

Devi Neeye Thunai

Ragam: Keeravani

ARO: S R2 G2 M1 P D1 N3 S ||

AVA: S N3 D1 P M1 G2 R2 S ||

Talam: Adi

Composer: Papanasam Sivan

Version: C V Shankar

Pallavi:

Devi Neeye Thunai (“Amba”) Thenmaduraivaal Meena Lochani

Anupallavi:

Devaadi Devan Sundaresan

Chitham Kavar Bhuvana Sundari

Charanam:

Malaya Dwajan Madhavame

Kaanchana Maalai Muthalvi Maharagni

Alaimagal Kalaimaghal Pani Keervaani

Amudanaya Iniye Muthamizh Valartthai

**MEANING: (“Courtesy: R Shankar, rasikas.org”)**

*Oh dEvI with beautiful eyes (“lOcanI”) like a fish (“mIna”), who lives (“vAzh”) in southern (“ten”) mathurA (“madurai”), you (“nIyE”) are my only companion (“tuNai”) in this journey of life.*

*The most beautiful woman (“sundarI”) in the entire world (“bhuvana”)! You are the one that has captured/ensnared (“kavazh”) the heart (“cittam”) of that Lord (“dEvan”) of the Lords (“dEvAdi”), Sri sundarESvaran (“sundarESan”).*

*Oh dEvI (“mahArAgnI”)! As the fruit of mighty (“mA”) penance (“tavamE”) [1] performed by the pANDya king, malayadhvajan [2], you appeared/became the daughter (“pudalvi”) of the king, and his queen (“kAncanmAlai”). Oh lady with the speech (“vANI”) of parrots (“kIra”) [3] to whom lakshmi (“alaimagaL”) [4] and sarasvatI (“kalaimagaL”) bow down to (“paNi”), you are the one who nourished (“vaLarta”) the three forms of tamizh (“muttamizh”) [5] that are sweet (“iniya”) like nectar (“amudanaya”).*

**FOOTNOTES**

[1] The childless malayadhvajan and kAncanamAlai perform the putrakAMeshThi yAgam - and a beautiful girl emerges from the sacrificial fire with beautiful fish-shaped eyes. The royal couple adopt her and name her ‘aMkayarkaNni’ = aM (“beautiful”) + kayal (“fish”) + kaNni (“eyed one”) - which in sanskrit is mInAkshI or mInalOcanI. The parents' joy was marred by the fact that they noted an extra nipple on the girl's chest. Just as they begin to worry, they hear a voice from the heavens tell them that when she meets her future husband the nipple will disappear. mInAkshI who is brought up as a warrior princess is crowned 'king' after her father, and she begins to expand her kingdom by successfully fighting wars with other kings, and she finds her way to mount kailAs. After she blows away the Siva gaNas, Siva himself comes to fight the ferocious queen. mInAkshi, who has every intention of winning the encounter, feels her extra nipple disappear when she sets eyes on Siva. Overcome by bashfulness, she suddenly shyly backs away, overcome by strange and feminine feelings. Siva, recognizing her, informs her that he would come to the pANDya dESam to seek her hand in marriage, and get married to her in madurai. Since malayadhvajan was no more, mInAkshi was 'given away' by vishNu, her brother. A beautiful fresco of the divine wedding with vishNu giving the bride away (“dArai vArttu koDukkiradu”) adorns the temple in madurai

[2] malayadhvaJa pANDyan was called so because he had a mountain (“malai”) on his flag/standard (“dhvaja”)

[3] kIraANI - is also the rAga mudra. The speech of the parrot is considered to be pure and true - same as



S g rs N – S R , r ; S | , r G gr R rs S ; ; ||  
De- vaa- di De van Sun - - da re-- san- - -

n srG rs N – S R , r ; G | ; G gr R rs S ; ; ||  
De- vaa- - di De van Sun - - da re-- san- - -

n srG rs N – S R , r ; G | ; gp mg R R ; gs ; ||  
De- vaa- - di De van Sun - - da re-- san- - -

***The most beautiful woman (“sundarI”) in the entire world (“bhuvana”)!***

S , r G – R snD – D N R | ; sn D – D DM , n S ||  
Chi- tham Ka var- Bhu vana - Sun - da ri - Amba

S , sr G – R snD – D N R | ; sn D – D DM , n S ||  
Chi- tham Ka var- Bhu vana - Sun - da ri - Amba

sr- r G – R snD – D N R | sr sn D – D DM , n S ||  
Chi- tham Ka var- Bhu vana Sun - da ri - Amba

Charanam:

Malaya Dwajan Madhavame  
Kanchana Maalai Muthalvi Maharagni  
Alaimagal Kalaimaghal Pani Keervaani  
Amudanaya Iniye Muthamizh Valartthai

***Oh dEvI (“mahArAgni”)! As the fruit of mighty (“mA”) penance (“tavame”) [1] performed by the pANDya king, malayadhvajan [2], you appeared/became the daughter (“pudalvi”) of the king, and his queen (“kAncanmAlai”).***

d P – m ; P M ; pdpd | N D mP , ; , g , rg m ||  
Mala ya Dwa jan Ma-- dhava me – - - -

d P – m ; P M ; pdpd | N D mP , mdpm G rg ||  
Mala ya Dwa jan Ma-- dhava me – Kaa—n cha na-

M; M- , d P ; P – dp | D ; drsn D ; P ; ; ||  
Maa lai Mu thal vi Ma ha- ra - - gni - -

***Oh lady with the speech (“vANI”) of parrots (“kIra”) [3] to whom lakshmi (“alaimagaL”) [4] and sarasvatI (“kalaimagaL”) bow down to (“paNi”)...***

; ns , d N S S S S | ; r r , S n rgrg R ; ||  
Alai magal Kalai maghal Pani Kee- rvaa- ni

; n rsS - d N S S rg rsS | , pd nsrg – rs S rgrg R ; ||  
Alai magal Kalai maghal Pani Kee- rvaa- ni

***you are the one who nourished (“vaLarta”) the three forms of tamizh (“muttamizh”) [5] that are sweet (“iniya”) like nectar (“amudanaya”).***

; sr , g R snD – D N R | ; D , n D M – p D N ||  
Amu dana ya-- I niye - Mu thamizh - Va lartthai