

GHOSTIPURNA

AN ACHARYA PAR EXCELLENCE

- Dr.M.Varadarajan

We worship Ghostipurna, who is an Acharya with the profound jnana and ocean like bhakti of amudam on Sriman Narayana.

Tirukkottiyur Nambi was born in Tirukkottiyur, a Divya Desa, in Sarvajit Year, 987, in the Tamil month Vaikasi under Rohini Star. He is an *amsa* of Pundareeka, a Nitya Suri. Originally he was named Tirukkurukaippiran and later popularly known as Tirukkottiyur Nambi. He is also known as Ghostipurna, Ghostipureesa. He was one among the disciples of Yamunacharya, who gave him the Bhavishyathacharya Vighraha which he got from his Acharya Manakkal Nambi and advised him to instruct all rahasyas to Sri Ramanuja and then our darsan should be called Sri Ramanuja darsanam. As an ardent disciple of Yamunacharya, he was a staunch Sri Vaishnavite for whom the tradition of preaching by one Acharya to one disciple was sacrosanct.

At the instance of Periya Nambi, Sri Ramanuja went to Tirukkottiyur to meet Acharya Ghostipurna in order to learn the Rahasya Mantra with its meaning. He approached Ghostipurna eighteen times, as he initially refused to tell. Goshtipurna sent a word for Sri

Ramanuja who left for Srirangam. When he came there, Goshtipurna preached him the *Charama Sloka* (Bh.G.18-66) with mystic meanings, which gives liberation and informed Sri Ramanuja not to divulge to anyone else. When Sri Ramanuja came back from his Acharya's house, whomsoever he met on the way in earlier eighteen visits to Tirukkottiyur, asked him to say what he learnt from Ghostipurna. Sri Ramanuja, having thought of the value of the *Charama Sloka* meanings and seeing the depressed people in the life and despite being aware that disclosing the *Charama Sloka* meanings could fetch him his Acharya's wrath and has to bear the brunt, invited those people who are devotees nearby Lord Therkkazhwar Sannidhi in Tirukkottiyur and after doing kankarya to Therkkazhwar, Sri Ramanuja pronounced the *Charama Sloka* meanings. The great assemblage received the Sloka with reverence and prostrated before Sri Ramanuja.

Having heard this, Ghostipurna grew extremely angry and asked him why he flouted his order and informed everyone the meaning of *Charama Sloka*. Sri Ramanuja answered that his action may fetch him the hell, but he is satisfied that he could uplift the ignorant mass by doing so. Realising his own narrowness and the supreme magnanimity of Sri Ramanuja, Ghostipurna embraced him in deep devotion and addressed him "Emberumanar" who is born of the part of Vishnu and until now, the darsan known as Parma Vaidika Siddhanta and hereafter called Ramanuja Darsana. The *parampara* of *anuvarthi prasannacharya* was ended with Tirukkottiyur Nambi and from Sri



Ramanuja it is called *krupamatra prasannacharya parampara*.

It was Nambi who instructed Tirumalai Andan to conduct *Tiruvoymozhi kalakshepa* to Sri Ramanuja. At one stage, when Tirumalai Andan was discoursing the hymn in *Tiruvoymozhi 2.3.3 (Ariyak kalaththulle)*, Sri Ramanuja interpreted the meaning in a different way, which Andan rejected and with anger he stopped *kalakshepa*. Having known this incident, Nambi informed Andan that he also heard this kind of meaning as said by Sri Ramanuja from Yamunacharya. So, he asked Andan to continue the *kalakshepa*. He also informed the greatness of Bhavishyathacharya vighraha.

With a view to safeguard Sri Ramanuja, Nambi's farsightedness in instructing Kidambi Achchan to do kitchen service for Sri Ramanuja in the Mutt.

Tirukkottiyur Nambi rendered an invocatory Sloka in Sanskrit for Tirumangai Alwar's Periya Tirumozhi, wherein he worships Tirumangai Alwar, who composed hymns which eradicates the

darkness of ignorance through the rays like hymns in the world and such savant destroyed the Kali's heroism, being a sun for the world.

Nambi had a son Therkkalvan and a daughter Devaki Piratti. They became disciples of Sri Ramanuja. He lived for ninety years.

May Nambi, a staunch disciple of
Yamunacharya, live long!

May, Nambi, born in Rohini star of Vaikasi
month, live long!

May, Nambi, who instructed his daughter, live
long!

May, Nambi, who named Sri Ramanuja as
Emberumanar, live long!

May, Nambi, born in Kasyapa Gotra, live long!

May, Nambi, who was named
Tirukkurukaippiran, live long!

May, Nambi, who taught rahasya meanings to
Sri Ramanuja, live long!

May, Nambi, who has good speaker in
the ancient world, live long!

