

Ammankudi Mahishasuramardini temple

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Mahishasuramardini

How to reach the temple : The temple is about 20 KM from Kumbakonam a city in Tamilnadu. One can reach the temple from Kumbakonam by buses and taxis which are frequently available.

Temple

Ammankudi temple lay in between the cities of Thiruvaidaimarudoor, Tanjore and Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu, India. Ammankudi, small village where the temple has come up is twenty KM from Kumbakonam and one KM from Thiruvaidaimarudoor. From the inscriptions available it is certain that the temple

constructed by Krishnadevarayan the chieftain of Rajaraja Chola, a great Tamil King, must have come up thousand years back.

Story of the temple

Once upon a time there lived a demon named Mahishasura who went to Indira loka, defeated him and conquered Indira Lok. He became so arrogant to pronounce that except him none be worshipped. Further he had unleashed a reign of terror on earth, heaven and the nether worlds, tortured and killed many devas and people. Afraid of the demon everyone ran for safety and hid in the mountains and caves. No God could subdue him. People stopped performing the yagya and pujas.

Once when Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu were in a serious discussion, the reign of terror Mahishasur had unleashed on the three worlds reached them. Their eyes turned red and beams of fierce light emerged from each of them. The energies, which emerged formed into a beautiful girl. Her face reflected the fury of Lord Shiva. hands the strength of Lord Vishnu, head that of Lord Yama and hip that of mother earth. Every one realized that the Goddess has manifested to vanquish the demon Mahishasura. While the Gods and other devas immediately empowered her with several of their weapons, King of Himalaya mountain gave her a powerful lion to fight the demon. She sat on the Lion, marched to his place and fought with the demon. The fierce battle continued. As the entire army of Mahishasura got destroyed, to deceive and distract the attention of the Devi Mahishasura changed his forms many times starting from that of a buffalo to other animals. But at the end when he retook the form of a buffalo, Devi pushed and pressed him over the ground with her left leg, and killed him with

a trishul. Therefore her name became Mahishasuramardini, female goddess who vanquished Mahishasura, the demon.

Mahishasuramardini was an indeed incarnation of Goddess Parvathi in the form of Durga. Though Mahishasura was a demon, he was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva and always wore a Shiva Linga around his neck after obtaining several boons from him. Therefore the Goddess Mahishasuramardini attained Shiva dosha for insulting the Shiva linga with her leg and for killing the devotee of Shiva. She approached Lord Shiva to purify her from the evil effect. He advised her that she should go on penance in the bank of River Kaveri for twelve years after taking bathe in the same river.

She took the advice seriously and went to Ammankudi where river Kaveri flew, took bath, and sat in Taps for twelve years. She also kept on guard, her son Lord Vinayaga to ensure that she remained free from any disturbances during the tapas. Pleased with her tapas Lord Shiva appeared before her after twelve years and purified her from the dosha. Thereafter she appeared in the dream of the chieftain of King Rajaraja Chola and ordered him to construct a temple for her in that place which he carried out. Thus the temple there was also referred as Devi Tapovana (Place where Devi remained on tapas) and Raja Rajeswarapuram to give credit to Rajaraja Chola's chieftain.

Glory of the temple

Because Devi chose the river to wash the sword with which she slew Mahishasura, one believes that taking bath in the river will remove the evils of all the sins (Dosha). Since she kept on guard Lord Shiva's son Vinayaga who was her son in her form as Parvathi, but not to Mahishasuramardini who was a virgin goddess in that form, the belief that childless couple will beget child if they

worshipped her in Ammankudi came to be established. Also as she remained in tapas controlling her breath, the belief that anyone suffering from Asthma disease will get rid of the severity if they came and worshipped her too came to be established.

End note: The contents of this article are the expressed views of the Pundits (Pujaries) and other devotees. Photos are not that of the Devi in the Ammankudi temple and form of Mahishasuramardini as obtained from different sources. In case some one gets further information in this temple I shall be glad and thankful if they mail me the story in nrj1945@gmail.com to enable me update the article in future.