

SrI:

114th YEAR – THIRUNANGUR ELEVEN GARUDA SEVAI

ThirumangaiAzhwar, whose birthplace is Thiruk Kuraiyalur near to Thirunagari, is located nearby 11 Dhivya Desams in the vicinity of Sirkazhi. Thiruvaali and Thirunagari (the birthplace of ThirumangaiAzhwar) are associated closely with Thirumangai Azhwar. Legend has it that Shiva performed the **Ekadasa Rudra Aswamedha Yagam**, to rid himself of the blemish of Brahmahatti; Emperuman appeared with Sree Devi, Bhu Devi and Nila Devi at the end of the sacrifice, and upon Shiva request, taken up 11 abodes here in the Thirunangur area, which correspond to the 11 Thirunaangur Dhivya Desams held in worship by Rudra.

Only ThirumangaiAzhwar has sung of these 11 Dhivya Desams. The Thirunaangur Dhivya Desam shrines are Kavalampaadi, Thiruvanpurushottamam, Arimeya Vinnagaram, Semponseikoyil, Manimaadakkoil (Narayanan), Vaikuntha Vinnagaram, Thirudevanaar Togai, Thiruttetriambalam, Manikkoodam, Thiruvellakkulam, and Tirupparthanpalli.

The list of places which are closely associated with Thirumangai Azhwar are:

1. Thiruk Kuraiyalur(near to Thirunagari) – Birthplace of Thirumangai Azhwar
2. Mangai Madam – Place where Azhwar performed thadheeyaaradhanai to 1000 Sri Vaishnavas daily, as per the request of Sri Kumudavalli naachiyar to marry her
3. Thiruvellakkulam – Birthplace of Sri Kumudavalli Naachiyar
4. Vedharajapuram or Thirumangkollai (near to Thirunagari) – Place where Kaliyan received Thirumanthra Upadesam from Emperumaan, when He was robbed off by Kaliyan, along with piraatiyaar as newly wedded couples. This is celebrated as Vedupari Uthsavam during every year at Panguni month
5. Pancha Narasimhar worshipped by Azhwar is found in Thiruvali, Thirunagari, Thiruk kuraiyalur and Mangai Madam

Festivals:

Manjalkuli Festival, which is taking place right from the lifetime of Sri Thirumangai Azhwar, which is sublime and without a parallel in our spiritual history, was gifted to Sri Thirumangai Azhwar by Lord Sri Renganatha of SriRangam for conducting the Adhyayana Uthsavam (Tamizh Festival – Thiruvaimozhi Thirunaal) at SriRangam.

The ThirumangaiAzhwar Mangalasanams utsavam in the month of Thai (after the new moon night) witnesses **11 Garuda Sevai** - a spectacular event in which festival images -uthsavar idols- of Emperumaan from the 11 (Thirunagur) Dhivya Desam shrines in the area are brought on Garuda mounts to Thirunagur. An image -uthsavar idol- of Thirumangai Azhwar is also brought here on a Hamsa Vahanam(from Thirunagari) and his paasurams(verses) dedicated to each of these 11 Dhivya Desams are recited. The image of ThirumangaiAzhwar circumambulates each of these deities, and at the conclusion of the festival, the uthsavams are returned to their temples. Prior to this, the uthsavar of ThirumangaiAzhwar and his consort Sri Kumudavalli naachiyar are taken in a palanquin to each of the 11 Thirunagur Dhivya Desams, (trampling) through the paddy fields in the area, and the paasurams dedicated to each of the 11 Dhivya Desams are chanted in the respective shrines. The 11 Garuda Sevai is the most important of the festivals in this area, and it draws thousands of visitors.

Invite all bhakthas and bhagavathas to witness this unique festival and behold the divinity in all its glory and splendour and experience the spiritual ecstasy which words fail to explain.

The order in which Azhwar performs Mangalasanam during this festival is as follows:

First Day- Manjalkuli Uthsavam and Mangalasanam – 07th Feb 2008

2.00-2.30 a.m. - Azhwar starts from Thirunagari for Mangalasanam at the following divyadesams:

- 1.Tirukkuraiyalur(Azhwar ThiruavathAra Sthalam)
- 2.Tirumangaimadam
- 3.Tirukkavalambadi
- 4.Tirumanikkodam and
- 5.Tirupparthanpalli

12.00 Noon – Azhwar reaches Manjalkuli Mandapam followed by Azhwar' s Mangalasanam to Tirunaraiyur Nambi (his Acharyan) and Azhagiya Manavalan of SriRangam.

6.00 p.m. – Azhwar enters Tirunangur for Mangalasanam at the following divyadesams:

1. Manimaadakkoil (Sri Narayana Perumal)
2. Tiru Vanpurusoththamam (Sri Purushothama Perumal)
3. Tiru Vaikuntha Vinnagaram (Sri Vaikuntha Nathar)
4. Tiru Semposeikoil (Sri Semponarangar)
5. Tiruthetriyambalam (Sri Pallikonda Perumal)
6. Tiru Arimeya Vinnagaram (Sri Kudamaadu Koothar)

Second Day – Thirunangur 11 Garuda Sevai – 08th Feb 2008

12.00 Noon – All the eleven emperumaan gather at the Pandal before Manimaadakkoil followed by Azhwar's Mangalasanam in the following order:

1. Sri Narayana Perumal (Manimaadakkoil)
2. Sri Kudamaadu koothar (Arimeya Vinnagaram)
3. Sri Semponarangar (Semponsei Koil)
4. Sri Pallikonda Perumaal (Thiruttetriambalam)
5. Sri Annan Perumaal (Thiruvellakkulam)
6. Sri Purushothama Perumaal (Vanpurudothamam)
7. Sri Varadarajan (Thirumanikoodam)
8. Sri Vaikuntha Nathar (Vaikuntha Vinnagaram)
9. Sri Madhava Perumaal (Thirudevanaar thogai)
10. Sri Partha sarathy (Thiruparthan palli)

11.Sri Gopalan (Thiru Kavalampaadi)

12.Sri Manavala Maamunigal from Sri Purushothama Perumaal Sannidhi will do Mangalasanam to Thirumangai Azhwar.

Evening: Thirumanjanam to all 11 divyadesa emperumaans and Thirumangai Azhwar

10.30 p.m. - **11 Garuda Sevai** – Gand procession of all the 11 Emperumaan on Garuda Vahanam. Tirumangai Azhwar in Hamsa vahanam accompanied by Sri Manavala Maamunigal in procession.

Third Day – Thirunagai Garuda Sevai – 09th Feb 2008

11 a.m. - Azhwar starts from Thirunangur back to Thirunagari. En route Azhwar does Mangalasanam at the following divyadesams:

1. Tiruvellakulam(Annan Koil) 2.Tiruthevanar thogai 3.Thiruvali

and Azhwar reaches Thirunagari by midnight and is received by Sri Vayalaali Manavalan mounted on Mangala Garudan followed by Azhwar Mangalasanam and then reaches Asthanam.

Subham

adiyEn,

senthil.b

(b_senthil2002@yahoo.co.in)