



SAKTHI FOUNDATION - Uni5 EDUCATION

SPIRITUALITY FOLLOWED BY BHARATHIYAR- Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiyar's life

* Read about SAL ENERGY article along with this.

What is devotion?

Devotion is true love. This love is unconditional and there is no expectation. It is the love and respect we first show to the truth within us called atman. This love is shared with all beings from a sand particle till blue whale or comet in this universe.

Indian spiritual science guides the intellect to get into the awareness to self-realize the truth which is the only existing factor in this life. This primordial truth is called "**Bhramam**" or "**Consciousness**". It is the eternal truth which is totally unconditional. The whole life journey in each birth is to self-realize this truth and merge with it. By this one

attains the real freedom from fear of all and there ends the birth cycle.

This spiritual journey is a must for all of us. The speed of this journey differs. But all has to reach the truth. For this we need to undergo several and severe practices. Religions are the gate way to enter into this spiritual world.

What is surrender?

Accepting the primordial truth within us is called surrender. By this we can accept each and every action of life. By this we can be out of sorrows and fears. Being the truth by our self makes the life "**anandham**" - "bliss". Surrender is not smearing the whole body with religious signs and praying with scriptures. It is also not just visiting temples, churches and mosques. It is not just observing false and blind customs and rituals. It is the acceptance of all and being unconditional.

Mahakavi Bharathiyar has practiced the above said devotion and surrender from very small age. This birth may be his practical exam session in spirituality. He lost his mother in very young age. Later his father also died. He has to depend upon others till his last breath for everything. Whatever he did they were in vain. Even there was no one to conduct the proper funeral rituals to his body after death. There was no money to carry his body. But he was out of all these conditions. Some of the incidents in his life will make one to cry and shout for him. Even I have not taken food properly after reading about his poverty. But when we connect this with SAL ENERGY concept we also try to be like him.

Lost identity

He has lost the self-ego which is called the self-identity through his strong spiritual practices. He has not been appreciated as a good husband, good father, good citizen by his own caste and many abused him as a mentally sick person. He has to lose all his efforts in exchange for money. But he was well aware about that. His very strong conditioned mind for not losing his SAL ENERGY for materialistic pleasures has made his writings as Vedas. They have the power to transform a person. So this has to be highlighted when we read about his life. Each and every step he put towards the truth was like walking upon a wall surrounded with fire and nails.

Role model for Gandhiji

Mahatma Gandhiji shed his body by chanting "hay Ram!" when bullets pierced his tender flesh. His mind was totally in the state of truth. Bharathiyar also shed his body without fear. He was constantly chanting "**Parasakthi! Parandhama**" and later **Narayana nama**.

It will be a very long thesis to write about his spiritual life. But in this article we are going to nutshell the devotion and spiritual practices he underwent.

1. He respected all religions and all gods. He has composed hymns upon all deities of all religions.
2. From very small age he observed the world, nature around him and linked them to himself. By this he tried to identify the truth of all beings.
3. He also respected Vedic concepts. He was against the blind customs, rituals with meaningless actions and blind beliefs.
4. He respected temples and idols. He has conveyed the decoding facts behind the deities through his songs. Example: In a song called "**Vellai thaamarai poovil eruppaal**" he has conveyed the identity of Mother Saraswathy in all actions like paintings, speech and music.
5. He has never accepted any fanatics and stood against religious emotions.
6. He was the only one who has boldly compared **Suka Bhramarishi with Mohamad Nabi** in a Muslim gathering in Pondichery [Article is there in our site]
7. His voice of truth made many great spiritual people like Sister.Niveyditha, Saint Arabindu, V.O.Chidhambaram Pillai to accept his concepts.
8. He conveyed the truth of advaitham in his songs and writings and practically implemented them in his life.
9. Several staunch SriVaishnavites like Mandayam Sreenivasa Iyengar, Vijayarahavan, Kuvalai Krishnamaachariyar and many other were able to become his disciples.
10. He saw everything as one single truth which is his own reflection. He was the one who accepted national movement for freedom and spirituality is not different.
11. His inner vision about Mother India and Parasakthi are the same.
12. **His songs are not just describing the forms of the deities and just praising them. They make us to understand the need to worship the deity. They also decode the energy pattern and make us aware about our prayers.**

12. **Spiritual work:**

He was very thorough in Srimath Bahavath Geethai. He followed Shankarar's commentary. He learned Rig vedham from Arabindu. He has translated and edited Pathanjali's Yoga Suthram in Tamil. His national songs and devotional songs convey the truth he observed. He has read all puranas, epics, devotional hymns of Nayanmars and Alwars. He was well aware about Periya Puranam. He studied Mahabaratha in depth by which he was able to recreate "Panjaali sabatham".

13. He loved and respected every one. He also stood against people who tried to cheat him.
14. He visited temples, beach, groves, and parks and tried his best to observe the primordial truth in every being. He lived very near to temples in Pondichery and Madras.
15. He very often spoke and wrote about immortality. But we must understand that is with the atman



not with the physical body.

16. He has been spiritually guided by many saints, yogies, sadhus, siddars and avadhoothies. [Different article will be talking about these people]

17. Those who were associated with him respected him for the truth he observed and practised. Many have worshipped him as a Siddhar and very few have identified him as "**atma gnanai**".

18. He has been addressed as **Kalidasa and Sakthi Dasa** by himself and Pondichery people.

We are eager to share some of the most important scenes from his life to show his spiritual practices. Let us go to his native place Ettayapuram.

Love with a damsel

Bharathiyar says that he got the inner darshan of Goddess Saraswathi at the age of 9. She made him to fall in love with her beauty. This has been written in his autobiography. Let us listen to him, "She came with the fragrance of fresh flowers. Her eyes were dark. I am in love with this virgin angel. She looks like Shahunthala character. My love for her flows like a new flood after rain. Even saints cannot forget her. I am a child of 9 years old. How can I leave her?"

Like **Gnanasambandar, Kumara Guruparar and Druvan** I am also lost in the divine grace of this woman.

Like birds loving each other, angels loving each other we loved. We spent many nights at the jungles near my town. One day it was Thiruvadhirai festival. I was observing the festival in local Shiva temple where she came and took me aside. She applied a dark thilakam - bindhe in my forehead and disappeared. From that moment I lost all my actions and love for a materialistic life"

The above said Goddess is the eternal truth of wisdom. It is called the "Gnana sakthi" within us which is the true wisdom with awareness. Mahakavi through his previous birth's sangalpam was able to relieve himself from the worldly pleasures like 3 great devotees. The dark thilakam is the symbol of spiritual initiation. The gnanasakthi within him has taken the form of Saraswathi in his conscious state of mind.

Thiruvadhirai day is the auspicious day for Lord Shiva in Chidhambaram. This day helps us to transform to the conscious state. So there is no doubt about poet's transformation.

Physical level rituals

Bharathiyar has followed meaningful rituals. He knew Rig vEdham which talks much about customs and rituals. He has observed Aavani avittam to change the sacred thread. He has removed his sacred thread - Poo nul is Kasi. This shows he has been already transformed to the conscious state. All these external identities are a must for a man who is in the initial stage of spirituality. With this concept he made the Harijan Kanaka Lingam in Pondichery to wear the sacred thread. He performed an elaborate ritual for that day. After the ritual he again removed his own sacred thread. He has applied Thiruman kaapu like Srivaishnavites to transform himself based on Geetha lessons. He learned Geetha long with Arabindu. He applied a kumkum thilak as the symbol of awareness daily.

He has given enough importance to festivals like Varalaxmi pooja, Navarathry and Deepavali. Every festival has been celebrated with real meaning. He says, "It is a foolsih action to just pile up our text



books and performing poojas. By this we cannot become intellect. We need to link ourselves with the supreme truth as Saraswathi Devi."

Bharathiyar's pooja corner

In his pooja corner he had the icon of Sri Dathraathreyar - incarnation of Bhrama - Vishnu and Shiva. He is the symbol of complete wisdom. He had photos of Mahasaraswathi and Mahalaxmi. He also worshipped a sword which he got from Va.Vey.Su Iyer through his sword training school. He considered that sword as the symbol of wisdom and weapon of Devi Tulja Bhavani worshipped by Veera Shivaji. There are also information about his tantric rituals which he followed at nights to MahaKali.

Inner rituals

In his later part of life he has performed more inner rituals to perfect his awareness and very often he says that he has to control his senses and needs. He said that self-control alone can make a man to live for 100 years. Even his last talk at

Erode town was about this. But he must have been well aware about his physical condition.

For his spiritual practices he used few strong intoxicating drugs. He also suffered a lot physically and mentally because of their side effects. His habits has spoiled his liver - the master organ and reduced his life from 100 to 38 years.

Bharathiyar and sacred temples:

He must have visited all the major temples in Ettayapuram and Kadayam.

In Madurai he lived for 101 days. By this time he must have visited Meenakshi temple. He is well aware about Chidhambaram, Palani, Kanchipuram. He has interconnected his self with these temples by which he transformed his own self as a temple.

In Ettayapuram he has been closely associated with palace in which he has the spiritual lessons from Muthusawamy Deekshidar's descendants. He must have followed many Srividhya lessons [Devi worship] through them.

He has been recognized for his inborn talent of composing poems with great mission at the age of 7 and he has been entitled as "Bharathi" - Devi Saraswathi by Saint Shiva Yogi.

His stay in Kasi for a long time has enriched his spirituality. Kasi city has really opened his inner eye to have a clear vision about spirituality and religion. He said that in Kasi very often he used to take bath in Ganga and visit many shrines at the Ghats.

Finally his association with a avadhoothi called "Kulla swamy" has compiled all his inner waves of spirituality towards the end. He made the poet to realize the truth and advaitham. But sorry to say he has been also deviated in some wrong ways.

Bharathiyar and Pondichery temples:

Hero of Pondichery

In Pondichery he used to visit **Manakula Vinayagar temple**. This is the famous temple of the town. He used to stand and observe the deity and close his eyes and imbibe the spiritual vibrations from the



deity. Priest specially used to treat him with respect. They offer a special harathy - camphor light to the deity and offer the sacred ash with saffron. With true respect the poet smears his forehead with the prasad.

He has composed the valuable sacred "**Vinayagar naan mani malai**" in various meters upon this deity. One can really understand the need for spirituality from this composition. **In this he has addressed the deity as Shiva-Vishnu-Bhrama-Devi-Christ-Buddha and Allah! This text makes to focus upon our spiritual needs and teach us what to pray and how to pray.**

Desa Muthu Mari Devi temple

This is another famous temple where he used to go and observe the deity. By observing the idols he has linked his self with the universal truth and recognized the pattern. He has sung in praise of this deity also. Very often he says, "We must not pray blindly to God. We must pray with awareness otherwise it will be trouble"

He also visits several jeeva samadhies [places where saints have shed their body and buried. These are the spots which can increase our SAL ENERGY and transform us. Siddanandha swamy shrine was one among them very often he visited .[This will be spoken in different article]

He has also been friendly with Muslims. So he must have visited mosques.

Bharathiyar and Madras temples:

In Madras he was in fond of visiting Devi Kalikambhal shrine. It is the presiding temple of Madras city constructed by British in 1639. This deity is the incarnation of Durga-Laxmi and Saraswathi. This temple is located in Thambu Chetty Street in Broad way where his Swedesamithran office existed. He has his several compositions among Devi as Kali. He has also loved to visit this temple because Veera Shivaji has worshipped this Devi once in his life. Today we can see the stuccos and details of both these Kalidasas in Kalikambhal temple. For some time Bharathiyar also lived very near to this temple.

Sure he must have gone to Mailapore Kabaleeshwarar temple. He must have also visited several samadhies of siddars like Patinathar and Vallar's home in 7 wells.

Parthasarathy's beloved Arjuna

By 1920 when his birth came to the end point he got the chance of living just behind SriParthasarathy temple in Thiruvallikeni. This is one among the 108 Divya Desams of SriVaishnavism. This shrine has been praised by Paialwar and Thirumangai Alwar in their hymns. Srimath Ramanujar's parents have observed fasting and performed rituals in this temple for his birth. So this temple has given birth to a great social reformer.

The presiding deity is Parthasarathy. He is Krishna in the posture of Arjuna's chariot rider. The idol is a gigantic figure with mustache. Bharathiyar has also changed his mustache after seeing this deity. He considered him as Arjuna. **Arjuna is the reasoning power.** He was longing for the real wisdom to become the truth by himself.

He often says, ***"My Krishna is inside the sanctum. I am his beloved Arjuna. Even the temple elephant has been named as Arjuna. We all are brothers. The truth called Parthasarathy is within all of us. He is the symbol of true wisdom which has to be attained by everyone on this Earth. I am daily showing my respect by visiting him. He is the Bahavath Geetha by himself."***

Climax for advaitham exam



Every day Bharathiyar visited Parthasarathy temple. When he became very sick he could not go. Time came for his last days. He went to the temple and came out. He offered the bananas to the elephant which was wild. The elephant just pushed him down and threw him inside its rest yard. People shouted by seeing this. Kuvilai Kannan was resting in temple kitchen. He ran out and immediately rescued Bharathiyar without fear. While he was taken to Royapettah hospital,

"Bharathi! The elephant does not have any gratitude for you!" - Said Kuvilai.

"Please do not say this. He has stopped from stamping me. It is his grace!"

This is the real climax for our poet's advaitham practice. So his connection with Parthasarathy was not a sentimental one. It shows his inner reflection. Like Arjuna he has accepted

Bahavath Geethai and practiced the concept of "acceptance" - Saranagadhi.

Saranagadhi is the highest lesson which we have to observe in our life to attain the self-realization. This has been attained by our Mahakavi. Today when I walk in Madras I can still realize his atman which is eternal. Kalikambhal temple vibrates with his voice. Stones of Parthasarathy temple compound walls talk about his greatness. Entrance of the temple, pillars very near to the sanctum, steps, sub-shrines, temple tower, elephant corner, huge bell and idols whisper about his truth. Today this man's physical body is not there. He is being reflected through his creations and Parthasarathy is smiling with the saying, "I am the eternal truth within all".

My eyes are searching for his physical presence somewhere in the roads of Thiruvallikeni. I am still visiting his house and meditating upon his atman to make me more aware about the truth. I have travelled all across the beach in search of his voice and foot prints. I have been to Krishnampettai grave yard to search for his sacred ash.

My association with Thiruvallikeni

When I was in grade 1 I was in Madurai. My mother took me for the first time to Madras in a bus. We visited my aunt's house. It was a cyclonic December. My aunty was living in JamBazar Thiruvallikeni. This is the first time in this birth I am listening to this name. It vibrated within me. I was taken to the temple and I saw the tall idol of Parthasarathy and came out. I was given a small plastic idol of Lord Balaji by our family friend called Sathyaseelan uncle. From that day there was a lot of inner waves about this place. Later again in my 9th standard I got the chance to come back to Madras. I visited Parthasarathy temple with more awareness. I got a wooden idol of Vishnu and prayed by chanting Thirupaavai. **[I have already spoken about my relation with Bharathiyar in different article]**

Later in many of my tough times Parthasarathy has made great transformations within me and Pradheep. We have helped a poor mentally sick lady in this temple for a year. I wished to do M.A in Vaishnavism. Regarding this we met a special person who guided us to do M.A Tamil first. I was dreaming that I must live in Thiruvallikeni. But later I have to pick up a job and I was least interested. One day again in Parthasarathy shrine I took the decision that I must become a Tamil and teacher and serve. I resigned my job and today Parthasarathy has put me in this moment to rewrite and explain about his friend **Arjuna Bharathiyar**. Today very often I visit his home and temple. I am very clear that I have a previous birth connection with the Mahakavi. Otherwise he must have made me to talk again about his mission. **Today I am seeing my Mahakavi in the form of Parthasarathy.**

Parthasarathy temple tower, homes around the temple and Parthasarathy are still remaining with his vibrations. He is always within me!

OM SAKTHI!

Madras, September - 22, 2012.