



SAKTHI FOUNDATION - Uni5 EDUCATION

Nadha jothy Sri.Muthuswamy Deekshidar [Carnatic music composer]

Deepawali day - 1835 A.D

Ettayapuram in southern Tamil Nadu was vibrating with the sacred Sanskrith song "Meenakshi may mudam dhey he..."

The great spiritual - musical tutor **Sri.Muthuswamy Deekshidar** was observing that song. His disciples were singing with great devotion. The saint singer just shed his body when he heard "Meena lochani paasa moshane".

Ettappa Ventaka Raaja was in tears. He realized that this great man has accepted the disaster and died for the country.

By dawn the king came and met Deekshidar. He said that the royal elephant got untamed and left to the local grave yard. The sign from the nature was also not good. So he approached the royal Guru and enquired about the astrological patterns. Deekshidar understood the pattern behind it and totally sacrificed his life to save the place where he lived.

Virinchipuram is a sacred pilgrimage center in North Arcot zone in Northern part of Tamil Nadu.

There were several great spiritual people living in that place.

Sri.Venkateshwara Deekshidar and his wife Baaherathy were well known for their kind gestures and charitable work. In 1735 A.D they gave birth to a son called SriRamaswamy Deekshidar.

* The term Deekshidar is the Sanskrith term used to title a person with high spiritual experiences. A person who performs 1001 yangnas is also title as Deekshidar.

Because of various political reasons this family shifted to Govindhapuram near Thanjavore. Thanjavore was under the control of Nayaka kings. Govindha Deekshidar was a great man who served as a prime minister under Nayak king. So this town was gifted to him and also being named as Govindhapuram.

Ramaswamy lost his parents at the age of 14. So he was taken care by few of his relatives. His

voice was good and he used to sing many bajans. His relatives advised him to take proper music lessons.

Various lessons from various masters

He went to Thanjavore and joined as a gurukula shishya [home stay student] to **Sri.Veerabhadhrayah**. Then he learned several grammar lessons in Carnatic music from **Thiruvaidaimaruthur Venkata Vaidhyanadha Deekshidar**. He was the student of great music pioneer "**Sangeetha Paaneni**" **Venkata Mahi**. He has been appreciated as the "Paanini of Carnatic music" [great Sanskrit Poet and Grammarian] His spiritual tutor was **Mahatantri.SriChidhambara nadha Yogi**. He gave him very special tantric lessons in Devi upasana.

Venkata Mahi compiled and organized 72 melakarta Ragas. So a very strong Guru tradition gave a rich music backup to Ramaswamy Deekshidar. He was well-known for his musical skills. He chose the sacred temple city Thiruvārūr to settle. He only invented the famous **Hamsadhvani** ragam. He has composed several songs for nadhaswaram, Bharathanatyam and many other instruments.

Ramaswamy's famous compositions

He composed a very long song in 48 ragas upon Lord at Thirumalai.

He has composed more 41 songs upon Devi Meenakshi.

He also composed 108 Astothra sadha raaga thaala naamaavali upon Dubashi VenkataKrishna Mudhaliyar of Manali village near Madras.

Ramaswamy Deekshidar's spiritual practices made him to understand the depthness of Advaita philosophy. He was asked to compose, organize and regulate the music and dance performance in daily rituals of Thiruvārūr temple. He did that and till today we can find his framework has been implemented in this temple in all pooja sessions. So it is natural he got introduced with many artistes, art forms and instruments. He was able to mingle with all caste people. His greatness has been appreciated by all.

He got married to a well-known family girl Subbulaxmi.

Medication for liberation

The couple was heirless and they were directed to Vaideeshwarankoil to perform 41 days mandala

pooja to increase their SAL ENERGY and to rectify their previous birth's actions. The couple performed 41 days poojas to Vaideeshwarar, Muthukumaraswamy and Devi Balambikai [Thaiyal nayaki]

Sacred March

Ramaswamy's bajans for 41 days vibrated all across the temple with his disciples. He also admired many devotees. This shrine is famous for curing all 4448 diseases. Finally the couple gave birth to a son on 18.3.1775. It was karthika star on that day auspicious to Lord Murugan [Subramanya]. The couple named the child as MuthuKumara Swamy. But people called him as Muthuswamy. Ramaswamy was 40 years by this time.

The highest level of spiritual awareness gave Muthuswamy a great treasure of spirituality with musical skills from pregnancy. His mother's 41 days staunch spiritual awareness in Vaideeshwarankoil gave him the seed of liberation from birth. This made him to choose music as the easy path to self-realize the truth and attain liberation - Moksham. After 13 years Ramaswamy Deekshidar was blessed with a daughter and later with 2 more sons. [Balambhal, Chinnaswamy and Baluswamy]

Sons under father

Sons were taught with Vedic lessons, Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu. Music lessons were also given through father. Muthuswamy learned many Venkata Mahi and Purandaradasar krithies [songs]. Veenai instrument was also being taught to him. The whole family was appreciated by Thanjavore king for their dedication in spirituality and music. Ramaswamy Deekshidar was respected by Thiruvaaroor Thyagarajar temple officials for his service to plan and organize music and dances in rituals.

Welcome to Madrasa Pattinam!

Meanwhile Sri.MuthuKrishna Mudhaliyar from Madras - Manali came to Thiruvaaroor for temple visit. He was a respected Dubashi [translator] in British East India Company in Saint.Geroge Fort. He came to know about Ramaswamy Deekshidar and welcomed his family to Madras to give spiritual - musical lessons in his Jameen court. He also appointed Ramaswamy as Royal musician in Manali Jameen. But soon he passed away and his son VenkataKrishna Mudhaliyar became the Jameen and Dubhashi. He also gave warm care to Ramaswamy's family.

1001 gold coins

Ramaswamy Deekshidar offered his respect to Venkata Krishna Mudhaliyar by composing his famous 108 asthotra sadha raga thaala naamaavali. For that he has been rewarded with 1001 gold coins. Deekshidar's father spent that for great charitable work. Music classes were given to all caste people with equal respect and love. The objective was to promote spirituality and bakthy movement.

Lessons from Saint.George fort

Because of his association the 3 sons got the golden opportunity to get into Saint. George fort. They listened to Western classical music and band music. Several western notes were introduced from Saint. Mary's church. Balaswamy learned violin from English master and later introduced that in Carnatic music. People were surprised to listen violin in our classical music form. From him Thanjavore Vadivelu learned and introduced in Thiruvananthapuram Maharaja Swathi Thirunaal's court. Maharaja was surprised with that and he took interest in improving many notes in violin.

Thiruvotriyoor life

By previous birth's karma, Muthuswamy Deekshidar got married twice. But he was totally aware about life and he became the tutor to both the wives. After living in Manali the whole family shifted to Thiruvotriyoor [northern part of Madras city]. Research says that Ramaswamy must have been involved in introducing and organizing the same musical and dance pattern in this temple dedicated to Shiva [Thyagarajar]. Several compositions must have been made by him. We have lost many scriptures. Till today we can find several unpublished manuscripts in Deekshidar's students' families in Thiruvaaroor.

Kasi lessons

Deekshidar's family Guru Sri. Chidhambaranadha Yogi took him to Kasi for 5 years and gave him special training in Devi upasana and music. In Kasi he learned many Vedic lessons and got introduced to Hindhusthani music. He got the chance of visiting various sacred pilgrimage centers including Nepal Pasupathynath, Badrinath and Kedarnath. He was well trained in tantric practices of Goddess worship and his yogic powers were also enriched. He learned Ayurveda medicine, Yogam and astrology from his guru.

He understood the self-truth through advaitam and started implementing his spiritual lessons in day to day life. He took music as his way to serve the Earth and touch the divine truth within all beings. He understood the objective of human birth and need to get salvation. He specially meditated upon Goddess Annapoornai for his journey towards his source.

"Annapoorani is the energy for moksham. She not only gives you food but also makes you to attain the wisdom and perfection of self-realization" says Chidhambaranadha Yogi.

Guru's separation

Deekshidar's guru finished all the essential concepts of education and he planned to shed his body. He discussed and explained about his departure from the Earth to truth. One day he asked Deekshidar to take sincere nama japam and also to take dip in Ganga.

Veenai for moksham

When Deekshidar did that his mantra power brought him a small, beautiful Veenai from the consciousness and he was enlightened with that. The Veenai is still there with Deekshidar's family. We can see the Rama nama engraved in Hindhi script in that. That name symbolizes liberation. Deekshidar used his mantra upasana energy for liberation and he attained that also through music. Deekshidar used to sing along with Veenai. This is the instrument for moksham by staunch selfless performance.

"Just by playing Veenai with a raagam we can easily attain the bliss of touching the divinity within us" says Kanchi Periyawaal.

Deekshidar's Veenai is the symbol of liberation. The one end of the instrument used to have a wooden carved face of Yaazhi - celestial lion. This is the symbol of mere awareness. Through music we are entering into the street of awareness to reach the consciousness. Usually this yazhi face will be facing down. But in Deekshidar's Veenai, this face faces up to symbolize his transformation.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UayUi7-vnUw>]- watch this you tube for original veenai of the saint]

Soon after this incident Deekshidar's guru left his body by getting into Ganga. Deekshidar slowly packed up and came back to Manali village. He was given a warm welcome by his parents and family friends. Meanwhile his father planned to go back to Thiruvaaroor. So he requested Deekshidar to take over the left out music projects with Manali, Thiruvaotriyoor and other places near Madras. He also accepted to stay for some time in Manali for various reasons. He and his brothers gave several musical performances in and around Madras in many occasions and made people to feel the bliss of music and divinity. In this time he made his visit to many sacred places around Madras and performed his music.

Guruguha

Deekshidar's spiritual tutor has advised him to have the darshan of Lord Subramanya [Murugan] in Thiruthani. This is the abode of Lord where he makes the adrent devote's mind to get satisfied with the human birth. So he gave a visit to Thiruthani and observed 41 days fasting and underwent several transformations. On the last day as he wished he got the divine view of Lord as an old man. He offered a sugar candy and gave the spiritual and intellectual initiation to compose songs which can guide any one to step forward towards liberation. Deekshidar chose the sacred name Guruguha [the tutor who resides within the hearts of devotees] to identify his songs. This is called mudrai - symbol - identity or sign.

Lord Guruguha within the body called Deekshidar is making him to compose his songs. This is the secret behind all names in our divine compositions.

Deekshidar sang 8 songs upon Thiruthani using 8 various Sanskrith suffixes. Thus his spiritual life took another deviation after coming from Kasi. Now it is the time for him to serve the people through his music. He also chose the method of Saint Singers of ancient Tamil Nadu. So he wished to travel all across the nation to adore the divine truth with his compositions. He sang all the deities. He has composed songs upon village deities and nine planets also. He understood the concept of advaitham and observed all through his life.

Today in Thiruvaaroor most his unpublished songs can be collected from his disciples' families.

Once Deekshidar's wife was attracted by the golden and diamond jewellery. She was also guided by her neighbors to ask Deekshidar to sing in Sarafoji Raja's palace. When she expressed her desire about gold, Deekshidar sang a song upon Goddess Mahalaxmi to make her to understand the reality of life. That night his wife got a dream in which she was adorned with gold and gems which she could not bear. She realized the truth of mortal materials.

When Thambiappan [disciple] suffered from severe stomach ache, Deekshidar observed his astrological patterns and gave the song upon Sun. He asked him to sing that for 41 days. He also did that got cured with the pain. After that he requested Deekshidar to complete the songs for other planets. These are navagraha krithies.

When he was travelling towards Ettayapuram on his way he stayed in sathur. He saw people, cattle and crops suffering without rain and sang the song "Anandhaamrutha karshini" in Amruthavarshini raagam which he has discovered.

He composed songs upon Thiruvarur Thyagarajar and got the help of local rich man with grocery.

Deekshidar's father has composed 48 songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara and got back the lost vision for his second son Baluswamy.

On Deepawali dawn [1835] he got the inner darshan of Devi Annapoorani and gave up his attachment.

Through his songs he has increased his SAL ENERGY which has been just exchanged to realize the truth.

Through his songs he has cured diseases.

Through his songs he has brought rain.

Through his songs he has transformed his wife's materialistic expectations.

Through his songs he has lectured the legends of various temples.

Through his songs he has lectured important Edikaasha - Purana - Veda - Vedhantha - Upanishath concepts.

Through his songs he has made equality among all castes.

Through his songs he has delivered deep spiritual lessons in simple way.

Through his songs he has merged Western, Northern musical forms with Southern pattern.

Through his songs he has observed advaitham within all.

Through his songs he has enriched Sanskrith language.

Through his songs he has made several ritulas very simple.

Through his songs he has bought basic necessities for his lively hood directly from God.

Deekshidar's songs are having high values of mantras. Even though if we recite them with real dedication we can attain the wish we pray!

OM SAKTHI!

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