

LORD SHANMUGA AND HIS WORSHIP. BY SRI SWAMI SIVANANDA
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SADHU MURUGADAS

Every inch a Sadhu, Murugadasji Maharaj is Muruga swaroopa. He speaks of Lord Shanmuga. He sings of Lord Shanmuga. He does Kirtans of Lord Shanmuga's names. His Hara Hara songs are thrilling, inspiring and soul elevating. He lives in Lord Shanmuga's love. His very life breath is love of Shanmuga only. Such is the story of this child-like Sadhu Murugadasji of South Indian and Ceylon fame.

Imbued with an innate love for renunciation, Sadhu Murugadasji has dedicated his entire life to the holy cause of the spread of God-love. From his early boyhood he has lived a life of sadhana, a life of intense yearning for his vision. Renunciation is his second nature. Nothing is his, everything is His. Nothing he does, everything He does with perfect self-surrender to the will of Shanmuga, Murugadasji has worked untiringly for the past about twenty years for the dissemination of spiritual knowledge to spread the glory of the Lord's name.

Murugadasji's love and devotion to all saints and sages is remarkable. He sings the glory of all saints, serves all saints. He indeed is saint himself.

Mother Parasakthi and Lord Shanmuga have enthroned themselves in his pure, loving heart. When he sings hymns of praise of mother, in praise of Lord Shanmuga, he forgets himself and makes the audience also forget themselves. He sings himself into ecstasy, he leads the audience too with him into ecstasy. He steals your hearts away from you and offers it to the Lord. From the moment you come in contact with him, you become His, you are transformed into a great devotee of the Lord and you begin to enjoy the bliss of God-love.

Penniless, but with the inexhaustible wealth of the Lord's name, he has roamed about all over the country accepting a few morsels of food from the kind-hearted, receiving with equal joy the taunts and insults of the haughty, and giving ~~him~~ to one and all the nectar of His name, blessing one and all into His Bhaktas. During his parivrajaka life he came to Ananda Kutir also and captured our hearts with his devotional songs, that would melt everyone's heart.

Such is the Divine Grace of Mother and Shanmuga, such indeed is the glory of His service and the glory of renunciation, very soon Murugadasji's fame as a divine songster, as a charmer of people's hearts, as a guide to the Godly realm, grew far and wide and millions all over the South and Ceylon and even Bombay, New Delhi and Calcutta became his followers. This marked the commencement of even more strenuous life of service and Murugadasji had to be constantly on the move, flying from place to place eager to serve his Father and Mother.

Murugadasji loses no opportunity in his Service! When Sri Swami Ramdasji of Kanhangad went on tour Murugadasji accompanied him, served him and served the people with his enchanting music. During my all India tour also he was with me at several South Indian centres. He is an able organiser. At Madura he kept an audience of one lakh spell-bound by his kirtan dhwanis. During the tour people used to rush towards me to touch my feet or to have a closer view and at many centres it was very difficult to get in and out of the place of public meeting. But at Madura the huge crowd was very peaceful at the magic word of Murugadasji.

He has child like nature. He wins your heart. He is a tyagi, He is the servant of the Lord, he is the servant of all. The services he has rendered to humanity are invaluable. May Lord Shanmuga bless Sri Sadhu Murugadasji Maharaj with health, along life in the service of humanity, peace and eternal bliss!

Swami Sivananda