

Group 4 - The Greatness of the Kantha Puranam

Among the eighteen Puranas, the *Kantha Puranam* holds a unique and exalted place, filled with profound spiritual significance.

It is glorified in the following verse:

“Indirāgip pār mēl inbam urru iniḍu mēvi
cintaiyil ninainda mutti civagati adhanil cēvar
andhimil avuṇar taṅga! aḍal keḍa muninda sevvēl
kandavēl purāṇam thannaik kādaliththu oḍuvōrē”

(இந்திராகிப் பார் மேல் இன்பமுற்று இனிது மேவிச் சிந்தையில் நினைந்த முத்தி சிவகதி அதனில் சேர்வர் அந்திமில் அவுணர் தங்கள் அடல் கெட முனிந்த செவ்வேள் கந்தவேள் புராணம் தன்னைக் காதலித்து ஓதுவோரே)

“Those who lovingly read, listen to, or reflect upon the Kantha Puranam - the sacred history of Lord Murugan, who destroyed the mighty demons - will live a life of joy and leadership like Indra, and ultimately attain the supreme bliss of liberation, reaching the divine state of Shiva.”

Thus, the greatness of the Kantha Puranam is widely praised.

In Tamil Nadu, at Kanchipuram, the priest of the Kumara Kottam Murugan Temple, Kachiyappa Sivachariyar, was blessed by Lord Murugan Himself! It is believed that Lord Murugan gave him the opening line “Thigada Chakkara,” inspiring him to compose the Kantha Puranam, beginning with a hymn in praise of Lord Ganesha:

*Thigada chakkarach semmugam aindhulan
Sakada chakkarath thāmarai nāyagan
Agada chakkara vinmani yāvurai
Vigada chakkarān meippadam pōtruvām*

(திகட சக்கரச் செம்முகம் ஐந்துளான் சகட சக்கரத் தாமரை நாயகன் அகட சக்கர வின்மணி யாவுறை விகட சக்கரன் மெய்ப்பதம் போற்றுவாம்.)

The Kantha Puranam, also revered as *Upadesa Rathnakaram*, is rich in literary excellence, filled with philosophical depth, and embedded with profound spiritual truths.

It is believed that Lord Murugan Himself guided its composition and reviewed it daily. However, when it was presented before learned scholars, a grammatical doubt arose. At that moment, Lord Murugan appeared in the form of a poet, clarified the doubt, and revealed that this was indeed a divinely approved work. Therefore, devotees firmly believe that the Kantha Puranam is a text blessed by Divine Authority.

The Kantha Puranam is a rare treasure of philosophy. Each part of it must be deeply understood and experienced. It describes Lord Murugan as the embodiment of youth and the source of immense power. He is depicted with His consorts—Valli on His right and Theivaanai on His left. His divine spear, the ‘Vel’(வேல்), represents victory and supreme wisdom. Derived from the root ‘Vell’(வெல்), meaning to conquer, it symbolizes the sharp and expansive nature of knowledge.

The peacock, His vahanam, represents the control of desires, symbolized by the snake it subdues. It stands as a manifestation of divine energy and the sacred Omkara.

Lord Murugan’s six faces represent six noble qualities: love, wisdom, strength, beauty, peace, and leadership. His twelve hands are ever giving and symbolize boundless grace. As the poet Kachiyappa beautifully describes, His divine form is like sweet, never-ending nectar in the Tamil language.

Let us cherish the poetic beauty and spiritual depth of the Kantha Puranam. Lord Murugan, the Lord of classical Tamil, stands as an eternal symbol of our rich heritage.

I conclude with one of the sacred lines from the Kantha Puranam, that has become the most famous phrase of our Saiva faith:

“May the eternal Saivite philosophy enlighten all throughout the world.”

“Meinmai Kol Saiva Neethi Vilankuha Ulakam Ellam” (மேன்மை கொள் சைவ நீதி விளங்குக உலகமெல்லாம்)