

## OUR DIVINE SAINTS AND THEIR WORKS

Thirumazisai A:lwar is the fourth A:lwar in the hierarchy of the A:lvars. He was called after the name of His native place i.e. Thirumazisai. Thirumazisai is situated near the present Chennai. Thirumazisai is also called as Mahi:sa:ra Kshe:tram in the scriptures. The Brahma:nda Pura:na describes Mahi:sa:ra as the place sanctified by the kings of Videha lineage, by their pious activities. He was also called as Bhakti sa:ra, which means the essence of Bhakti i.e., devotion. He was a contemporary of the first three A:lvars.

It is said that once the descendants of the great sages like Atri, Bhrgu, Vasistha, Bha:rgava, Angiras and others approached Lord Brahma and prayed him to determine the best place for them in this planet, to pursue their spiritual practices without being disturbed. Lord Brahma put Mahi:sara in one pan of the balance and rest of the earth in the other pan and weighed them. Mahi:sara weighed more. Hence he assigned it to his supplicants. The sages returned happily and occupied that sacred spot and started to engage in their spiritual activities. Thus they started to spend their lives

in bliss.

Among them a certain Bha:rgava Rishi occupied the western end of that holy spot. He was spending his time in worship of the Supreme Lord Va:sude:va through the observance of a vow called *Di:rgha Satra*. His wife conceived and at the end of twelve months she delivered a lump of flesh. That lump of flesh did not have any signs of life in it nor did it have any human features in it. Hence the sage and his wife took that lump and placed it in the shade of the bamboo grove in the remote forest.

That shapeless lump of flesh developed into a fully grown baby in the lap of mother earth and it began to breath. That baby was our saint Bhakti-Sara. He was born in Magha Asterism and Taishya month according to Lunar calander (January and February). He is said to be a part manifestation of Sudarsana the divine discuss of the Lord. At the first signs of hunger the baby began to cry. Who could answer the cry of that abandoned child in that deserted place? The Supreme Lord Himself heard the cries of this toddler and approached the child. He blessed the baby with affection and left. As soon as the divine vision of the Lord vanished, the baby began to wail in despair once again.

By the mercy of the Lord Jaganna:ttha of Mahi:sa:ra that loud cry of that forlorn infant fell on the ears of one woodcutter called Thiru va:lan. Thiru va:lan had gone to the forest with his fellow woodcutters to fetch some firewood. He set out in search of the crying baby along with his friends. He found the crying baby and was wonderstruck at His beauty and radiance. Being captivated by that divine infants beauty Thiru va:lan returned to his abode and reported about the child to his wife Pangaya chelvi (Pankajasri). His wife was childless. She became very happy to listen to that news and desired to see the child. The following morning Thiru va:lan and his wife left for the woods to see that divine child.

On seeing this divine baby motherly emotions surfaced in her. She received the baby with open arms and her joy knew no bounds. The composition of her breasts underwent change. They moistened and milk began to drip from them. She tried to thrust them into the mouth of the baby. But, that divine child would not be nursed thus as he was subsisting on the Blissful grace of the Lord. They could not even carry the child to their abode.

The child did not have any wants and hence he did not cry any more. Neither the bladder nor the

entrails of this divine baby have any function to perform. Yet the child started to grow in an inexplicable manner like a well fed infant. Amazing, unintelligible and inexplicable are the ways of the divine. Neither the science nor the logic can explain such divine mysteries. We should have faith in the Supreme Lord. We cannot determine His divine acts as He is beyond us.

The news of this celestial child started to spread through Mahi:sara. Thiru va:lan and his wife started to visit the child everyday. They used to bring some milk to the child regularly and they used to plead the child to accept it. Sometimes He used to listen to their fervid prayers and some times He used ignore them. Thus the infant developed into a full grown child. One day He consumed half of the milk brought by them and left the remain. Thiru va:lan and his wife sought the permission to drink the remaining milk. The boy said to them "you shall very soon have a good son."

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*God feels hurt, not when you hurt Him, but, when you hurt His deities or His devotees or their supporters; However small, never does He forgive, nor does He excuse any such being ever..ever....*

....HH Sri Swamiji