A Krutajn~atAnjali (Humble Tribute) to our AcArya Saarvabhouman (Acharya Ratnam)

HH the 45th paTTam Srlmadazhagiya singar SrlvaNN SaThakopa Srl NARAyNaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikan
On the occasion of His satAbhisheka mahotsavam at Srlrangam in 2006

His Holiness the 45th jeeyar of SrI Ahobila maTham, SrImate SrI LakshmInrsimha divya pAdukaa sevaka SrlvaNN SaThakopa SrI NARAyNaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikan, ascended to paramapadam at 12:05 AM Indian Time, Sunday the 19th of May, 2013. Our AcArya ratnam, who illumined our paths, welcomed us with parama vAtsalyam and inquired always about our well-being is no longer with us. His stellar and pioneering kaimkaryams to SrI VaishNava community will be very much missed. His august and auspicious presence and His smiling face will always be remembered by His Sishya koTis.
The loss of one's AcAryan is always a cause for one's immense personal sorrow. In the case of a sadAcAryan like SrImat NArAyaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikan, who has done so much for so many for so long, it is impossible to contain the grief except through the repeated recitation of His taniyan and reflection on His matchless affection for His SishyAs, His superior AcAram, His strict anushTAnam, His tapas, His vairAgyam, His bhakti for His own AcAryAs, His adoration of MAloolan and Dolai KaNNan, His MaTha nirvAha sAmarthyam, His inimitable upanyAsa Saili and other limitless guNAdisayams.

Our Azhagiyasingar belonged to the NallAn Cakravarti VamSam celebrated by TiruvenkaTam-uDaiyAn Himself, who chose Ahobila divya deSam to perform the TadiyArAdhanam to celebrate His kalyANa mahotsavam with SrI PadmAvaTi tAyAr. Our dear Azhagya singar's upliftment of facilities and services at the divya deSa sannidhis in general and Ahobilam in particular are well documented.

SrI MaTham has ArAdhana mirAsu at a few divya deSams like Ahobilam, ThiruveLLUr, PullambhUtankuDi and AdanUr and His kaimkaryams there stand out. For instance, at ThiruveLLUr, the nirvAham of this divya deSam was handed over to the 31st PaTTam SrImat Azhagiyasingar in the year 1842 C.E; since that time successive Azhagiyasingars have improved the vibhUti (aiSwaryam) of SrI Vasumati sameta SrI Vaidya VIrarAghava perumAL. The 45th PaTTam SrImat Azhagiyasingar, SrI NArAyaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikan paid special attention to the divya deSams with FIVE BrndAvanams such as ThiruveLLUr, where His own KAlakshepa AcAryan, SrImat InjimeDu Azhagiyasingar has His BrndAvanam. The building of a brand new MaTham there, the samarpaNams of a new car (tiruttEr) and precious AbharaNams to the divya dambatis are some of the instances of outstanding Kaimkaryam there. At PullambhUtankuDi and AdanUr divya deSams administered by SrI MaTham, there are Five more BrndAvanams including that of the Ahnika granta karta, the 26th PaTTam, SrIranganAtha yatIndra mahAdeSikan. The BrndAvanam of the 16th PaTTam SrImat Azhagiyasingar is behind the western temple walls of the EmperumAn of PullambhUtankuDi. KaNNaDi aRai, nUtana vAhana samarpaNams and ratnAngi kaimkaryams were completed at this divya
The foresight and planning to realize easy access to the Ahobila Kshetram and the nava Nrsimha Sannidhis there are stellar examples of the approach of a visionary. Thanks to all those completed Kaimkaryams, thousands of SishyAs and local residents throng to Ahobilam today and visit the various sannidhis without the troubles encountered by Tirumangai Azhwar.

From one corner of India to the other, Our Acaryan has performed MangalASAsanams at the divya deSams and abhimAna sthalams. He has gone on sancArams with MAlolean three times from HimAhAyAs to KanyAkumAri. When one realizes the “impossible” logistics of planning and executing these many sancArams to bless the SishyAs with samASraya/bharaNyAsam as per the original command of MAlolean, one shudders at the magnitude of these upakArams. Sometimes His CATurmAAsyams took place at the divya deSams like ThiruppullANi, SrIrangam, PuLLambhUtangudi et al. SishyAs and abhimAnis thronged there to be close to their Acaryan over extended periods of time and enjoy His soulabhyam.

The fundamental belief that we have towards our Acaaryans is expressed by this Sloka vAkyam and focuses on what SrImat NARAyAna yatIndra mahAdeSikan has accomplished:

ye naiva gurUNA yasya nyAsavidya pradIyate
tasya VaikuNTha dugdhAbdhi dwArakAs-sarva yeva saH

This Slokam states that the Acaryan, who blessed the Sishyan with nyAsa vidyA is veritable VaikuNTham, DwArakA and the milky Ocean, all put together. That
AcAryan is every sacred place. That is what He is for us and He is indeed our naDamADum daivam.

Manu Smruti stresses the importance of vandanams for AcAryans, who bless us with MokshopakaraNa vidya (AdadIta yato j~nAnam tam pUrvamabhivAdayet). BharadwAja samhitA vAkyam states that the one dear to AcAryan and the sishyan, who adores the AcAryan will gain Moksham (paramAm siddhi) undoubtedly:

gurUNA yoabhimanyeta gurum vA yoabhimanyate tAvubhau paramAm siddhim niyamAdupa- gacchataH

The importance of AcAryan sambandham has been emphasized in Srutis, smrtis, itihAsams and purANams. All of us have the blessings of sadAcArya sambandham. That sambandham in the past has elevated Kshatrabandhu, PuNDarIkan and they became “AcAryavAn” and enjoyed Moksha sAmrAjyam:

pApishTaH Kshatrabandusca PuNDarIkasca puNyakrt AcAryavattayaa muktau tasmAdAcAryavAn bhavEt – SrImat rahasya traya sAram

It is thru AcArya KaTAksham that we gain every soubhAgyam (AcAryasya prasAdena guroranugraheNaiva pumAn pUrNa prajAyate). SvAmi DeSikan has revealed that there is no one, who is greater or equal to our AcAryans (AcAryAdiha devatAm samAdikAm anyAm na manyAmahe). SrI NArAyaNaN a yatIndra mahAdeSikan, who has ascended to paramapadam today is such a sreshTAcAryan for us.
aDiyEn concludes this AcArya vandanam and smaraNam on the first day of His ascent to SrI VaikuNTham with a pAsuram from SvAmi NammAzhwAr (TiruvAimozhi: 8.3.10 : Kalakkamillaa naltava munivar karai KaNDoR....). The paasuram performs this upadeSam through SaThakOpa MAmuni: "AcAryas with their unmuddled perception acquired through their intense tapas immerse themselves deep in bhagavad guNAnubhavam and engage in mangaLASAsanams and AcAryakatvam. They are veritable nitya suris without any samsAric fears. They serve their Lord with joy on this earth. We as their fortunate SishyAs and prapannAs become objects of their careful protection (rakshya vastus) and feel comforted and secure."

Our daNDavat praNamams to SrImat Azhagiya Singar adorning both the hamsa mudrai on His finger and the VaNN SaThakopa birudu awarded by SvAmi NammAzhwAr Himself at AzhwAr Thirunagari for the founding jeeyar of SrI MaTam.

||SrImate SrI LakshmInrsimha divya pAdukA sevaka SrIvaN SaThakopa SrI NArAyaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikaya namaH||
||SrImate SrI RanganAtha yatIndra mahAdeSikAya namaH||

||SrImate SrI LakshmInrsimha divya pAdukA sevaka SrIvaN SaThakopa SrI NArAyaNa yatIndra mahAdeSikaya namaH||
||SrImate SrI RanganAtha yatIndra mahAdeSikAya namaH||

aDiyEn
rAmAnuja dAsan
Oppiliappan Koil V.Sadagopan
Some videos of HH 45th paTTam SrImad Azhagiya Singar upanyAsams:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPSeh0G-0Ec

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVxW7Ep47cY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxZ68k9nJG0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT_ZNBqMJco