

pongum parivu

In his UpadesaRaththinamaalai (verse 18), Manavala Mamunigal states:

mangaLAsAsanaththil maRRuLLa AzhvArgaL
thangkaL ArvaththaLavu thAnanRi - pongum
parivAIE villipuththUrp pattarpirAn peRRAn
periyAzhvar ennum peyar

Here, the term "pongum parivu" - unbridled affection, is clearly that of Periyazhvar.

However, if one were to consider whether this expression of affection belongs only to Azhvar or to Him also, it is seen that it belongs to both.

Superficially, it might seem that His level of affection is higher than that expressed by Azhvar.

How is that? It is because, Azhvar's sense of affection was caused by His divine grace. That divine grace was caused by His affection for Azhvar.

Thus, His affection is the cause and Azhvar's affection is the result. Therefore, one may decide that His affection is superior to that of Azhvar's.

Let us examine this a little more.

The question we have to ask is - is the cause greater or the effect greater? To answer that, we have to consider where the cause occurred and where the effect occurred.

Where the cause occurred was in the divine merciful heart of the paramAtma. Where the effect occurred is the harder than stone heart of a jIvAtma.

Is boundless affection appearing in a merciful heart as special or greater than the same appearing in a hard heart?

Additionally, He is always looking after the jIvAtmA's who are His children. Therefore, this affection is not something new that arises in Him. However, for the jIva that has never felt this since time immemorial, this is a whole new territory.

Thus, we can say that the affection that arose in Azhvar's heart is greater than that expressed by Him and this is why it is celebrated by the divine words of Swami Manavala Mamunigal.

periyAzhvAr thiruvaDigaLE sharaNam
AzhvAr emberumAnAr jIyar thiruvaDigaLE sharaNam
jIyar thiruvaDigaLE sharaNam