

Navapashanam

Palani has been mentioned in the Tamil Sangam Literature as “Podhini”, which came to be called as “Palani” later, according to the historians. In “Thirumurukatrappadai” (a Sangam Literature) Palani has been mentioned as the 3rd “PadaiVeedu”. This was the southern end of the Kongu Nadu and edicts refer to this place as “Vaiyapuri Nadu”, which was ruled by king “Vaiyapuri Kopperumbaegan”. Many “Siddhas” are said to have lived in this region. The idol of Palani Andavar is said to have been made of “Navapashanam”.

The deity of Palani is known as Dandayudhapani Swami, the Lord having the Staff in his Hand. The deity at the sanctum sanctorum is made out of an amalgam of nine minerals popularly called Navapashanam. Some people say it is a combination of medicinal herbs. It consists of the following items :

Veeram

Pooram

Rasam

Jathilingam

Kandagam

Gauri Pashanam

Vellai Pashanam

Mridharsingh

Silasat

The deity is in a standing position with a baton in his hand. He has the look of a person who has renounced all worldly pomp. He has just a loincloth besides the baton. He is a mute messenger of the great precept 'Renounce all to reach Me'. The icon is unique in the whole world. It was made by siddha Bhogar by combining nine poisonous substances (Navapashanam). Murugan signifies beauty and Lord Murugan of Kurinji land is the god of Beauty and Youth.

Navapashanam-1

Vaidyanathan: Siva abiding near Sirkazh is called Vaidyanathan, and the place is Vaithisvaran Koil. Muruga in that temple is called Muthukumaran. That is the reason for naming Muruga of Periyanyaki amman Koil as Muthukumaran.

As Palani is a place where ills are cures, the name of Muruga become Muthukumaran. You may wonder what is the connection between curing and Muthukumaran. Shell may be insignificant. But the pearl is very precious. From a low source a precious material is borne, Sugar-cane, ivory, rain, paddy too are all sources of pearl. Likewise from the sweat of the forehead Siva, contain curative properties. Has not that pearl - Muthukumaran - become famous? You might have heard of Muthu Paspam, which cures several maladies. Here Bogar did not carve the main deity in stone. On the contrary he solidified the essence of Nava Pashanam and from that material formed the Moolavar. Pashanam means poison. If it wxcwwds the proper proportion it will become poison. In proper proportion Bogar has used it. There is a special stone too called Pashanam!

It is customary to plant a stone on the 16th day of death of a person. That too is called Pashanam. In Palani not one Pashanam but nine Pashanams have been used. Eighty one Siddhars joined Bogar, mixed 81 Pashanams, converted in into 9 mixtures and made this image. That is why it is called Nava Pashanam. We have heard of 18 Siddhars. Their disciples were 81. The Pashanam was burnt by 9 type of fuel, filtered 9 times ($9 \times 9 = 81$) and that means 81.

1. Avarai, Chittamurutti - With this fuels they will heat for disease caused by heat.
2. Usil, Ilandai - By heating with this fuels, they cured disapes of eye, nose, ear and feet.
3. Iluppai, Tamarind - For oils for external use.
4. Vembu (Neem), Pooarasu, Arasu - for diseases of Vadha.
5. Nuna, Vanni, Mavilangam - for Vadha diseases external and internal.

6. Nelli (Amla), Vembu (Neem), Vila for Pitha ills.
7. Usil, Vel, Konrai, Vengai; for Phlegm.
8. Panai (Palm), Thennai (coconut), Vembu (Neem); for all medicines which contain Rasa.
9. Vel, Vengai; for medicines which contain iron.

After heating with the above 9 types of fuel they will filter 9 times.

1. Excrement of Kadai 1
2. " Kowdri 3
3. " Kukkudam 10
4. " Varaham 50
5. " Peacock 100
6. " Elephant 1000
7. " Manal (sand) 90
8. Earth 4 finger measure
9. Garm 800

The first six are heated by fuel of the excreta then spreading sand buried in earth to a depth of 4 finger lengths. Then burnt by fuel of excreta of cow.

A substance called pashanam is sold in shops. Lingam, Chendooram, Gaudhakam, Padharasam, Rasakarpuram, VEDIUPPU, Paraiuppu, Chavuttuppu, Valaiuppu, Erukam flower, Kanthakam, Lokam, Venkaram, Changupodi, Kalnar, Silachit, Chatravedi, Poonir, Chippithasan, Erukkampal, Kallippal, Thurusuparpam, Chippi, Chunnam, Anda Chunnam, Porikaram, Thalakam, Kal Channambu, Corel, Tin, Evacharam, Sambarani, Iron, Manosilai, Thakkam, Aritharam, Kundumani all these are ingredients in the pashanam.

When all these things are heated and filtered a semi liquid mass hardens into a stone.

Everyday ablutions are performed. During Kartigai days it will be in hundreds. These ablution provide not only grace of Muruga but also cures for ills. When milk ablutions are performed, the milk after coming in contact with the Navapashana body of Muruga absorbs all its

medicinal qualities. The beauty is that for a long time the milk is spoiled. Similar is the case with sandal ablution. The sandal paste over the body of Muruga is removed in the shade. A process to preserve the sandal paste has been finished by Somaley.

We ourselves should purchase good sandal bars and grind it . Kasturi, Korochanai, Saffron, Pachaikarpuram, Kesari Powder, Sandal pieces, Sandal attar, panneer, Punugu, Poolankizangu. Mattipal should be of taken and mixed with ground sandal in proportion of 1 measure to 1 tola. one tola is 12 gms which is equal to old one rupee weight. Now it has become a medicine.

Bhogar Shrine

No pilgrim should fail to mark attendance at the shrine of Bhogar in the southwestern corridor of the temple. He it was who created the navabhashana image and consecrated the deity.

God is believed to have appeared to saints in certain forms. These are forms made to appear to them by His grace or rather they are outward symbols of His mercy as omnipresent, but assumes certain forms at certain times just as sea-water sometimes takes the form of an iceberg. Bhogar is believed to have lived in the beginning of Kali Yuga, i.e. before 3,000 B.C. and traveled widely in the Near- and Far East. He is said to have been a rare mathematical prodigy, a diplomat of great calibre and an expert in the field of medicine. He realised the importance of Muruga worship and conferred with siddhars on the form in which Muruga's image should be installed atop the hill. He created the amalgam of nine chemicals and did daily services.

Bhogar's body rests here. The image of Nava Dûrgâ or Bhûvanesvari and the Maragadha (emerald) Siva Lingam worshipped by him are found here. An underground passage is said to link the sanctum sanctorum with the Bhogar shrine.