

Sriman Nathamunigal



Sriman Nathamunigal is the first Acharya of the modern time. He revived Sri Vaishnavam by bringing out the 4000 poems of Azhvans into wide spread practice. Alavandhar, also known as Yamnucharya, was Srimad Nathamunigal's grandson.

He authored texts including Nyaya Thatvam and Yoga rahasyam. The picture seen here is Sriman Nathamunigal's Dhivya Mangala Vighraham in Thiruvallloor Sri Veeraraghava Perumal Sannithi.

Birth place :	Veeranarayanapuram (Kattumannarkoil) (Near Chidambaram)
Birth date :	Kali 3985, Shobakrith, Ani, Anusham
Gothram,	Shadamarshana

Family Details

He was the amsam of a Nityasuri called Gajanana. He was named Ranganatha and called Natha. He was raised in Bhaghavatha bhakthi by His father Ishvara Muni. He had all the sanskaras done at the appropriate age and studied the Vedas and Sasthras and was married to Aravindapavai. He was adept at ashtanga yoga and dedicated his days serving Mannanar the presiding deity of Veeranarayanapuram. In due course a son Isvaramuni was born and Natha taught him ashtanga yoga as also Vedas and sastras.

Nathamunigal and revival of naalayira divya prabandam

One day a group of bhagavatas came to Veeranarayanapuram (Kattumannarkoil) and sang in chorus "Aravamudhe, adiyen udalam!" Nathamunigal was simply spell-bound by the beautiful creation which declared at the conclusion that these ten verses were part of thousand verses. His quest for the thousand took Him to Kurugur as the verses revealed that the creator of the masterpiece belonged to Tirukurugur. Swami made enquiries and discovered that there was one Parankusa dasa, a second generation disciple of Nammazhwar was living there. Nathamunigal eagerly enquired if Parankusa dasa knew the thousand verses mentioned. but Parankusa knew by heart the ten verses of Kanninum Siruthambinal sung by Madhurakaviazhwar about his acharya Nammazhwar. By chanting these verses 12,000 times of kanninum siruthambu, he was blessed by nammazhwar with all srisukthis of azhvars along with thiruvaimozhi

Divya prabandam in music form

With his knowledge in music, he set aazhwaar sukthis to music sandhai form which aided to spread systematically.

Nathamunigal and Adhyayana uthsovam

What was celebrated as thiruvaimozhi uthsovam for 10 days during Thirumangaiaazhwar period nathamunigal along with other azhwar sukthis celebrated as adhyayana uthsovam for 21 days.

Nathamunigal literary contribution

He established that Divya Prabhandhams were at par with The Vedas. He taught the rahasyas of The Brahma Sutras and placed SriVaishnava Sampradhya on a firm footing. His works include Nyaya Tatva and Yoga Rahasya. Many were the Thaniyans composed by Him. The Tiruvaymozhi Thaniyan "Bhakthamritham Vishvajananunumodanam" as also both the Tamil and Sanskrit Thaniyans for Madurakaviazhwar's Kanninum Siruthambhu were Sri Nathamunigal's compositions.

Swami Desikan's mangalasanam to Nathamunigal in Ethiraja saphthathi 5th slokam*

As Swami Desikan observes we would have been without a Natha (Protector) if Nathamuni wasn't there. Let us conclude with Swami Desikan's accolades in Yathiraja Sapthathi (श्लोकं – ५)

नाथेन मुनिना तेन भवेयं नाथवानहम्।
यस्य नैगमिकं तत्त्वं हस्तामलकतां गतम् ॥

“Nathena muni nathena ,bhaveyam nathavan aham I
Yasya Naigamhikam tatvam Hasthamalaka ghatam “ ॥

(Nathamuni is the preceptor, the guardian who gave to us the correct meaning of the Vedas in a simple language accessible to all (It was as easy as carrying a gooseberry in one's palm))

Swami Desikan in Adiharasangraham pasuram 6:

(Referring Nthamunigal's contribution of giving music form to aazhwar srisukthis.

“kalam valampuriyanna , narkaadhal adiyavarku,
thalam valangi, tamil marai innisai thanda vallal”