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HISTORY OF AVINASI AND LORD LINGESHWARA TEMPLE

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ABSTRACT:

Tirupur seems as a famous place. People from many places settle here and upgrade their lives. It has many occupations, thus called as "Mini Japan" by the people. Avinasi Lingeshwara temple is the famous and familiar Shiva temple, the reason I took this temple for preparation of manuscript is that the miracles and wonders that happened here in the past times. This temple situated in Avinasi in Tirupur district. It is situated in Avinasi, which is 40 kilometres away in the via of Coimbatore to Erode. This has built by Sundara Pandiya in second century of Christian era in the reign of Pandyas. This is one of the Shiva temples among the seven temples in the Kongu region. The Shiva temples in Tamilnadu are Tanjore Brigatheeswara temple, Gangai Konda Cholapuram and Avinasi Lingeshwara temple.

KEYWORDS: famous place, Shiva temples, Brigatheeswara temple.

INTRODUCTION:

Kongu Nadu is the famous kingdom in the west side of Tamilnadu. It is very ancient one. It is a large area that covers Coimbatore Erode districts, a part of Salem and Dharmapuri districts, Karur, Palani regions and a part of Kulithalai region.

It crossed the rules of Chera, Chola, Pandyas then Kongu Cholas, Kongu Pandyas, Hoyisalas and finally in the hands of Mysore Kings. The Kongu kingdom has divided in to 24 parts. "Aarai Nadu" is a part of it; "Vadaparisa Nadu" is a part of 'Aarai Nadu'. Avinasi is there in "Vadaparisara Nadu".

METHODOLOGY

Avinasi is an ancient and historic proud place. There are seven places where Devaram has sung in Kongu Nadu. They are Avinasi, Thirumurugan Poondi, Bhavani, Kudal, Kodumudi, Thiruchenkodu, Karur and Thiruvenchamakudal and Avinasi is the chief of it. The ancient name of this place is Thirupukkoliyur. This is the place where the Devars hide themselves in order to save themselves from the Akkini Dhandavam. In Pugu pukku oli oor become Pukoliyur. Present name of this place is Avinasi.

Avinasi means great danger, Avinasi means removes the great danger. In Devara period this place called as Thirupukkoliyur and the temple here called as Avinasi. Days passing the city that grew up near the temple called as Avinasi and Thirupukkoliyur is now a small village little distance away from the temple. This situated in the highway of Chennai-Kochi. History informs that a way lead to the western beach harbours via Avinasi, Vellalur, Perur, Palakad from Bhavani. It is notable that this place situated nearby the highway even today.

The book Cholan "Poorva pattayam" which tells about the history of Kongu Nadu, tells the history of the

emerging of the place Avinasi as follows. Karikalan ruled Kongu Nadu. He deforested the woods and settled the people there. Cholan Poorva Pattayam tells that, Avanan ruled Avinasi, thus this called in the name of himself. Karikalan overcome him and deforest the woods. He found the Lingam in the woods therefore he built temple and Liverpool. A boy was sacrificed to the goddess of woods for destroying it. Karikalan built a statue for him and did arrangements for the worship of the boy. The village in the north side of the temple might have emerged later. The recent researches of Archaeology tell that the old village was in the south side of the temple.

TEMPLE HISTORY

This temple situated in the banks of Nallaru River. Its presence faces the east and has the one stone light pillar. It is 70 feet in height. It has the sculptures of Vinayaga in the east, Sundara Moorthi in the west, a boy coming out of the crocodile's mouth in the north and the south under the pillar. This type light pillar own to Kongu Nadu and it is special that the entire temple in Kongu Nadu has this type of light pillar.

Liverpool is in the south of the light pillar, half tree Amman temple and the Sundaeswara temple whom called out the boy from the mouth of the crocodile and the lake is opposite to it. The front porch before the light pillar possesses 30 stone pillars. It has built by the Mysore King Udayar in A.D.1756. In side of this, Selva Vinayaga temple near by the tower, temple office in the north and the Naga Kannikai ie., cobra virgin well are there.

RAJAGOPURA

The main tower of this temple is majestic and attracts us. It is one of the huge towers in Kongu Nadu. It is about 100 feet. The old tower has built by Sundara Pandiyan in 1285-1300 AD. Mysore King Udayar governor Sankarayan built the unfilled tower in the middle age. This has ruined of the thunder in A.D.1960. So it has been demolished by the order of District Collector of that time. Then again it has built by the attempts of the Kowmara Madalayam Sundaraswami. The holy anointing was done in A.D.1980. A new five stage tower has built before the Amman temple by the help of Pollachi Mr. N. Mahalingam.

We can see the Navaranga Porch by crossing the seven stage main tower. It is known that Karayapalayam Bala vellala goundar and his son has built this porch. Their statues are carved here. Other than this the statues of Oorthu dhandava Moorthi, Alankattu kaliaimai, Veerapathra here are notable. Altar and flag wood are there in this porch.

AVINASIAPPAR- THE MOOLAVAR

We can see Nandhia peruman Avinasiappar. He called as suyampu [self emerging] Moorthi. The root of a lingam in Kasi run towards the south and spring here in Avinasi. People called him as Avinasi Lingeshwara, Avinasi Nathar, Avinasi Eswara, and Brammapureswara because Brama worshipped. Manickavasaga called him as 'Ariya Porule Avinasiappar' which means a rare thing. Appar peruman tells that, 'Avinasi kandai; Andathan kandai; that means one who visit Avinasi has seen God. Sundara Moorthi has sung an epic to describe the miracle of redeeming the boy who has eaten by the crocodile. We can see Dhandayuthapani and Sixty three people statues in the inside arcade. Vinayaga in the south east corner followed by it the statues of five substances. ArunagiriNathar has sung about the Murugan who is near by the Gajalakshmi presence.

We can see Chandikeswara and Kasi well come after Durgai in Koshtam. It is a belief here that the Gangai River in the Kasi is in the form of well in Avinasi. This presence and stature of the court are the forms of commencement. These belong to Chola period. The KalaBairava statue nearby the well is the very special statue of this temple. He alone has Saskara name. We come again to the outside court after worshipping swami. Holy wedding porch is next to the swami presence. The holy wedding of the god happens here in Chithirai festival. The statues of festivals are kept here for worship. Next to the wedding hall Arumuga Perumal temple situated between the swami presence and Amman presence in the Somaskantha stature, which has built in A.D.1980 and seems with new look. Opposite to the wedding hall the spring porch situated which has built recently.

SRI KARUNAMBIKAI AMBAL

Karunambikai Amba Presence situated in the right side of the swami presence which is in the south side

of the court of the temple. Opposite to the Ambikai presence the five stage king tower seems beautifully, which has built by the Pollachi donor Arutselvar. The wooden sculptures in the doors of this tower are gorgeous. Very special about of this temple is Karunambikai is in right side of the swami presence and as his Devi. This stature is about 3.5 feet. Karunambikai seems with compassionate eyes as her name. The local people call this temple as karunaiatha kovil [temple of mercy goddess]. Karunalaya selvi, Perunkarunambikai and Bruhat Karunampikai are the other names for this Amman. Many of the poets have sung songs about this Ampikai. Notable are Perunkarunambikai Pathikam, Perunkarunai Pillai Tamil Avinasi Karunai Anthathi and Karunakaramalai. We come to the courts after visited Ampikai. We worship Nataraja Peruman, nine planets and Saneeswara and come out.

The Avinasi Gangai is the Kasi Gangai. A mendicant named Pathanjali put his hand anklet in the Kasi well. Then he roamed all the country and reached Kasi. He found his hand anklet in the Gangai River. The co-mendicant come with him realised that the Kasi Gangai and the Avinasi Gangai are the same.

SOME MIRACLES

Boushiyothiram book tells that there was an Anthanan in Kerala; he has learnt rare mantras and arts and well versed in it. But he failed to teach them others. So he died in his young age and got the appearance of the ghost and roamed in the hills of Vindhyas. Many Anthanar's travelled to Kasi threw this way. They spoke about the features of Avinasi, on hearing this Anthanan left his ghost appearance and got the appearance.

Gurunatha Pandaram alias Lingathari lived in Avinasi. He took bathe in the porch with Liverpool which is called as sellanga samuthiram and put his part lingam and worshipped. There was an abundant of rain so the lotus Liverpool has broken and flooded. So the officers come for the redeem works, there was short of worker so they called Gurunatha Pandaram, he was deep in devotion so he did not hear that they calling.

So the officers become angry and threw away his lingam and compelled him to work. He did his work and return to the Liverpool and searched for the lingam and he decided to not live without that lingam. Then a fish brought the lingam to the bank by the grace of Avinasiappar

We can see this incident in the form of sculptures in the light pillar porch and the Sundareswara temple nearby the lotus Liverpool. We can see the statue of Gurunatha Pandaram in the Vinayaga temple nearby the Naga kanni well.

Once a Duke named Veera Vikrama Kumara Choliandan ruled Kongu Nadu. Avinasi was in his reign. A magician named Ondipili lived in Avinasi. The ancestors of the king gave this subsidy amount to this magician. The Duke was disappointed with him so he stopped the subsidy. The magician cannot bear this so he stopped the wheels of the chariot by the genie in the Chithirai festival. There a patron named Thampiran who come in the clan of Seerkali Satara kannan. He has many powers. So the people requested the king to approach him for the help. He did so. He sprinkles the thiruneeru ashes made from the cowdung.

Then four genies come out from the four wheels and Thampiran bind them and ordered to guard the four directions. The duke become happy and ordered to give first respect to him and his heirs, this follows nowadays too. It is assumed that a sword is there with them which king Thampiran has given. The tavern he lived is now a temple of Karivaratharaja Perumal temple. His tavern has changed to Devampalayam next to Palankarai.

The above mentioned Thampiran went to the pilgrimage to Kasi. He put his money in his stick and he left it when he took bathe in the Gangai. Then he visited the Avinasiappar temple, there he found that the stick he left in Kasi Gangai floated in the Avinasi Gangai well.

CONCLUSION

The Manuscript which presents the suggestions and concluding remarks. The chief miracle of this temple is, Sundara redeemed a boy who was caught by the crocodile by comply with the song. The architecture of this temple pleases our eyes. The attractive constructions and sculptures in this temple are best example to the ancient Siva temples. The lord in the karbhagruha of this temple is Lord Shiva. This temple also has the presences for Karunambikai Amman, Kalapairava, Saneeswara, Dhashina Moorthi, Sun, Moon, Durgai and Senthil Andavar. It is believed that the prayers requested here are come true.

The services done here are very special. The Chithirai festival ie.,summer festival celebrated here is special and it is celebrated for 12 days. Many programs like spiritual preaching, music show of Nadaswaram [Tamil musical instrument], Vocal of Devaram, Debate, Karnatic music, Natianjali, Devotional music, Classical dance [Bharathanatium] and devotional dance are conducted during the festival. Under the Control of HRXCL this temple has a plan to feed 100 persons daily in a routine. Temple opens for services at 5 to 1 in the morning and 4 to 8 in the evening. The king tower of this temple seems majestic. The other towers also attract our eyes. It is very powerful and special place.

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