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17, T. P. KOIL STREET
TRIPPLICANE
MADRAS 5.

LETTER No.

4th March 1955.

To

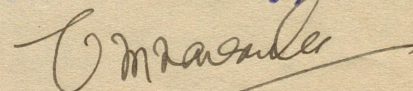
Dr. K.S. Krishnan,
National Physical Laboratory,
New Delhi.

My dear Sir,

Brahmasri Vidwan Tiruvali Ramanujachariarswami handed over to me a bundle of books to be handed over to you at Delhi. I have sent the same through Sri T. Tirumalachari who is taking the Grand Trunk Express today. He will be arriving there on the 6th morning at about 10 A.M. The books are packed in a dealwood box. All the books ~~xxx~~ except two are sent in the box. These two are being brought by me by plane. So, if convenient, I request you to kindly send your person with a note to Sri T. Tirumalachari to take delivery of the box containing the books.

With Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,



(V.M. Narasimhan.)

T.A.TIRUMALACHARI, B.A.,
Dy. Commercial Tax Officer,
Sankarankoil.

OK
"Srivilliputhur Sthalamahatmayam"
By Sri. P.K. Shanmuganathan, B.A.B.L.,
Advocate, Dindigul.

A REVIEW

" जयन्ति ते सुकृतिनो रससिद्धाः कवीश्वराः ।
नास्ति तेषां यशःकार्ये जरामरणं च यत् ॥ "

The poetic words of vision that make and mark the immortal ~~and poets~~ ^{and poets of the world all over are the hall-mark} scholars of the attempt of our learned Advocate-scholar of ~~Dindigul~~ Dindigul, Sri. P.K. Shanmuganathan, B.A.B.L., who combines in himself the real friend, philosopher and guide of one and all of us who happen to come across and contact him. It is indeed a veritable feast to have a peep into his new treatise "Srivilliputhur Sthalamahatmayam" that excels in realising an excellent and elegant synthesis of a Sthalapuram, set admirably to the modern tune of a new-geo-socio-religious approach, bringing home to the wide world of conflicting ideologies, theists, atheists, ^{and the indifferent alike the purpose and beauty of} the festivals, etc., that mark the Hindu-pantheon. Our learned author for whose erudition and felicity of expression and ^{successful} ~~forceful~~ exposition I have ever an unbounded measure of reverence and admiration, is not new to the world of literature, more so to the spiritual world. Combining in himself the archaic scholar of robust erudition and the blossom of the ever-enquiring research scholar of the modern type, the author has brought out ^{his} ~~a~~ magnum opus-- though brief and lean in size, yet potential, ^{informative} ~~informative~~, inspiring and thought-provoking. He combines in his treatise the cream of the classics and the ~~spiritual~~ spiritual literature of a hoary tradition. Running in an easy, ~~it~~ lucid, mellifluous style of the "Madhu-Ksheera-draksh-bhaga", all combined in one -- his work reminds one of the poetic explanation or the apology for his composition based on a theme that has best been brought out already by many other eminent scholars in these parts in different angles, ranging from the scholarly publication of the Srivilliputhur Sthalapuram by the late U.V. Vidya Kavibhushanam Brahmasri Narasmihacharyaswami alias

Appu Iyengar who adorned the local Guru Gynanasambanthar Hindu-High School for a pretty long spell of more than three decades, and the chronicles of the shrine of Srivilliputhur by the distinguished Secretary of the Madras Tamil Sangam, Pandit Sri. E.M.Subramaniam Pillai of Sankarankoil. Does not the piece of sandalwood ground, incessantly shed a perpetual air of aroma around? Does not the sugar-cane, sized into smaller pieces taste sweeter and more palatable to one's tongue? Does not a piece of gold with continuance beating shine with glittering colours?"

दृष्टं दृष्टं पुनरपि पुनर्यन्दनं चासुगन्धं
द्विजं द्विजं पुनरपि पुनः स्वादु चैवेदुगन्धं
दग्धं दग्धं पुनरपि पुनः काञ्चनं कान्तवर्णम्।

To be in consonance with the spirit of the immortal renderings of Sri. Perialwar and Sri. Andal, the presiding deified savants of the cultural Renaissance in Tamil Nad in the early centuries A.D, the learned author has rendered a great act of service and to our culture in short. Like the true aspirant he has tried to divinity to achieve his goal in the words of the "Sriyatha-Greetha-Charya":-
ज्ञान यज्ञेन चाप्यन्ये यजन्ती मामुपासते।

Who can forget the lively moments a real 'Jignasu' spends so profitably with this sparkling abode of Hindu culture, the person in the author, based on a broad and liberal planetuned to the dictum of the wise ---

"काव्यसेवा विनीरेन कालो गच्छति चीमते।"

Marked for its comprehensive brevity, felicity and rhythmic diction of a poetic prose, eschewed of an attempt at pseudo-linguistic ^{purism} ~~provision~~, with a natural, flowing style of ease and grace, vivid and graphic, the brochure is a balanced production of the traditional puranas set into the garb of a historical treatise that combines the modern guide and a felicitous Sthalamahatmya, retold to suit the modern taste of the scholar and the layman alike. Topical and timed chapters

in the book present a continuous and evolutionary history of the town of Srivilliputhur from its nucleus- stage ~~and later~~ to its present growth, marked with the birth and lives of the Bharatha-Ratnas of divine grace and avathar Sri. Peria Alwar and Sri. Andal. The author has successfully woven into his treatise the quintessence of philosophic thought of the 'vaishnavite' saints of the holy town of Srivilliputhur, bringing out elaborately the depth of meaning of the immortal hymns of these eminent savants who were indeed the messenger-apostles of the Tamil Renaissance in the early centuries. He has also ~~xxx~~ touched upon the elegance of the lyrical and mystical beauties in the works of the saintly Peria Alwar and the divine child-prodigy Sri. Andal, that excel their counterpart in Western thought.

A welcome feature in this brochure is the non-alignment of its author to any particular school of thought regarding the ~~probable~~ probable dates of the main personae in the theme. Alive to the historic truth that the history of India, especially that of the South is not yet out of the pan of acid test of an unceasing and battling research, the author has merely catalogued the views current, regarding the dates of Sri Peria Alwar and Sri Andal. One is glad that the purpose and beauty of this treatise are not lost in the wild rambles regarding the fixation of dates in the scheme.

Correctly has the author struck a note of warning and an appeal for reconciling the archaic groups of orientalist with the ~~offerring~~ ^{generally} scholars with a research bias, who ~~valways~~ ^{MI} attempt at jibing at the robust scholars of the ancient times who fused delicately wordly wisdom, integrated excellently scientific approach and worked out to spiritual ^{lights of a superb order in their works} assimilation and practice ^{under the rays of} ~~effortless~~ ^{MI} by the un-initiated commoner and the esoteric alike, without losing oneself into the clutches of Mammon or the pangs of passion. The author deserves congratulation in bringing out a piece of excellent work ~~n~~ into the field of literature a book that is easily the best treatise that goes to the heart of the common man with a smattering knowledge and the scanning brain of the

learned scholar and the critic alike. Indeed it is a fitting tribute to its author ~~xx~~ at the thought of whose equipments mental and spiritual one cannot but lose oneself in musing raptures.

A review of the book, in its embryonic stage, cannot but make one feel and notice in the ageing, superannuated Executive Officer, Sri M. Thyagaraja Mudaliar, a youthful aesthete with a creative brain to harness the available resources and fuse them into a happy blend to ~~it~~^{fit} in with the scheme of renovating the shrines that are the relics of our ancient glory. It is a happy synchronism that with an enlightened and enthusiastic Board of Trustees with Sri N. Krishnaswami Naidu as its distinguished Chairman, Sri Mudaliar has been able to achieve rapid strides and excellent results in forging the Sri Nachiar Devasthanam into the forefront to make it deserve the rightful name of a tourist-centre in consonance with our Central Year-Plans. The rapid march of time has already worked ~~xxx~~ miracles in beautifying the premises of the shrines by bringing them into the four walls of hygiene, however, not clasing with the scriptural ~~xxxxxx~~ injunctions. It is a healthy augury that with the renovation of these ancient temples to begin with and with the maintenance of these premises on healthy and hygienic lines from the point of view of day-to-day administration, the venture to release such a series of cheap but useful literature cannot but be applauded. It augurs well that at this juncture, when our motherland is practically on the cross-roads of the politically benevolent secularism that unconsciously cried a temporary halt to most of our creative activities in the field of religion, — a religion that never preached hate but an unerring and eternal song of love, the root-seed of the song of "Panch Seela" of our esteemed leaders, — that the sagely utterances of our sagacious leaders of thought and administration in the recent times, have encouraged the thinking public and an attempt has been made ~~xx~~ towards the "Gnana Yagna" that undoubtedly works miracles in eradicating illiteracy in our ~~xx~~ land. One notices with pleasure

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F. A. Tirumalachari, B.A.,
DEPUTY COMMERCIAL TAX OFFICER.



Station Sunkarankoil,
Date 24.1.56.

Respected Sir,

In enclosing hereto a copy of
the magazine of our Gurugnanu Sambandam
Union High School, Srivilliputtur, may I
at the outset introduce my humble
Self as the Second Son of the late
reverend Appan Thakachari,
(Sanskrit Pandit.) And the younger
brother of Sri. N. Srinivasan Chari B.A.
(Dr. Appan Srinivasan) the present
Headmaster of our High School. I
submit that it has been and it is
our earnest desire that a biographi-
cal sketch of your noble Self should
adorn the pages of our valuable
magazine. As the idea of starting a
magazine for our school children was
taken a little late last year we had
to rest content with the publication

of your photo only therein. In the editorial
of the previous issue (enclosed), and in
the terrific 'History and Growth of
our institution' by the poet, 'Kaviraja'
- Mani Sri-M. Kadavil of Sankaran
- Nil we have been able to mention

your name only for want of fuller
details. In this connection I submit
again that my brother and myself
among others feel it our proud
duty to add a biographical sketch
of your noble self in the present issue,
as we identify the growth and
popularity of our institution with
the lives of its most illustrious children
(alumni) like your noble self. As I was
not fortunate enough to meet you
in person so far, I have taken this blunt,
bold and straight approach to you in
good faith. I pray that you will be

SRI

T. A. Tirumalachari, B.A.,

DEPUTY COMMERCIAL TAX OFFICER.



Station Sankarantat,

Date 24-1-56.

pleased to favour me with the ³chronological
~~data~~ ^{MT} re: your sketch ^{MT} to date
 to facilitate us to have the compilation
 of the biographical sketch taken in the
 several languages early for urgent publication
 in the Magazine that is to come before
 March. I shall submit copies of the
 sketches when prepared for
 your kind approval before
 publication. As I am practically
 hurried in the midst of heapings
 I have delayed in approaching
 you with this request for. As the
 time before us is too short,
 I pray that you will be pleased
 to comply with our request.
 Incidentally I submit herewith
 a review of a valuable treatise

"Srivilliputhur Stala Mahatmyam"
by (Rao Sahib) Pt. Shanmukhanatan
B.A. Advocate, Sindjil
Elder brother of (Rao Bahadur)

Lt. Pt. Gnana Sundara Mudaliar
B.A., Chariman, Madras Public
Services Commission, which
is still in its embryonic stage
the publication of the same has not
been pushed up, though the Committee of
Trustees has for all purposes taken
up the question of publishing the same
earlier. I am requesting my friend

Lt. Pt. Shanmukhanatan
separately to send to you the copy
(now ~~not~~ in its Manuscript
stage) for ~~your~~ favour of your
personal. May I convey my warm brother's
regards to you. With my double regards,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A. M. Srinivasan
Secretary to the Government of Madras.