

Yogaswami - Group 3

Yogaswami is the most important of the Siddhas who incarnated in Eelam. In the historically famous Mavitapuram, a boy was born to Saiva parents named Ambalavanar and Chinnachi Ammaiyaar. They named the child Yoganathan, who later became revered as Yogaswami.

During his childhood, there were very few Saiva schools. Therefore, Yoganathan's education began in a Catholic school. He grew up to be a bold, intelligent and wise person.

One day, Yoganathan travelled to the mountain called Sivanoli Paatham, also known as Adam's Peak, and became suddenly enraptured by the sunrise. He went into a state of bliss, surrounded by the beauty of nature.

Yoganathan lost his mother at the age of eight and lost his father when he was a teenager. At a time when his spiritual thirst was overwhelming, he met Chellappa Swami at the Nallur Temple near to the Ther. Chellappa Swami shouted at him "ஆரடா நீ? பாரடா உன்னுள். தீரடா பற்று" (Aarada nee, Parada unull! Theerada patru) – "Who are you? Look into yourself! Abandon Attachment!" And thus He was initiated.

Following his Guru's instructions, Yogaswami went to Colombuthurai to begin His mission. A regular crowd of devotees would gather every day to see Him. On Tuesdays and Fridays, a large crowd would gather and the Thirumuraikal would be recited.

Swami, knowing the inner nature of the devotees who followed him, would give the advice that exactly suited each of them. "Everyone is one clan, everyone is one race" was a teaching that Swami often gave to those who sought his advice.

The devotees yearned to spread the teachings of Swami to everyone. So they asked Yogaswami to write a monthly journal. Swami agreed and said, "We are all Shiva devotees". He blessed the magazine and named it "Sivathondan".

Yogaswami imbibed all the words of Chellappa Swami and passed these gems onto His devotees. He mentioned them often in the Natchinthanai that He composed – bestowing simple but profound wisdom to all His devotees.

The following four statements are called the "Mahavaakyams" by the followers of Yogaswami:

1. ஒரு பொல்லாப்பும் இல்லை - There is no evil
2. முழுதும் உண்மை All is Truth – Absolute
3. எப்பவோ முடிந்த காரியம் - It was determined long ago
4. நாம் அறியோம் - We know not

The Guru Pooja of Yogaswami is celebrated on the Aayilium Nakshatram of the month of Panguni every year. Some of us would have grandparents who were fortunate enough to be in Yogaswami's presence and be blessed by Him. And, although His earthly body has gone, we will always have a temple for Him in our hearts.