

HINDU ORGAN

Fri. 3, 10-6-83

PEERING INTO THE DISTANT PAST

The richness of the forgotten story of the region that was once the renowned Vanni, as understood at the regional conference of the Seminar of Tamil Studies that was recently held in three different areas of Mullaitivu District must serve as a reminder to the common man that though he is heir to a high heritage of universal culture, he has unwittingly and unfortunately swerved away from the privilege of possessing a rare legacy. However, this Regional Seminar has stirred the imagination of the people of this illustrious area to such an extent that the immediate reaction has been a thirst to know more and more about the enlivening deeds of those who secured a prestigious place for Vanni in the annals of this Islet.

Alongside of this enthusiasm for fuller knowledge of the forgotten past, we find that the accounts of Vanni unmistakably point to the fact that in those days this vast district was the home of peasants who had consecrated places of worship for the entire population. The numerous "Kulams" (Tanks) and the equally numberless Shrines that illuminated the Vanni have left behind in these ruins, an unwritten story for us,—the account of the religious and cultural life of a people who were essentially agriculturists.

Seminars will be empty shows if they are not followed up with constructive activities in the field of educational research. The fact that at the helm of this noble movement that is research of Tamil studies, there is a gifted literator, the well known Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna with a good number of professors and lecturers of the Universities in this country to pursue this intellectual project in earnestness, is a hopeful sign.

The restoration of the ancient Temples of Thiruketheeswaram and Thirukoneswaram has certainly been the first fruitful step in the research activities of the North and the East. This religious

Essence of Saiva Siddhanta

(By M. Eliathamby, B.A.)

Saiva Siddhanta is the philosophy of the Saiva Religion. Saiva worship which came to be known as Saivism, began among the Tamils of the ancient land of South India which was the Northern portion of the submerged continent of Kumarikan dam. The word Siddhanta means the conclusion of conclusions of different schools of thought in India.

The spiritual experience of many sages, confirmed the philosophical basis of this faith. The sages realised the supreme and attained the blissful state. God revealed through them the sacred scriptures called Agamas and the Saiva religion had its origin in the Agamas. dwelt at length on the three verities namely God Soul, and Matter (Pasam). The substance of the

Saiva Agamas is found in the Thirumanthiram, in the sacred devotional hymns of the Nayanmars and in the Holy Books of Saiva Siddhanta by Meikandar and his disciples who attained Divine wisdom called jnana.

malam makes the souls assert themselves everywhere. It is one but it has many powers.

Soul is an entity like God. God is pure intelligence but the soul's intelligence is obscured by the dark malam. So it has imperfect knowledge. This malam is connate with the soul but it is not part of the soul. The soul never exists alone but it is found attached either with pasam (world) or God. The soul being eternal and intelligent is called Sadasat as it can understand sat (matter) when associated with it and understand (Sat) the supreme Reality when in contact with it. The souls are infinite in number and finite in knowledge and capacity.

Human beings undergo and are subject to pleasure and pain, happiness and misery as a result of good and bad actions. The consequences of their acts may or may not be experienced fully in one's life time. So arises the necessity to their being born again and again till all such consequences are fully exhausted. The consequences of these acts cannot be themselves affected by the doer of the actions as they are material and unintelligent. So

(contd; in page 3)

SPECIAL STAMP ISSUED TO HONOUR Sir. W. Duraiswamy

The history of the legislature of this country between 1924 and 1947 will hold. Sir W. Duraiswamy high in esteem As Speaker of the State Council for thirteen long years, Sir Duraiswamy maintained the dignity of the Chair in a remarkable manner.

That was not all by way of achievement for this leader. He was the leader of the Jaffna Bar and a very successful lawyer. As Manager of the Hindu College, President of the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai, one of the founders of the Hindu

Board of Education and other religious organizations, Sir W. Duraiswamy had been a source of strength to the rising generation.

Above all, Sir Duraiswamy was an ardent admirer of Yoga Swamigal. Thus his religious outlook grew in strength and made him practise his religion in right earnest.

As a leading personality of this country, it is appropriate that there should be a postage stamp to commemorate his great services.

Eminent Lawyer Ever Interested IN INSPIRING RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

The departure from this world of a devoted legal luminary and a more devoted social and religious worker has caused a national loss. Rising to eminence in the practice of law, taking silk in due course and being much sought after by litigants, Shri C. Ranganathan could not have had even a breathing time for other work. But it was not so with him.

Religious associations needed him most; social activities demanded his attention. His steady devotion to legal practice in a way influenced his spiritual inclination to a greater degree.

Sri Ranganathan was a leading Hindu always intent on making religious practices understood by all Hindus.

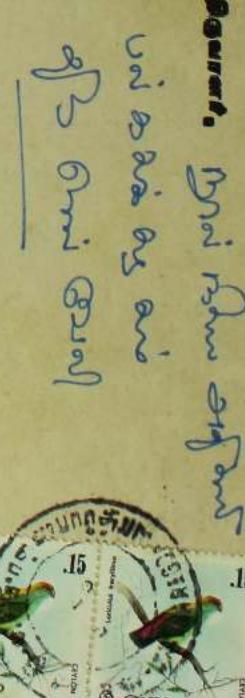
The touching tribute paid by the President of the Hindu Ma Muoram, Shri V. Sivasubramaniam, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court, in a radio talk on Shri Ranganathan fully paraphrased the life and works of a great personality of lofty thoughts and loftier activities.

In his home town, at Alaveddy, Sri Ranganathan was a pillar of strength to religious associations particularly in restoring the ancient Pillaiyar Temple at Perumakadavai. The Saiva Munetta Sangam of Colombo of which he was a past president has issued a fitting message of tribute in commemoration of his services.

The Universe is a product evolved out of a pre-existing substance called primordial matter known as Maya. This primordial matter gives rise to the existence of multifarious objects. This Maya is inert, unintelligent and formless. Maya has two aspects, Pure Maya and Impure Maya. Pure Maya being the world of sound and impure maya being the world of matter. Both the worlds are material. Maya is pure in its potential state. It is impure in its gross state. (Thula in Tamil) by the admixture of Aanavam (Egoism) Kanmam (past actions) and Maya. The last two are evolved by God's grace to nullify the power of Aanavam which is connate with the soul. Aanavam causes ignorance by obscuring the soul's inherent knowledge. Pati, Pasu, Pasam (God, Soul and matter) are eternal. Pasam means a rope that binds or limits the powers of feeling, knowing and willing of the soul. The rope is made up of three strings, the Aanava, Kanma and Maya. Aanava Malam induces self-assertion or self-pride & egoism. This

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Editor in Chief
R. N. Sivaprasakam



resurgence in effect has in the past. It is the wider sphere of activity. The Temple and the Tank are the hall marks of the progress of a people. Vanni had this feature

duty of these of the present age to make Vanni known to all in its true perspective.

