

Srirangam Mohini Alankaram



Like Tirukachi Nambi was having the divine grace of speaking to Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi, it was Parasara Bhattar who got the privilege of talking to the Archa Avatara of Namperumal in Srirangam. He is son of Andal and Koorathazhwan thambathi.

Once when Bhattar walked in to see Namperumal and Thayar who were behind a thirai (screen), namperumal asked Bhattar to 'Not to disturb as

he wanted to be in Ekantha (ie. alone) with Thayar. Battar immediately left the Temple.

Later Namperumal enquired Battar, "What did you think, when I told you to leave..?" Battar immediately replied that "I came to see My Parents, but I saw Perumal and Piraatiyar there". Namperumal recognized Battar's line of thought and responded that "From now on, you can think ME and THAYAR as your Parents".

Mohini alankaram procession takes place the day before vaikunta ekAdashi. During this procession, Namperumal was exquisitely beautiful and gorgeous. He looked simply splendid! All devotees thronged and pushed each other to obtain the full glimpse of the Lord and get blessed. the Lord himself looked seemingly satisfied with the alankAram and was wearing a proud smile of admiration. By nature He is beauty personified; now; He is in mOhini alankaram; Needless to say, He looks magnificent. One day after his finished his mohini alankaram sevai journey and came back to his moolasthanam (his place) and with a great deep satisfied sigh. Namperumal showed this mohini alankaram to Battar and asked him about his AlankAram. Our namperumal asked bhattar "So, Were you there?"

How was the alankAram? Did you like? was it good?" He knew, it was an excellent alankAram and He looked great more because almost all devotees

who were blessed to have His darshan exclaimed " pAren, pAren, perumAl innikku koLLai azhagA irukkE ille! (See, See How great He looks!)" .

Bhattar said, " Lord, KshamikkaNam(Please forgive me). You looked great, no doubt. It was an excellent alankAram. Marvellous beautiful anna nadai when you walked the course. We really enjoyed our Lord in that splendid alankaram; You looked, in all respects, as beautiful, as pirAtti. You look exactly like Thayar, but you can never be THAYAR in one aspect ..." and he stopped. Namperumal was annoyed and thought why Bhattar was telling like this. namperumAl was slightly taken aback. "Why BUT, then... come out ". Bhattar replied "You do not have the same merciful look in your eyes as THAYAR." Bhattar continued, again with a smile, "All said and done, you cannot , I repeat, can NOT, bring the expression of karuNai katakshaM of my thAyAR in your eyes. You can wear thousands of AbharaNangal and dress to make you look like thAyAR and you may even look the same; BUT you are a navaneetha chOra (a butter thief!); a NAUGHTY kaNNan! Your mischievous eyes have failed you my LORD," Bhattar said this, while simultaneously admiring the same naughty, mischievous, smiling, glittering, large, dark eyes of namperumAL

(kariyavAgi pudai paranthu, miLirnthu, sevvariya, neenda, periyavAya kaNgaL). The Lord Himself knows that Bhattar was enjoying the beauty of his eyes and was smiling and sharing the fact that He can not match the merciful looks of His consort and was even happy that bhattar found that out.

Then HE asked him what was missing... With enjoying such a close intimacy with Namperumal and Thayar, Battar attained Paramapadam.

It is truth, because, no matter how stunning and how mesmerizing our Azhagiya Manavalan might be to look at, he is still the King of Kings underneath it all, and this awesome power cannot be contained by His Eyes. Sri Ranga Nachiyar is a divine Lotus to mankind, and Her eyes are most Merciful! To look at Her eyes is to look at Heaven, and forgiveness and understanding.....basically the eyes of the Mother!!!