



Upcoming Yagya Programs

September :

- 1,000 fruit Ganesha Yagya for Vinayaka Chaturthi

October:

- Navaratri - The Nine Nights of the Divine Mother
- Recitation of the Sama and Yajur Vedas
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya

November:

- Special Yagyas in the Famous Shiva Temple in Rajamundri
- Manyu Suktam - Elimination of Enemies Yagya
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya

December:

- Family Yagyas in the temples of Kanchipuram
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya

January 2016:

- Recitation of Rig, Sama, and Yajur Vedas
- Special Wish Fulfilling Shiva Temple Yagya
- Rahu/Ketu Changing Signs Yagya

Dear Yagya Friends,

August was a great month with yagya programs in Trichendur, Varanasi, and Pune. We have so many great photos of these events that I felt it deserved a special presentation as well as some explanation of everything that went on.

Our priests visited the seaside temple in Trichendur and performed 6 days of yagyas there. Then they drove down to the southernmost tip of India (photo above) to perform special goddess pujas.

Thanks to everyone for your continued interest and support of our efforts to keep the vedic traditions alive and well.

Very best regards,

Ben Collins

Trichendur Subramanya Yagyas



The August yagya program featured yagyas at the famous temple at Trichendur. This temple for Subramanya (also known as Murugan) is located right on the ocean in southern Tamil Nadu.

Subramanya is the son of Shiva and brother of Ganesha. According to legend, it was on this beach that he defeated the demon Surapatuma who had taken the form of an especially frightening mango tree! Subramanya rode a peacock and wielded a lance that was a gift from his mother Parvati.

In the early 1600's, the Portuguese were allowed to trade in this part of India, especially in pearls which were especially valuable at that time. In 1646 a treaty gave the Dutch the right to build a fort in this area, which caused conflict with the Portuguese who were defeated and thrown out.

The Dutch left Trichendur and on their way out, stole the temple idols, thinking



that they were made of gold. As they started to sail away, the weather suddenly turned violent and the sailors threw the idols overboard. As soon as the idols sank from sight, the weather calmed and the Dutch departed.

The idols were lost for some years until Subramanya came to a local governor in a dream and showed him where the idols could be found. Going out in a boat, they found a floating lime and a bird circling overhead. There they found the idols and recovered them in 1653.

During the British Raj, the temple had been in danger of sliding into the sea and the British undertook a massive effort to shore up the temple and to prevent future erosion.

Inside the temple there is a hall with portraits of the governor and engineers who prevented the loss of the temple.



The temple is very large and full of hallways that can be used for pujas and yagyas.



In an ancient poem, Subramanya is described as being “borne aloft on an elephant, swiftly striding, irresistible as death, fleet as the risen wind” (see image on the right)

Subramanya is the Divine General who leads the military of the gods. As such he is the embodiment of the qualities of Mars; optimism, dynamic action, initiative, charm, wit, insight, and persistence. By performing Subramanya yagyas we cultivate and enhance those qualities in ourselves and develop the ability to overcome obstacles of all kinds.

The yagyas that were performed this month, are a beautiful celebration of this divine energy and are performed with new fresh flower malas every day, along with fresh fruits, fragrant incense, flower petals, rice, and many other ingredients.

**நக்கீரர் கண்ட திருமுருகன்
திருச்சீரலைவாய்க்கு வரும் காட்சி**





**The pujas begin with recitation of many vedic mantras and slokas.
This establishes the atmosphere and invites the deity to come and enjoy the festivities.**



**A puja is natural, dramatic and timeless in the ancient temple.
How many thousands of times has this ritual been performed over the years?**



After the pujas are completed, the priests make offerings of ghee, wood and other items into the sacred yajna fire as mantras are chanted.



The fire ritual is always dramatic as the ghee makes the flames leap up high.





The Final Yagya





On the final day, the yagya took place in a special facility overlooking the ocean. It was quieter than the main temple hall (and cooler).



It is traditional at the end of a multi-day yagya, to offer a fresh dhoti into the yagya fire so that Agni, the fire god will consume it and deliver the essence to the deity, in this case, Subramanya.



There is a branch of hindu astrology called “nimita”, which is concerned with the interpretation of symbols in the environment. According to this tradition, to see two peacocks (the bird that Subramanya rides) at the conclusion of a Subramanya yagya is an exceptionally good sign that the deity has accepted the yagya, and extends his grace and blessings to those who participated.

Kanyakumari, the Southern Tip of India



Kanyakumari is the southern tip of India and a place of great importance in the vedic tradition. Its history dates back to ancient times when the goddess came here to meditate in order to attract Shiva's attention. There is a temple to the goddess and a larger memorial for Swami Vivekananda who visited this place in 1892 prior to his visit to the west as the first guru to do so. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi also visited here just before his first visit to the west, as have many other important teachers and gurus



Our priests visited a special temple where they recited Chandi Path, the story of the goddess that is an 800 verse long mantra.



What could be better than to conclude the trip with a spectacular sunset at the tip of India. It promises good days ahead for all of us.

*“Roaring repeatedly along
the path of truth and dharma,
may you shine as the banner
of immortality.*

*May you send forth your voice
while sages are chanting
hymns of praise.”*

-Rig Veda

