



SAKTHI FOUNDATION - PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Topic: SRI NARAYANA GURU DEV AND WOMEN OF KERALA-
Translated article from Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiyar's essays.

We are very proud to translate this Tamil article by our Mahakavi. The article must be connected to every one of us and see the characters within us for our self-transformation but not to make fun upon others. We feel the article is symbolizing the whole human community. We are very happy to see Mahakavi's views about the great saint and social reformer Sri Narayana Guru Dev. Today we are again in a position to review our social setup with fresh discriminations.

Mahakavi writes as follows,

" We feel very happy to see great changes in the social set up of Kerala through the sacred saint Sri Narayana Guru Dev. He is very bold enough to educate the untouchables of the state through his spiritual talks and he makes them to be aware about life. He is establishing several Shiva temples as the symbol of self-awareness all across the state for untouchables. But there is severe aggression against his actions from upper caste people. But he has ignored about them.

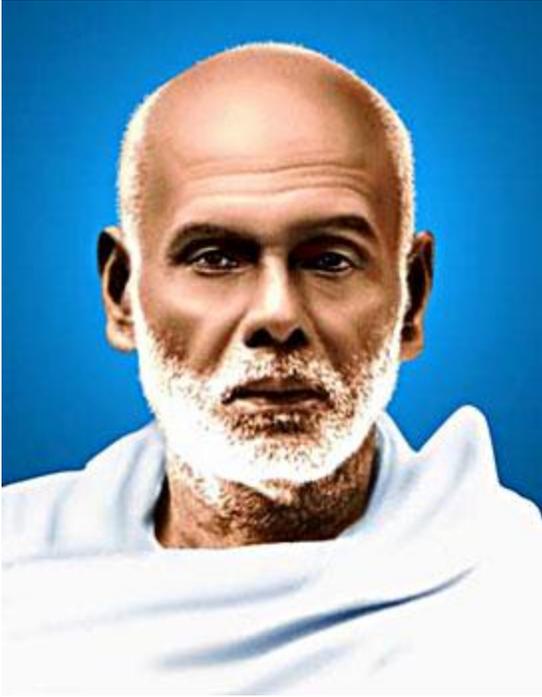
He is from an untouchable community who has self-realized through spiritual practices and penance in Western Ghats. People approached him and said that they were much disrespected in the society where as he is respected even by Rajas of Travancore and Cochin. They were very much worried that they were not allowed to enter inside temples.

Answer given to them by Guru Dev.:

"Dear people, we need not depend upon upper sect for temple construction. Money and manual work can do that. So do not worry! Try to collect fund for that! I will help you. We can erect many temples according to your fund"

People also collected huge amount and handed over to the saint. Today he has installed several Shiva lingams all across Kerala.

But upper sect was against this. Once he was travelling in train, there came a priest who scolded him with abusive words. He asked, "who are you?"



Dev, "I am Naanu!"

Priest, " How dare are you to install Lingas which can be worshipped only by upper sect? Who gave this courage?"

Dev, " **I have not installed the Shiva lingam which is meant for upper sect. Our Shiva is also untouchable. So do not be worried about Him! We are not disturbing you!"**

In this context Barathiyar also talks about women of Kerala as follows:

"Malayalam means Soundrayam - beauty. Kerala is the most natural beauty. I am admired how Dharma Sastha and Bahavathy are being worshipped. I am also aware about the women of Kerala who are more aware. They are educated. We feel great about women's liberation in Kerala. Nayar community women are given more preference in social life. Sri Narayana Guru Dev's revolution has made the untouchable [Eezhava] women to address in local meetings. It was very proud to listen to Srimathi Gowri ammai from that caste addressing in English in Aluva conference arranged by Swamy's samajam. She has been qualified with B.A degree.

Same time we came to know that few people from that community who are in good educated positions are getting threatened by many upper sect people through black mail and letters. But they need to be bold enough!

What we think we are!

Untouchables must never think badly about them! They must not listen to what others comment.

It is also very interesting to see the Sanskrith School established by Swamy in Aluva town for untouchables. There is a Muslim boy also. But it is very horrible how the most upper caste society is ill-treating others. Same is sprouting in Tamil Nadu but we have to stop that!

I feel very pity for the upper caste women's ignorance! Let me pray to Malayala Bahavathy to bring harmony among all in Kerala!"

In this context Barathiyar's second daughter came there and started reciting Kavi's poem.



**"நின்னைச் சில வரங்கள் கேட்பேன்! அவை
நேரே இன்று எனக்குத் தருவாய்! என்றன்
முன்னைத் தீய வினைப் பயன்கள், இன்னும்
முளாது அழித்திடல் வேண்டும்!
ஹே!!! காளீ! சாமுண்டி! ஓம் காரத் தலைவி! என் ராணி!"**

I am going to ask my Mother Kali - Chamundi - Om Kari and my Queen;

Today I am asking a boon!

Please make my all previous karmas as ash!

They must not sprout and trouble me again and again!"

OM SAKTHI!!" - Mahakavi concludes.