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Srimadhe ramanujaya namaha, srimadhe varavaramuniye namaha Srimadhe ramanujaya namaha, srimadhe varavaramuniye namaha Srimadhe ramanujaya namaha, srimadhe varavaramuniye namaha

<u>Visit to sundaravarada perumal temple (Uthiramerur)</u>:

Sundaravarada perumal temple is at uthiramerur town which is about 27 km from kancheepuram and about 20 km from chingleput. Lots of buses ply directly from Chennai too. State owned bus no 104 flies from Chennai to vandavasi via uthiramerur and the charge is Rs 27.

On 9th march 2006, Myself, V.Loganathan, got the bus 104 at the koyambedu moffusil terminus at 14:15hrs. since it was after the lunch, I had a very good nap in the bus. While wake up I almost reached the town by 16:15 hrs. immediately after getting down the bus, went straight to the hotel and had a cup of coffee and then proceeded to the temple.

The temple tank was found full of water. Thanks to rain god. Washed hands & feet and after sprinkling little water on the head proceeded to the main gopuram. I could see a young couple already waiting for the Bhattachariyar to arrive for the evening Puja. As the main door was kept closed we sat for a while, but immediately an old man going on the way, looking at us, on coming to know that we were waiting, he asked us to go and call the Bhattachariyar as his house is very nearby. The young couple took their bike and went to his house, after a while Bhattachariyar arrived at the temple. Thanks to the old man.

This temple's main gopuram is seven-storied architecture with nine antennas. It is learnt that this temple was built by pallavas in 750 AD and later in 1050 & 1500 AD renovated by cholas and vijayanakara king. In the year 1973 this temple was undergone maha samprokshanam under HH andavan ashramam jeer. In the recent year of 8th June 2003 also kumbabishekam was performed under the present HH andavan swamigal.

The main sanctum sanctorum is a three storied architecture. The entire sanctorum is at an elevation of about 10 feet from the ground level. The main entrance is facing east. After the dwathusdambam (kodi maram) the periya thiruvadi (karuda Bhagavan) is beautifully carved looking at the perumal without closing his eyelids very carefully. The steps on both the sides (north and south) takes to the main entrance. The handrails on the both sides marvelously carved resemble the trunk of an elephant. After entering the main padi(entrance) a very big hall looks like the famous nayakkar mahal at Madurai.

Our beloved sundaravaradar, the main deity of this temple, is in standing posture facing east with his two consorts sridevi and bhoodevi in the mezzanine floor. He is standing with the sangu and chakkaram on his top right and left hands. The bottom right hand shows the abaya astham as he is a varadar who gives varams and the left hand with the kadai (weapon). The two consorts are with the lotus flower on their opposite hand

where they position with respect to the main deity. The Moolavar also called as sundaravaradar is very small in shape but attractive with his consorts. The ceiling is made up of teak wood platform with decorations. The two pillars seems made of clay is very strong and majestic.

The bhattar took the sankalpam in the highly ritualistic way and performed the Mangala aarthi in a grand way. I hope the sadari blessed us and thulasi theertham washed our sins at that spot itself. After a spiritualistic dharsan, the bhattar shown the way to go to first and second floors.

In the second floor our deity presents us in his sitting posture with his two consorts. It seems as the bhattar is old, never comes up and does the Mangala aarthi here. In this floor one can go pradhaksanam and have dharsan of other perumals too. On the south side krishnar with arjuna, west side yoga Narashimmar, north side lakshmi varahar. Then proceeded to the top floor.

Here in this floor, our deity gives us dharsan as ranganathar with his head on south side. We worship all the three moorthis, viz., bramma on his umbilical card, Siva in the northeastern direction and Vishnu as ranganathar. Besides markandeyar is bowed down and ranganathar right hand is at his head, bhoomi piratti is asking for varam sitting at his leg side. Other than these, madukadaival, ganga, and yamuna are also seen in the leg side. After coming out, standing at the high location, we can see the west side of the town. The doves and cuckoo sung beautiful songs. The parrot's honey speech is excellent.

Coming down at the mezzanine floor took right turn to go to the Thayar's temple. We got her dharsan straight and in the glass panel too. Left side andal gives dharsan. In all the three directions on the mezzanine floor the three forms of varadar was seen. Once again we viewed the wonderful sculptures on the hand rails chiseled by the ancient dedicated artists who would have spent their lives in this spiritualistic job. Coming out on the outer praharam one can see the medium sized kosalai (cow shed).

After having seen all the sculptures sat for a while in the outer podium with the light breeze of air gave me immense pleasure filled heart. Opposite to the main gopuram our siriya thiruvadi (anjaneyan) shows his majestic roopam in a separate Sannathi. Then proceeded to the vagunta vasa perumal temple which is located at the bus stand itself. It is now under the control of archeological department. Since the base stone describes the election procedures of the good old days in the tamil fonts. While going through the rules of then election procedure, it gives us an impression that we are no doubt living in the demon only. After that I went to participate cousine's marriage at the choultry

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