



SAKTHI FOUNDATION - Uni5 EDUCATION

A POET'S LEGEND - 4. Starving inside the palace. [Bharathiyar]

Photo: Ettayapuram palace

Before start reading and relishing the articles in this topic, we request you to read and have an idea about SAL ENERGY, Uni5 system, BMIAC concept. After reading the article you can analyze and link the poet or the incident to the concepts which you have understood for more depth learning. Then you also try to link yourself with the poet's life and situations and think about your actions. This will help you to evolve more. **These articles can be acted as simple skits to introduce the poet to children and public.**

When we read Bharathiyar's life it is very obvious to see poverty following him like the creation followed him. There was a severe conflict between his SAL ENERGY and poverty. If he must have decided to be very comfortable with the Ettayapuram Jameen palace post as a poet, as a friend to the Jameen he would be lost in the world's history. But his sangalpa of previous birth to compromise with the materialistic pleasures has given lot of problems in day to day life. Even when he was in the Jameen, he was starving for creative work.

Jameen was only interested in simple, self-boasting sexul and romantic poems. But Bharathiyar was least interested in that. Few of the poems written in praise of Jameen are also available. I think his previous birth connection with Ettayapuram Jameen was to prove his talent in very young age [7 years] to be recognized as "Bharathi" by **Shivagnana Yogi Swamigal**. He has also been in spiritual relation with SriMuthuswamy Deekshidar's generation for spiritual lessons and music. Other than these 2 he has nothing to do great with the palace. But he has made use of his title to enter into the national movement and service to people through his writings. So Jameen has given him the real visa to serve the society. But we can also see in his later part of life, he was not supported in any way by the palace.

Ettayapuram palace

It is in southern most part of Tamil Nadu near to Thirunelveli. In olden days it was a very tiny kingdom. Ruler Ettappan came from AndhraPradesh supported Madurai King in a war. He was reared with this town with few other villages around. This is called "Ettayapuram Jameen". Ettappan also helped a ruler called **Gangai Kondan** and got few more villages as gift. In 16th century A.D



Jegaveera Kumara Ettappar constructed the palace and ruled the kingdom. He named the town as Ettayampuram.

Later **Arcot Nawab** became the king with the support of British. Though Ettayapuram kings were from Andra, they liked Tamil and supported many

Tamil poets. They also accepted all religions. The famous Islamic Tamil epic Seerapuranam by Umaru kavi got composed in Ettayapuram palace.

Carnatic music pioneer **SriMuthusamy Deekshidar** spends his later years in Ettayapuram with the support of the King. He also died in Ettayapuram. His relatives were respected and supported by Jameens of Ettayapuram. So the royal family was also much interested in music.

How Bharathiyar got into Jameen?

Bharathiyar's father's mother Srimathy. Baheerathy ammal after her husband Kaduvai Subbaiyer's death came to Ettayapuram from Seevalaperi. She believed that education alone will support the life and planned to educate her son Chinnasamy [Bharathiyar's father].

Chinnasamy studied well and he was extremely good in mathematics skills. He also learned Tamil literature and grammar. His special interest was with machines.

He got married to Srimathy Laxmi. She was Ettayapuram chief's daughter. Somehow Bhaeerathy made Chinnasamy to join in Jameen's administration work. He was also much respected by the king for his intelligence. He was also very honest in his duty. On December 12th, 1882 Bharathiyar was born to Chinnasamy and Laxmi as their first son. With the blessings of Lord Skanda he was named as Subramanyan. We consider Skanda the complete gnana [wisdom] got incarnated as Bharathiyar with inborn creativity to sing and write which changed the society.

Relation with Jameen King

Mr.Chinnasamy Iyer believed that english education can change the life style of Indians. He started a cotton mill with the huge amount collected from many rich people including Ettayapuram Jameen. There were totally 198 shares. Jameen deposited a huge amount because he respected Bharathiyar's father. Pithapuram near Ettayapuram was the place where lands were purchased for the mill. Buildings

were also erected. Machines came from London. Many skilled laborers were brought from Mumbai. So the dream to develop the cotton mill became the life for Chinnaasamy. But he could not stand against the English Government. So there was lot of troubles to run the mill. Finally he has to lose everything. He was fired with loans and shares from all sides. But Jameen did not trouble him like others which showed his respect. But Jameen was little jealous about Chinnaasamy Iyer's development and he could not also accept people calling him as "mudhalai" - "owner".

Indian parents have never changed

All these made him to decide that education alone will save our life and he also dreamt that his son will go to London for higher studies and become a collector. But Bharathiyar told that he can be the Tamil poet in Jameen and support the family. But he has been sent to Thirunelveli for studies. Jameen [Venkatesa Retta Kannan] also encouraged this because in future he wanted a good person with good English skills in his palace. But Bharathiyar does not want to be a slave-servant poet who can sing only romance and praise the Jameen.

Bharathiyar's request to the king

When he was studying in Thirunelveli his father faced severe financial problems and he could not send even money for food and stay. So our poet wrote a poem [at the age of 14 years] to the Jameen in which he says,

"Bharathi will praise other kings other than you!" [24.1.1897]

In this poem he requested Jameen to send money for studies. But we need to consider from the point of spirituality that great people seek the help of others to increase others' self-energy. Jameen has not helped him immediately says the history. He was jealous of his development. But he could not also leave his association.

Back to the palace

We thank Jameen for making a door way for the poet to get back to South India. Later Ettayapuram Jameen welcomed Bharathiyar back to Tamil Nadu from Kasi. In 1903 Jameen and his wife attended the festival at Delhi to celebrate King Edward 7th's coronation in London. While going back to Ettayapuram they had a pilgrimage to Kasi where they stayed in their Jameen Mut which has been taken care by Bharathiyar's uncle Mr.Krishna Sivan. Bharathiyar was also studying there. But he wished to move back to Tamil Nadu for various reasons. He was swiating for a good chance. So when Jameen welcomed him back he left Kasi. Jameen also obviously saw Bharathiyar's good English, Sanskrit and Hindi skills. He also believed that they will adorn his court.

But we need to understand that his ego would have strongly challenging his spiritual strength. His ego

wanted to be very safe and luxury. But his inner strength did not allow that to happen which made him to face tough time again and again in life.

Poet - Servant of Ettayapuram

When Bharathiyar came back and joined in Jameen from Kasi, younger Jameen was in throne. He was very good in English. He has gone to London for 3 times. He liked western culture and traditions. But he was also much interested in knowing the values of Tamil literature. So Bharathiyar was appointed as his personal friend. He has to be in the palace by early morning. He used to read newspapers, magazines and explain the issues in Indian and abroad.

He taught many English poems written by Shelly. Bharathiyar himself admired Shelly and also called him as "Shelly Dasan". But all these made the elder Jameer jealous. Even poets and officials in the palace were greedy of Bharathiyar's association with the prince.

Bharathiyar was a fresh young man with more awareness. His skills in many languages, courage and creative thoughts were very new to the old fashioned people in the palace. So they could not resist his presence and work. So they planned to challenge him in many ways.

Kavadi Sindhu

One day an elderly poet said,

"Sennikulam Annamalai Reddiyar is only 26 years old. He has composed a valuable Kavadi Sindhu poem upon Lord Skanda. It is very odd to see such creations. I feel no one can do like that!"

"Our young poet has been adorned with the title "Bharathi" at the age of 11. Why cannot he try?" said another greedy man.

Bharathiyar was observing their conversation. Finally he agreed to Jameen's wish to compose a Kavadi Sindhu for the palace worship. Within a night he composed the Kavadi Sindhu hymns. He sang the songs next day in the palace. Jameen appreciated him and honored him.

Song of destiny

Once he was also challenged for fun by his friends and few poets. They asked him to compose a poem which will end with a line saying **"the king is equal to a crematory ash"**. First Bharathiyar refused to accept it because it may cause any bad effects for his name and position in the Jameen. But he was forced to do that for fun. But that poem has been handed over to the elder Jameen who became upset and angry with Bharathiyar. Poet said that it was not about the Ettayapuram Jameen.

But this incident made a deep negative thought in the mind of Chief Jameen. By this Bharathiyar's life deviated. But that was the time he was expecting to quit the Jameen.

Once in 3 years the chief Jameen used to have a small procession in Ettayapuram. That will be announced through soldiers and a special local trumpet will be blown. Except women all others must come out and wish the chief. Once when he was under procession, Bharathiyar was teaching Shelly's poems to his friends in local astrologer's home. Even after listening to the announcement he did not want to come out and wish the Jameen. He said, "This is a proclamation of stupidity!"

This made a hard barrier between Bharathiyar's family and Ettayapuram Jameen. He was asked to quit the poet job. Help given to his family were stopped. So naturally what the poet was seeking in his mind came into reality. Now he was free to move out to serve the nation through his creations.

Exchange of SAL ENERGY

Once the chief Jameen went to Madras city with few of his poets. Bharathiyar was one among them. They had very good time in Madras. When coming back the poets were rewarded with Rs.500. [a very huge amount in that time]. Bharathiyar just got 2 sarees for his wife and aunty. He purchased several books in English, Tamil, Sanskrit and Hindi. Chellamma could not accept this. But the poet said, "I am a Mahakavi! You are my wife. These books are very rare to get. They are not like the romantic stories in our palace library!"

But the poet knew he does not want the money to be exchanged for his family. That must have been given from various harsh taxes paid by poor people. So was very aware about the SAL ENERGY and exchanged that for books through which he initiated his creative skills and again gave back to the society through his poems and articles.

Gift of a dead friendship

Later when his first daughter got married, Bharathiyar was in tough time with poverty and he asked the Jameen's help financially. This is also to help the Jameen to serve. But there was no good response from the Jameen. The wedding day gift was sent through a person. It was Rs.80. With that Bharathiyar's connection with the Ettayapuram Jameen got over.

We all are living with our people because of previous birth's wish. So it is very important for us to handle several situations very carefully. We must not spoil the good time but also we must not waste our energy just being happy and lavish. Bharathiyar must have lived a very comfortable life forever in the palace but he was very much aware about his objective and mission of his birth. So he left the palace. Anyhow Ettayapuram laid the foundation for his creations.

OM SAKTHI!

Madras, September 14th, 2012