

# THE DIVYA PRABANDHAM

( Part-3)

In the course of his peregrinations Saro: Yo:gi reached *Thirukko:vilu:r* one eventful evening. The rain god started to indulge in his pastimes. Sa:ro Yogi took shelter from that downpour in a narrow room that had a small door. Bhu:tha Yo:gi also chanced to come to the same place. Finding the door closed Bhu:tha Yogi tapped on the door and cried out "is anyone in there?" Please open the door! "There is place for only one person to sleep" said Saro: Yo:gi from inside. Bhu:tha Yogi in turn replied "if one can sleep, then two can sit, pray open the door." Saro: Yo:gi thought that who speaks so wisely is not an ordinary man and admitted the stranger inside.

The rain continued to pour in torrents. Even as they were making themselves comfortable, Maha: Yo:gi happened to come to the same door. In his eagerness to find shelter from that thunderstorm he hurriedly knocked the door. "There is place only for two of us to sit so third cannot be admitted" said both of them from inside. "If two can sit, three can stand" said Maha: Yo:gi in reply. Both of them concluded

that the one who speaks with such wisdom cannot be an ordinary person and opened the door for Maha:-Yogi.

All the three of them stood shoulder to shoulder and were conversing about various pastimes of the Lord. All of a sudden, each of the three standing saints felt the pressure of some invisible body sneaking inside. There was hardly enough space for the three of them to stand. Hence they could feel the pressure of the intruder who was forcing Himself in without their permission. They wanted to know who the intruder was. It was dark all around; hence they could not see the intruder. They needed a lamp to find out the intruder. But where were the lamp, wick, oil and the light to come from, at that hour of night, in an unfamiliar place in which they were staying?

Saro: Yo:gi exultingly said wait I shall light a lamp and sang "with the earth as the lamp, all the water on its surface as the oil and Sun and the Moon as the light I shall find the intruding stranger." (*Vaiyam thagaliya: - - from Mudal Thiruvanda:di.1*).

The illumination from the lamp lit by Sa:ro-yogi was not sufficient to find out the intruder. Hence Bhu:tha Yogi ignited a lamp of his own to add to the existing illumination. He burst out saying "with love as the lamp, intense yearning for the Supreme Lord as the oil, my obsessed heart (soul) as the wick I light the light of knowledge to Na:ra:yana, in sweet sounding Tamil, the language that I know so well." (*Anbe: thagaliya:, a:rvame: neyya:ga- - from Iranda:m Thiruvanda:di. 1*)

Thus, both the *A:Iwa:rs* ignited their respective lamps to find the intruder. In the illumination of those lamps Maha: Yo:gi saw a vision of surpassing splendour. He saw the Supreme Lord and exclaimed thus, "look I see *Thiru* (Universal Mother Lakshmi), and I see His golden hued form and their Sun like effulgence. I also see the dazzling discus and the lovely conch. Blessed am I this day by the ocean hued one." (*Thiru kande:n, ponme:ni kande:n- - from Mu:nra:m Thiruvanda:di. 1*). The intruder was none other than the Supreme Lord Himself.

All the three of them were wandering from one place to

another in their spiritual quest and the Lord bestowed His vision to them in *Thirukko:vilu:r*, when they met together and discussed His pastimes. In fact all the three saints sang about the various aspects of the Lord. Saro: Yo:gi sang about the universal form of the Lord. Bhu:tha Yo:gi directly sang about the Supreme Lord Na:ra:yana and Maha: Yo:gi started by mentioning *Thiru* (means Lakshmi) and ended by glorifying the discuss and conch of the Lord. Each of the three *A:Iwars* have contributed a hundred hymns to the Four thousand *Divya Prabandhams*.

In the *Padma Pura:na* the Supreme Lord has said "O Narada ! I will neither abide in *Vaikuntta* nor in the hearts of Yo:gis. I reside in the places where my devotee congregate and sing about my glories and pastimes." Probably the Lord might have come to witness that historic meeting of His most cherished devotees. Such is the greatness of associating with the devotees and singing the glories of the Lord. We will know more about the *A:Iwars* in the forthcoming issues.

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