

## THE GOD THYAGARAJA AND KING MUCHUKUND

Article Particulars: Received: 21.01.2018 Accepted: 15.03.2018 Published: 28.04.2018

**S. MEENAATCHI, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.,**  
*Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Music*  
*Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India*

**Dr. R. ARUNA**  
*Principal (Retd.)*  
*Sri Sathguru Sangeetha Vidyalayam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India*

### Abstract

*Each temple, have a unique story.....*

*The article is about the ancient Thyagaraja temple, and their history. This is the story comprising The Monkey faced king Muchukunda verses Indra the Lord of heaven, in the devotion of God Thyagaraja and how he came to Tiruvarur. The hidden real hero, at the time of war between the Lords and Demons. Why Lord Indra instructed Viswakarma to sculpt seven Lingas? Where the seven Lingas are situated now and by whom?*  
**Keywords:** *God Thyagaraja, Lord Indra, King Muchukunda, Viswakarma, Thiruvarur, etc.*

### Muchukunda King

The Muchukunda King having a monkey face given by God Shiva. Once a monkey (mucu) was playing happily in a tree above on Mount Kailas, dropping the Vilwa leaves on the Linga under the tree God Shiva appeared with his wife Goddess Parvati, as she got irritated by the act of monkey who was later made understood by God Shiva that this was an act of devotion of the monkey. Lord Shiva Imparted pure by taking his animal delusion He also was informed that he would be born as a Human being, a great King in Manu's line. The monkey was in a little perplexed: how would he continue Worship? God said don't worry, I will take possession of you there as well. So the mucu became a Chola King appropriately called Mucukundan. He was a very good king, and his subjects thrived, entirely free from poverty, war, theft, and other common depredations

This was our King, the real hero of the story, the true founder of the Thiruvarur Cult, as shall we see. Now we shall know how Indra sought help from this Mucukunda King. When millions dead both the sides, ultimately the battle is determined by an extended bout between Mucukunda and Vala, which left Vala armless, like an elephant without tusk. To save Indra's honour, gallantly Mucukunda steps aside and allows Indra to deliver the coup de grace with his Vajra. Mucukunda was honoured by Indra to heaven. Indra rushes to his daily worship of Lord Thyagaraja, this was noted by Mucukunda and he also started worshipping. While the King worshipped, he felt the same as he felt while he worshipped in Mount Kailas, he felt the same cosmos. Forgets himself and he weeps, he sings, he dances. He was like a calf embraced by mother cow after a long absence. Passionate desire fills him from within. And now God Shiva can speak to him, once again without allowing Indra to hear:" Bring us to the luminous town of Aarur and worship us there, "said the mouth that once uttered the Vedas. Hearing these words, after a while, King was waiting for an opportunity that will Indra ask anything to him as thanksgiving. King Mucukunda asked that he needs the spotless God whom he worships. Indra replied you have to ask Vishnu by whom was made and worshipped. Immediately the King rushes off to the Ocean of Milk and gets the permission from Vishnu who accepted by granting him. While on other hand, Indra did not want to part with the Linga. So, he made a trick with divine sculptor Viswakarma making six such Lingas (Somaskanda) and asked the King to find the original one. Muchukunda realized what Indra was upto. Indra showed one by one, and he finally reluctantly showed the seventh icon which was the original and was spotted rightly by Mucukunda.



Indra defeating VALA

### Conclusion

Today, in Thiruvarur, some people says that Thyagaraja smiled Muchukunda which helped him to spot the correct one, while some say that Mucukunda asked the real Thyagaraja to step forward, and the God agreed. This shows Lord Thyagaraja's loving nature is revealed by his insistence on being chosen by human devotee who will bring him down to the Earth.

Indra gives the original Linga with the other six lingas too. King Mucukunda takes leave and heads Thiruvarur. He invites Viswakarma to build a golden temple for the new God to the South of Vanmikanatha, the Lord of the anthill in the Aarur moolasthan. On the Atta (Hastha) day of Tamil month of Maasi, in Vaivasvata kalpa, Mucukunda installed in his new home. While the other six Lingas were installed around Thiruvarur: Thirunallar, Vedaranyam, Thiruvaimur, Thirukaravasal, Thirukkuvalai and Nagapattinam. These seven temples are collectively known as Saptha Vidanga Sthalams.



Indra handing God Thyagaraja image to Muchukunda King

### References

1. Field work individual
2. Sthalapuram