

# A Study of the Temple Inscriptions of Senjirimalai Mandaragiri Velayudhasamy Temple

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## Abstract

*Senjirimalai one of the hill temples of Lord Muruga situated in Kongu region. Here Lord Muruga is called as mandrachalamoorthi. This temple has a long history back to 1000 years. Our purpose here is to say the brief history of the temple and the temple inscription which has been destroyed in the recent renovation.*

**Keywords:** senjirimalai, templeculture, sthalapuram, Saint Arunagirinathar, Meignana Devan, Veera Vallala Devan.

## Introduction

History of temple plays a very vital role in the growth of history of Tamil language. Only by the inscriptions in a temple, we can understand the history of Tamil clearly. Temple gives a clear picture of history, culture, heritage economical and environmental condition of the region. The inscriptions in the temple help us to calculate the ruling period of many kings, their boundaries and their generousness. When we learn the history of the temple, we understand the culture of the region too. The inscription in the Sanctum Santorum of the Velayudha Swamy temple in Senjirimalai helps us to learn about the guards, their ruling areas, appointed administrative, diplomacy and ideology.

## Location of the temple

Senjirimalai is situated in the Sulur Taluk, Coimbatore District. Senjirimalai is 20 kms away from Palladam and 30 kms away from Pollachi the name Senjirimalai derived from the word Thenserimalai.

The temple is situated in the Udumalai Pettai main Road. The temple is built up on a single hill which is approximately 600 feet in height. There are 252 steps in the hill. Which lead us to the temple from the east. This hill looks like a Jaggary which was placed on a flat surface. There is enough space for the ride of a festival car around the foot hill of the temple. The length of the car street is about 1¼ kms.

The temple is facing towards east. In the foot of the hills, there are separate shrines for Patha Vinayagar and Dhandapani. The main temple which is built up on the hill accessed by a motorable road on the back side and flight steps as well as in the front of the temple.

The presiding deity Mantrachala Perumal is Subramaniyar enshrined with his consorts Valli and Deivayanai. There are also shrines for Mandira Ganapathy, Kailasanathar, Periyanyaki Amman and Thirumal.

There are four water spring in this hill. They are Idumban Sunai, Darbaisunai, Thurtha Sunai and Sayelethagam Sunai. It is believed that the Sunnies cure the mental disorders. In the olden day s, the Psychologically defected people are brought here to take a bath in the Sunaies. This treatment is not practiced nowadays. In Senjerimalai temple a special practice called “Pooketta” will be conducted by the request of the devotees. A flower will be placed in the right and left hand Lord Muruga. If the flower in right-hand falls it is considered that the devotee’s desire will be fulfilled and if the left-hand flower fall the desire and devote es will not be fulfilled and if no flower falls the devotees has to wait for some more time.

Karunochi tree is considered as Sthala Virucha of this temple. In the west of Senjerimalai, there is a hill called Chinnamalai. Here we can see the shrine of Thirumal Sundara Raja Perumal with his consorts, Booma Devi and Neela Devi. Recently a big statue for Lord Anchaneya was erected.

In Senjerimalai Lord Muruga is called Mandarachala Moorthi. The name derived when Lord Muruga was summoned by Lord Shiva to Senjerimalai hills and initiated him certain Mantras and endowed him with invincible powers to rate destroy the demon Surapadma. So Thenserimalai is also called Mandiragiri and the Lord who resides here is called Mandarachala Moorthi.

The Thenserimalai Sthalapuranam was written by Ammayappar. This Stalapuranam consists of 255 poems. He belongs to Karunikar Kula other than that there are no other evidence about him. It is assumed that he would have belongs to the later half of 18th century or first half of the 19th century.

The Stalapurana was written in the palm leaves. In 1959 Tirupur Ramasamy Chettiyar Published the Stalapurana. Again the Stalapurana was Republished in April 2001.

The saint Arunagirinathar who lived in the 15th century wrote Thiupughal, Kandar Alangaram, Kandar Anupudi, Kandar Anandi, Thiruva gupu, Velvirutham, Mayil Virutham. Saint Arunagirinathar traveled all along the Kongu region and worshiped many temples and wrote poems about the temples. Among them, two poems of Thirupughal were composed about Thenserigiri Mandarachala Moorthi. These two poems were composed by Thirumuruga Kirubanandha Variyar in his books as 404 and 405.

### கல்வெட்டு

Mandaragiri Velayudasamy Temple, Senjerimalai.

தென்சேரி மேவு திருமெய்ஞ்ஞானதேவன் தன்சேர் தமிழ்மாலை கேற்றிசைங்கர் - தென்சேரி குன்றமாந்த கந்தன் குரு கூடு பயா இறைஞ்சும் குன்....

இதன் அருகே,

“ஸவஸ்திஸ்ரீ வீரவல்லாளதேவர் பிருத்வி ராச்சியம் பண்ணியருளிய பிரமாதி வருஷத்து வாயிறைக்கா நாட்டுத் தென்சேரித் திருமடல கோத்திரத்துக் கரியபிள்ளை கூத்தாடும் தேவனான மெய்ஞ்ஞான தேவனேன்

ARE 141 of 1974. கி.பி.1339 ஆம் ஆண்டு.

According to the temple inscription, the temple was renovated by Thiru. Meignana Devan who was a Chieftain of the Vayerkka Nadu. The Vayerakka Nadu was under the Control of Hoysala King Veer Vallala Devan – III. This inscription was dated to 1339.A.D.; This inscription was destroyed when the temple was renovated in 2008.

A palm leaves account called Chola Purva pattiyam states that the temple was built by Karikal Chola @ Kulothunga in the 13 th Century.

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