

„MOHAMANA...”

Bhairavi Varnam 14day workshop in Tiruvarur district

<https://vimeo.com/144117283>

*The famous Padavarnam „Mohamana...” by Ponniah (*1804, Tanjore Quartet) is the favourite of many dancers. Shiva as Tyagarajasvami still holds the contemporary Bharata Natyam stage under a spell.*



Yet, how many dancers, musicians or rasikas do realise that this processional image of Shiva in Tiruvarur is but one out of seven icons of Tyagaraja.

The other six have taken their abode in and around Tiruvarur district. Several of these shrines are connected by underground corridors but most importantly by their common descent to the world of mortals as a gift of the god Indra to King Mucukunda.



This workshop aims to tell the story behind the mystery of these seven images called 'Vitankan' that means: 'not chiselled by any human hand but descended straight from the world of the gods to the earth'. In this row of seven Tiruvarur VITHIVITANKAN Tyagaraja comes first.

His story will not just be told ... rather, it will be traced down to local legends of the seven shrines -that hold identical Vitankan images- spread over Tamilnadu.
www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/Tiruvarur/sapta_vitanka.html

Over fourteendays based in Tirupugalur, a village near Tiruvarur town, we will travel to these different shrines and witness the evening worship there.



Our mornings will be filled with poetry, painting, music and dance as a key to the ancient Tyagarajasvami cult: with training Bhairavi Varnam "Mohamana" in the Smt. T.Balasaraswati Bani, with related Padams and a ritual drama 'Pallaki Seva Prabandham' that were performed by Devadasis during Pankuni Brahmotsavam. All invoke Tyagaraja's beautiful face, his smile, his gracious feet and primordial dance : the AJAPA Natanam.

Tíruvarur town and its temple complex unfold the legend of Tyagarajasvami's descent through murals in the Devashriya mandapa. Temple musicians can show us the exact place where Tyagaraja arrived.

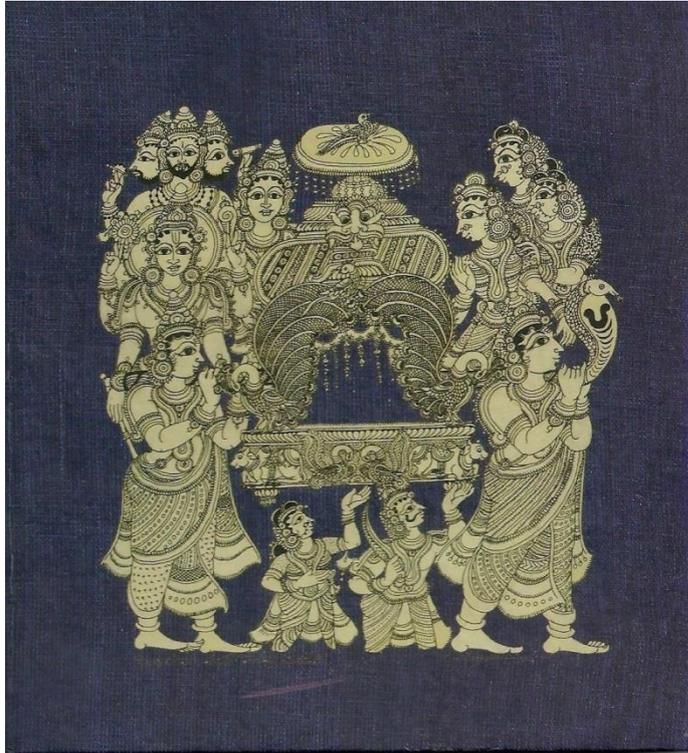
<https://vimeo.com/28490607>

The „root of Shíva's presence” in Tíruvarur is an ancient anthill where he agreed to take his abode. In our times, his presence has taken the form of an emerald LINGA; yet, Shíva's local name Valmikinatha 'Lord of the Anthill' testifies the origins of today's central shrine. In other Tyagaraja Vitankan temples we may find a real anthill on the temple grounds - holding the sacred cobra.



This divine snake energizes the Seven Dances performed individually by the seven Tyagaraja Vitankans. The mystery of their descent, sevenfold form and seven dances delves even deeper: it uncovers the ascent of the KUNDALINI snake dancing upwards in the seven yogic chakras along the human spine. The blessing of witnessing Tyagaraja's dance „AJAPA Natanam” as he is carried on the shoulders of his devotees, is beyond words.

Our stay in and around Tiruvarur culminates in the night of Pankuni Uttiram (March-April) when Shiva Tyagaraja sets out to wed his Shakti „Kamalamba”.



www.poetrywithprakriti.in/event/pallaki-seva-prabandhamu

That night Tyagaraja listens to King Mucukunda's Litany of 1008 names, receives a grand ablution and early morning shows his left foot, his „SHAKTI PADA”. This, is the blessing that we will take home after our deep immersion in the „World of MOHAMANA...”.

Preliminary INFORMATION on „MOHAMANA” Workshop 2017



WHO: This fourteen day Workshop addresses performers, students and lovers of South Indian cultural heritage. It aims to contextualise such heritage in its continuing past and contemporary culture. Practical expertise in vocal, instrumental Karnatik music and dance is therefore an asset but not a precondition for participation. Dr. Saskia Kersenboom will conduct this workshop in English, in collaboration with local partners.

WHEN: Tamil month **Pankuni 2017** (March 29 arrival – April 11 departure).

CAPACITY: minimum: 4 participants; **maximum:** 6 participants

ACCOMMODATION: www.mangalaheritagehome.in

COURSE FEE 2017 based on four participants: includes: *Course (ca.75hrs.) & course materials; *Board (breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinking water, laundry) & Lodge (13 nights double occupancy in Air Conditioned room with one King-size Bed and attached Bath-room); *Local transport: Domestic Flight Chennai-Tiruchirappalli v.v. and 14 days course itinerary by Air Conditioned car.

CONTACT: info@paramparai.eu for Application Questionnaire / Registration; for news and updates: www.paramparai.eu // www.facebook.com/paramparai

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 10, 2017



REFERENCES/ Complementary Course Books:

- * Kersenboom, Saskia, *Word, Sound, Image, the Life of the Tamil Text*, – with CD-i- *Bhairavi Varnam*, 1995, Oxford: Berg Publishers; ISBN 0 85496 424 (selected portions only); download at: <https://www.academia.edu/15575469>
- * Rajamani, V.K. and Shulman, David, *The Mucukunda Murals in the Tyagarajasvami Temple, Tiruvarur*, 2011, Chennai: Prakriti Foundation; ISBN 978-81-904443-2-3
- * C.P. Ramasvami Aiyar Foundation, *Pallaki Seva Prabandhamu, An Opera by Sahaji Maharaja*, with 2 audio CDs concerted and directed by Sangita Kalanidhi Smt. R.Vedavalli, 2012, Chennai ISBN 978-81-908305-2-2



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s203.html

MARCH 30

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: "Mohamana...", Ponniah, *1804, Tanjore Quartet,

text, libretto, context, *abhinaya, nritya*

Pallavi a.: „*Mohamana enmitil ni inta velaiyil* /”

Afternoon: Tirupugalur

Walk through Tirupugalur village, visit *Shiva Agneeshvara* Temple, *Puja* ritual procedures

Reflection:

* **WHAT** is a **TEXT** ? : the *Pada Varnam*...



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s023.html

MARCH 31

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abhinaya, nritya*

Pallavi b.: „*Moti ceyyalamo en cami metta* /”

Afternoon: Tiruvarur – *Viti Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* „**TEXTUS**”: the **Body** in the **World**... the **World** in the **Body**...



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s165.html

APRIL 1

Morning: Tirupugalur

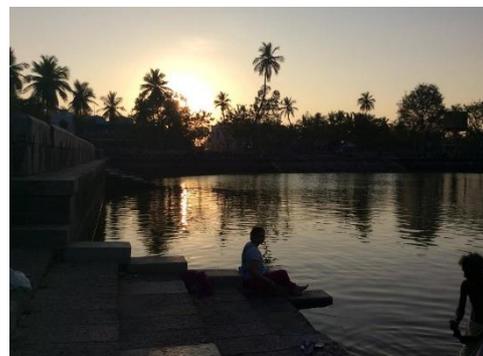
VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abhinaya, nritya*

Anupallavi a.: „*Nagarikamana tirunagaril vacare*.../”

Afternoon: Nagapattinam - *Sundara Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* **TRADITION:** „weaving the auspicious world”



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s160.html

APRIL 2

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abhinaya*, *nritta*

Anupallavi b.: „*Bhogatyagesha anubhogam ceyya va kitte...//*”

Afternoon: Tirunallaru – *Naka Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* VITALITY: the ‚Power of *Shringara* (Eros)’



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s090.html

APRIL 4

Morning: Tirupugalur

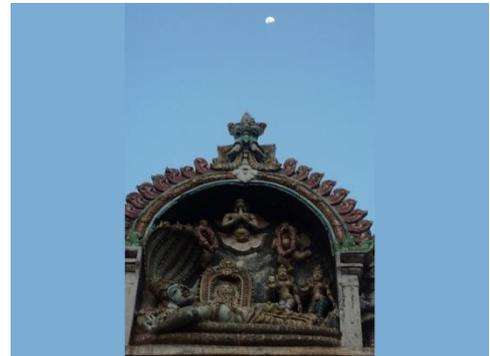
VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abhinaya*, *nritya*

Muktayi-svara-sahitya text: „*Contamutan...*”

Afternoon: Tiru Karayil – *Adi Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* ‚ORIGINS’: Legends and Secrets



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s126.html

APRIL 5

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abinaya*, *nritya*

Caranam: „*Maran kanaikal tuvuran caramariyay.*”

Afternoon: Tirukuvalai – *Avani Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* RASA: the transformatory process of cause, effects and affect



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s252.html

APRIL 6

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: text, libretto, context, *abhinaya*, *nritya*

3 Caranams: 1. „Maveril...” 2. „Marutam...” 3. „Coman...”

Afternoon: Tiruvaymur – *Nila Vitankar Tyagaraja*

Reflection:

* *Shringara BHAKTI:* „melting-in-love” saints, devotees and kings
... 1000 years poetry, song and dance



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/s229.html

APRIL 7

Morning: Tirupugalur

VARNAM: text, context, libretto and *abhinaya*, *nritya*

final Caranam: „Sureshan ...”

Afternoon: Tiru Maraikkatu – *Puvani Vitankar Tyagaraja;*

Umamaheshvara- the divine pair in innermost shrine

Reflection:

* *ANANDA:* „All-encompassing BLISS”



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/Tiruvavur/sapta_vitanka.html

APRIL 8 morning, afternoon, evening, night and APRIL 9 dawn:

* TIRUVAVUR town “*nagarikamana...*”

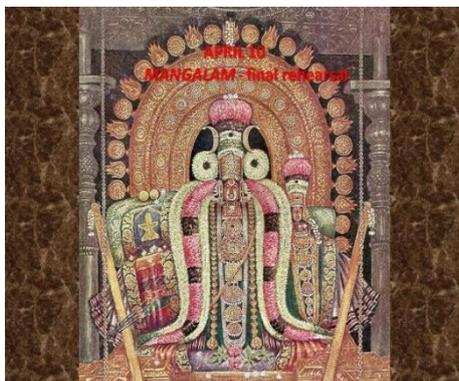
www.vimeo.com/107884166

* *PRADAKSHINA:* afternoon visit Shri Tyagarajasvami temple, its Periya Melam and Devashriya Mandapa

<https://vimeo.com/28490607>

* *RITUALS:* evening *Ajapa Natanam* (Procession), *Mucukunda Sahasra Nama* (Litany), night *Mahabhisheka* (Ablutions) and dawn *Pada Darshanam* (seeing Tyagaraja’s ‘Foot of Grace’)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LJz8FOe-vY



www.templenet.com/Tamilnadu/brihtanj.html

APRIL 11: departure for Chennai via TANJAVUR town:
visit Royal Palace and Brihad - Ishvara temple

