

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE BHAGWAN SRI RAMANA MAHARISHI'S 69TH
ARADHANA CELEBRATIONS and BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION ORGANISED
BY SRI RAMANA BHAKTHA SAMAJAM AT PROF.KRS CENTENARY SEMINAR
HALL, MEENAKSHI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KODAMBAKKAM
ON 12.05.2019 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

Thiru. K. Sriram
President,
Sri Ramana Bhaktha Samajam

Dr. K.S. Lakshmi,
Secretary,
Meenakshi College for Women

Dr.K.S. Babai,
Secretary,
Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College

Tmt. Revathi Ramachandran,
Director,
Kalakshetra Foundation

**Distinguished Invitees
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted to be here to participate at the Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharishi's Aradhana Celebrations on which occasion, the book release of the "Commentary on Sri Ramana Sarana Pallandu", "Arupathu Moovar Kaiyedu" and "Investigation into... Oneself" has also taken place. The Sri Ramana Bhaktha Samajam has been organizing these celebrations year after year. This year they have taken special efforts to publish writings about the life and message of Sri Ramana Maharishi which are certain to be an inspiration to the devout and the well-intentioned.

As you are all aware, Sri Ramana Maharishi was born in a village in Virudhunagar district in 1879 and spent the first 17 years of his life in a routine fashion. It was in 1896, when he was all alone in his uncle's house in a small room in Madurai, that he had an unique experience that transformed his life. He was struck all of a sudden by a divine light and lost Consciousness. Unable to bear the impact, rigor mortis set in. When he recovered Sri Ramana woke up with a realisation of the Universal Spirit and about his oneness with the Eternal Consciousness i.e. Lord Shiva. After this experience, Sri Ramana, the transformed bhakt moved away from Madurai and came to Arunachala where he spent the rest of his life.

His stay in Arunachala Hill lasted almost 54 years and brought Thiruvannamalai onto the Spiritual World Map.

The meaningful, eloquent and profound stillness that devotees experienced in Sri Ramana Bhagwan's presence was the peace which enveloped his divine personality.

The Sage himself said once, "That which is, is Silence. How can it be explained with words?"

Experiencing this aspect of Bhagwan Ramana, the British author and theosophist Duncan Greenlees described it in the following words, and I quote, "I know of no other man whose mere presence made my personality drop into the abyss of nothingness where it belongs. I have found no other human being who so emanates his grace that it can plunge the ordinary man deep in the ecstasy of timeless omnipresent Being". Unquote.

Like Lord Shiva in his manifestation as Sri Dakshinamurthi, the deity who teaches through Mauna, Bhagawan Ramana's presence reaffirmed in expressive stillness, the living presence of the divine.

Bhagwan Sri Ramana himself composed many works, a few in prose and many in verse. These include narratives on 'Self Enquiry' and 'Who am I?' and poems like 'Arunachala Sthuthi Panchakam', 'Ulladhu Naarpadhu'. Many of his sayings were occasioned by seemingly little incidents in his life.

Perumalswamy who was one of his early devotees, later turned against him; abused him; and also filed a case against him without success in a Court of Law. After many years when the same Perumalswamy during his last days was left with no friends and relatives and was brought to the Sri Ramanashram premises, Sri Ramana Bhagwan forgave him and ensured that he was given due care with attention and concern. Such was the feeling of forgiveness that Ramana Bhagwan displayed towards his detractors.

Another anecdote is about a foreigner who questioned him on whether a Gnani like him knew everything. At that time Sri Bhagwan was enquiring about the day-to-day problems of his devotees and giving them advice. The foreigner was taken aback when Sri Bhagwan replied – "Yes; Everything worth-knowing is known to a Gnani!"

Prominent among the numerous devotees of Bhagwan Ramana was Muruganar.

He was a Tamil scholar and school teacher who became attached to Bhagwan Ramana soon after his first darshan.

About the impact of that darshan Sri Muruganar would say, "Within a few days of reaching Tiruvannamalai there was a distinct change in me, though I could not put it into words. My individuality was submerged in waves and waves of indescribable joy. Even though wide awake, the whole world appeared like a dream."

Even during his first visit to the Ashram, Muruganar had brought an offering of verses to the Sage. On his second visit, Ramana

Maharishi asked him to continue writing poetry in the same style, since it reminded him of the Tamil devotional classic, the Thiruvagasam (तिरुवाचगम) of Manikkavasagar (माणिक्कवाचगर).

Thus was born the 'Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai', one of Muruganar's major works consisting of 2000 verses.

'Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai' has the uniqueness of having been perused by Sri Ramana himself and carries his stamp of approval.

Muruganar was also a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He composed songs expounding Gandhiji's philosophies such as Ahimsa, the Khadi movement, Prohibition, Vegetarianism, Eradicating Untouchability etc. When he had an opportunity to meet Gandhiji in private, he presented him with the Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai, his first work.

Sri Muruganar gave shape to Maharishi's philosophy by composing his teachings in about 1250 verses as Guru Vachaga Kovai. It was Sri Muruganar who extracted from Maharishi, Upadesa Undiyar and Ulladu Narpadu and these two along with Guru Vachaga Kovai are extolled as Sri Ramana's Prastanatravam.

Maharishi accorded a pre-eminent place to Muruganar among his devotees. When Muruganar was trying to create Ramana Puranam, a divine outpouring, Maharishi joined him in this effort and composed the latter half of about 300 lines in that text. Atma Vidya Kirthanam also was a joint effort of these two giants in Spirituality.

Today, the saint of Thiruvannamalai Sri Ramana Maharishi stands tall as an epitome of Godliness, Simplicity and Clarity. His oneliners and pithy sayings were laden with meaning and his stillness and calm is a call for peace in a world of turbulence. Ardent devotees like Muruganar have dedicated almost their whole lives for the cause of propagating Sri

Ramana Bhagwan's greatness Commentaries on the works of Muruganar written by authors such as Thiru. K. Sriram will enable the average worshipper to understand the message of Sri Ramana Maharishi and help to propagate the message of Bhagwan among a bigger audience. His work which is the product of several years of labour deserves our fullest appreciation. I also compliment the efforts of Sri Ramana Bhaktha Samajam who have organised today's Aradhana celebrations. Their painstaking efforts to hold aloft the banner of Ramana Ashram will be always met with success.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....