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STAGE 1

YEAR 2

TERM 2

Prayers

1. Aum Vigneswaraaya Namaha (3 Times)



2. Aum Shivaya Namaha (3 Times)



3. Aum Shakthi Aum Parashakthi (3 Times)



4. Aum Saravanabavaaya Namaha (3 Times)



5. Aum Sri Narayanaya Namaha (3 Times)



Gayathri Manthra



Om Bhur Bhuva Swaha
Tat Savitur Varenyam
Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi
Dhi Yo Yonah Prachodhayat

Meaning

Oh lord, you are the protector of life
You destroy all our problems and bring happiness
You create knowledge and Light.
You remove our sins.
Please guide us into the right direction.

WEEK 1

(1) Who are saints?

- Saints have the knowledge to contact & reach God.
- Lord Siva himself answered their prayers, in which many miracles took place.
- They saints can control our physical, mental and emotional being, and nature's flow.
- They can heal humans from their sickness & can even bring the dead back to life.
- These saints have written and sang many thevarams, which could melt the hearts of many singers and admirers.
- The songs are about how the humans should live honestly without doing any sin.
- These saints have all done social services for the benefit of the world.

(2) How many saints are there?

- Saints

(3) Who are the main 4 saints?

- Thirunganasambandar (Sambandar)
- Thirunavakkarasar (Appar)
- Sundaramoorthi (Sundarar)
- Manikkavaasahar



Story of Sundarar



Sundarar was born in a devoted Saiva Brahmin family, and he was named Nambi Aruran. He was such a smart, cute child that the king watching him play was attracted to him and wanted to adopt him. With parents' consent, the king adopted Aruran and he grew in the palace with his family traditions.

At the appropriate age Aruran was given the sacred thread and initiated into Vedic studies. As he completed the studies his parents arranged for his marriage. An elder interrupted on the day of the marriage Aruran's and said Aruran's ancestor had given him a signed undertaking that his descendants will serve as slaves to him and he had come to claim his slave. He produced a palm-leaf to support his statement. Nambi Aruran called him *Piththan*, a madman, and tore the palm leaf to pieces. The old man began to shout that this proved he is right. Then some elders approached him and said they can settle the matter in the.

At the court, the old man repeated his earlier statements and said, what was destroyed was only the copy and produced the original for verification. The judge gave the verdict that Aruran should go with the old man and serve as his slave. Sundharar followed the old man who went into the Thiruvartur temple,

where he disappeared. As Sundharar stood aghast in wonder, he had vision of Lord seated on the bull and there flashed in his mind old memories. Earlier he had been a close attendant of Lord Siva in Kailash with the name Alala Sundharar. As Sundharar had many desires, Lord Siva ordered him to be born on earth, live out his desires and then come back to him. Sundharar requested that Lord should prevent him getting married to any other person to which Lord agreed. In keeping with the word, Lord has enacted this drama and saved him from this marriage, he understood. He fell on the ground and cried out “How can I repay your kindness?” Lord replied “by worshipping me with sweet songs in Tamil” calling him a Vanthondan, a violent attendant, in view of his earlier fight with Him. Sundharar then sang the song that started with the words “*Piththa pirai chudi*”. Transformed into an ananya bhaktha of Lord Siva, he went from place to place singing hymns in praise of the Lord Siva in the temples there.

It was in Tiruvarur that he met Kamalini who was born in a temple dancer’s family and bore the name Paravai Nachiyar, as she led a life, devoted to the Lord. When Sundharar saw her, he fell in love with her. She also felt attracted to Sundharar, therefore ending in a marriage, as they lived together. A landlord by name Kundaiyur Kizhar was in the habit of sending rice and grains to Paravai Nachiyar to help her in her *annadhanam* service to devotees. One time there was a severe drought and there was no grain in the granary for the landlord to send to Paravai Nachiyar. Lord appeared in his dreams and told that he will get grain for giving to Aruran. With the help of *Sivaganas*, the grain was transported. The next morning Paravai was delighted to find stacks of grain before her house. Thanking the Lord for his benevolence she took only as much grain as needed by her and left the rest for others to take.

On one occasion Paravai needed money for feeding the devotees and she turned to Sundharar for help. He worshipped in the temple praying to the Lord for money to help Paravai. Next morning when he got up, he found the bricks he has

used as pillow have turned into gold. Thanking the Lord profusely he took them to Paravai to be used in service of devotees.

Sundarar sang many Thevarams in his life, to teach everyone how to live in the society and treat nature.

(1) What did Sundarar call the god in disguise as?

Piththa - A crazy fool

(2) What surprise did Sundarar receive from god?

God transformed bricks into gold, for Sundarar prayed to god for help when in need to give money for poor people.

(3) What did Sundarar think of God as and pray to him?

A friend