chariot, which is exquisitely made and majestic as it round the temple. Lord Panchamurthigal's procession on the Maha Ratham, which is exceedingly large and virtually takes up the entire width of the road, begins the majority of those who helped build the temple was from Nattukottai. Their considerable effort resulted in the formation of silver. In 1907, the silver was dedicated to the shrine. Teak wood is used to make Ether. Silver plates have been installed all over the building. It is estimated that the construction cost is Rs 6 lakh. The silver lining festival continues to be supported by the residents of Natukkottai.

Seventh day

Karthikai Deepam festival this ratham is composed of robust and tough pure wood. The Chariot Celebration is a festival that attracts crowds to the streets. The Ganesha chariot is the first to make its way through the streets and onto the platform for worshippers. Subramanian Annamalaiyar's chariot then gently pulls the rope on one side by the men and the rope on the other side with respect, and the chariot exits the path.⁷

The eight-day

Karthigai Deepam celebration begins at night with Lord Panchamurthigal riding the massive horse vahana out in procession. This horse's unique feature is that all four of its legs are suspended in the air and do not contact the earth. Devotees can see Lord Panchamurthigal in procession on the Kailasa Vahanam on the ninth day of the Karthigai Deepam festival. The majority of the ceremony takes place on the ninth night. The Bharani Deepam is lighted at the temple on the tenth day of the Karthigai Deepam festival, which begins at about four o'clock in the morning. Around six o'clock in the evening, the Mahadeepam is lit on the summit of the hill.⁸

Ninth day

Devotees can see Lord Panchamurthigal in procession on the Kailasa Vahanam on the ninth day of the Karthigai Deepam festival. The majority of the ceremony takes place on the ninth night. The Bharani Deepam is lighted at the temple the soul must be liberated from these three types of vocations. As a result, the festival's ninth day is held for the soul to transcend the nine phases of the above-mentioned trinity, profession, and trinity and reach a higher level.

Tenth day

Around 6 p.m., the Mahadeepam is lit on the summit of the hill. During the Karthigai Deepam festival in Tiruvannamalai, this is a highly important event. On the hilltop, Arunachaleswarar is supposed to be visibly portrayed as Agni. On this day, a huge crowd gathered at the Arunachaleswarar temple to watch this magnificent and spiritual event.⁹

Lantern adoration on the evening of Karthika Deepam

In Tamil Nadu, people pray by lighting lanterns in every home. Ganga was responsible for carrying the sparks that formed on Lord Shiva's forehead. She added them to the Saravana lie because she couldn't take the rage any longer. There were six youngsters and six sparks. The ladies of Karthika guarded them. All six children were adopted by Umadevi, who embraced them all. Murugan then emerged in those forms as the Six Gathering Lords. On the evening of Thirukarthika, seven lanterns are artistically hung in the courtyard to light the lamp against this backdrop. Murugan and Karthikai women are venerated as Adeepam, and they are adored as lamp light.

Scientific Reason behind the Karthigai Deepam

The rainy season in Aipasi (November-December) lasts for the entire month. As a result, germs are created after the rain has stopped. In the stomach, they can develop and cause a range of disorders. During the Karthika festival, it can keep the germs at bay by lighting hundreds of excellent oil lamps every day. This is a fascinating scientific truth that our forefathers uncovered. According to this culture, whatever was done was done scientifically, in a way that would lead to human well-being. Man's well-being aids his inner development and paves the way for him to seek salvation. In this way, lamp lighting becomes important

Uttarayana, Dakshinayanam

This part of the year is called the Dakshinayanam (a) Sadhana Path. This is the month of Karthika, the time when we are slowly stepping into the 'handicraft path'. In terms of doing yoga sadhana, Dakshinayanam is a time to actively engage in yoga sadhana and purify ourselves.¹⁰ Uttarayana is the time for enlightenment. Sadhana plowed the field, sowed the seed, and planted the crop. Now is the time to reap the benefits of the 'achievement' you have made. Only then can you reap the benefits of the device in a way that works for you.¹¹

Karthikai Deepam praises the excellence of the Tamil God

Karthika, the eighth month of the Tamil months, has various specialties. The month of Karthika is revered by the devotees as the auspicious month for Lord Shiva, who is worshiped in the form of Agni, and Arumugam, who is worshiped in the form of fire, and Lord Vishnu, the guardian deity. On the day of Karthika, houses will be decorated with lanterns. On this day, it is customary to pay homage to the ancestral Lord Shiva by frying paddy and aval porridge. Karthikai Deepam celebrated in a very special way in Thiruvannamalai is one of the hotspots of fame. On the day of Karthika, the houses of Tamil Nadu are decorated with lights. The lamp is everywhere. The light of the lamp will dispel the outer darkness. The memory of Eisen will dispel the inner darkness.

Conclusion

On the evening of Karthika, saffron is placed on the lanterns, oil is poured on them, and a candle made of Cotton thread is worshiped, and the lamp is mounted on the rooms, windows, and doors of the house. The decorative lights are a sight to behold. This festival of lights is celebrated for 3 days. The oil dissolves and the thread melts. The lamp dissolves itself and gives light to others. Karthika's philosophy is to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. The rituals say that there is no better worship than lighting a lamp.

The Lord is torch-shaped. Thirukarthika is good enough to realize that he is the one who destroys all darkness and gives light. The occult says that the only way to gain wisdom is to explain. The only divine handiwork we do directly to the Swami in the temple is to explain. Thirumoolar also insists that the virtual light that appears inside will help to reach the tube of Eisen. That is to say, if we move away from the understood explanation, enlighten the virtual lineage within us, and worship the Siva light within the Shiva light, the Siva light can be attained, says Thirumoolar. Thirukarthikai festival in the month of Karthika with Karthika star coming tomorrow. It was on this day that Eason burned Tripura and destroyed arrogance. Mal-Ion dispelled the illusion that appeared to both. There are various benefits to burning various herbs in this day and age.

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