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Aandaal's Prayers

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Abstract

Aandaal is a very popular poet /saint included in the list of famous Azhwars of Vaishnavite tradition devoted to Sriman Narayana. She was brought up by Sri Vishnuchitta, a priest serving in the temple of Sri Villiputtur. He became famous as Periazhwar, when he redeemed the honour of the Pandya king by defeating the antagonists of Sanaatana Dharma in a verbal duel at the royal court. He was deeply devoted to Sriman Narayana. He passed on to young Aandaal all the knowledge of scriptures and Vaishnava philosophy. Upon hearing delightful stories about Sri Krishna's glorious deeds, Aandaal developed an extraordinary love for Sri Krishna and entertained in her heart, a great desire to become His consort. In this mystical state of deep love and devotion, she composed two great *granthams* (literary works): **Thiruppavai** consisting of 30 slokas and **Nachchiar Thirumozhi** consisting of 143 verses in pure Tamil language script, of exceptional lyrical beauty and excellence. It is believed that Aandaal was born in the constellation of Pooram and merged with the lord in the star of Uthiram. Exact date of her birth and union with lord are not clearly known. Devotees consider her as *Ayonija* (Divine in human form) and incarnation of Bhhoma Devi. The literary works of Periazhwar and Aandaal are included in the Divya Prabhandhams considered as Dravida Vedam.

Introduction

In the following Ode, the author has attempted to capture Aandaal's passionate attempts to attain oneness with the lord. This is based on the original work by Aandaal in her famous **Nachchiar Thirumozhi**.

Aandaal was a sweet child of Vishnuchitta,
the famous priest of the great temple
at the ancient city of Sri Villiputtur and
a great devotee of Lord Vishnu.

But she was firm in her belief and faith,
So, he initiated her into
A thirty-day program.

She had heard from him,
glorious deeds of the lord,
and decided that she would
make the Lord all her own.

Carrying out a vow initiated
by young girls of yore in Vraja Bhoomi,
she was determined to tie herself to His Hand,
and light up this land,
with thirty glorious songs in His honour.
Vishnuchitta, watched his mystic child,
immersed in ocean of devotion,

Vishnuchitta frowned,
Can a mortal entertain such a wish?

seeking the Lord 's bliss,
not for herself alone but for all mankind.

Her curiosity knew no bounds,
She wanted to know every detail about the
Lord,
all personal matters hitherto unknown
not recorded in any script,
She had to find the answers,
so that she will present herself
to her Lord and win him over.

She called out to the scented garland of Tulasi
leaves,
that adorned His great torso,
How soft was His skin in her tight embrace?
She called out to the Conch that He blew.
What did His mouth taste like?

She called out to the great bow that He
wielded,
How strong were His shoulders?
She called out to Ahalya to find out.
How soft were His feet that had enlivened her?
She called out to the peacock feather,
that decorated his hair.
How bushy were his curls in close quarter?

The good Lord was amused,
And played hard to get.
In despair, the poor girl reached out to Cupid
pouring her heart out, seeking help.

“I starved, I chanted, I kept my vows,
Proper, pure, and timely.
I thought of him, him alone,
But He is still away from me.”

“Oh, Cupid, where are you hiding,
Are you afraid, He will do another
Kamadahanam?

My lord is not that type, have no fear.
Come out with your bow and arrow,
select a scented arrow!
With my name engraved on it,
aim at Him, his broad chest with shining
Kaustubham.”

“You can't miss. shoot and stay,
watch Him look out for me,
see me and devour me wholesale.
Your purpose on earth would be fulfilled,
do that for me, Cupid,
a thousand salutes to you!”

I know not whether Cupid heeded to her
prayers,
I know not whether his arrow hit the mark.
But I hear the girls of Sri Villiputtur,
Cheer one of their kind,
Walk hand in hand, with the Lord
Down the well-paved road,
Leading to the temple gates,
Where the learned ones celebrate,
Another great wedding of my Lord and my
Lady
To bring peace and prosperity
To this eternal land.

-- *Shubham* --

About the Author

Sri T.K. Ragnathan – A retired Marketing executive took interest in spiritual studies, Sanskrit language, and astrology, after retirement. He has written four books that were published from Hyderabad. He is presently working as Principal of JKR Astro Research Foundation, Hyderabad, teaching advanced prediction techniques based on Naadi principles.



Veda Samskruti Samiti

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Veda Samskruti is an inherent intellectual property of Bhaarata dEsham. It is the basic duty and right of every citizen in Bhaarata dEsham to protect this Intellectual property. Indian Constitution and Law provides provision for protection and preservation of its culture, its monuments, architecture etc.

The Chaturvedas said to have 1131 shaakhaas right up to the time of Aadi Shankaraachaarya and thereafter during last more than ten centuries, many shaakhaas are out of practice due to various reasons and presently only seven shaakaas are in the practice of Guru shiShya parampara.

There is a need to continuously preserve these available shaakhaas which may likely to disappear in future due to various external forces acting in the country vigorously with the power of money and global politics. It is time for the intellectuals of Bharata dEsham to wake-up and work collectively to protect and preserve Veda Samskruti of Bharata dEsham, by empowering the Youth of Bharat dEsham, the future care takers of this great Indian Heritage , with suitable education of our correct history and culture.

The above background lead to formation of this Veda Samskruti Samiti which is registered under Societies acts of Government of Telangana, with Regd. No. 961/2016 by Sri A.H. Prabhakara Rao, who is the Founder and President of the Samiti.

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