

## **“Brahadiswara : Form to Formless” - through the eyes of Devaradiyal**

**- T.N. Ramachandran, D.Lit.,**

Everyone should justify his or her share of sunshine and earth by rendering some possible service to God. One comes to learn of this concept thanks to one's purva punya. It is thanks to the grace of Grace, one is enabled to travel on life's common way in cheerful Godliness.

Srimati Bala Devi Chandrashekar hails from a family of noble and austere lineage. She is also blessed with a husband who is alive to her noble longings and helps her in all possible ways.

Srimati Bala Devi was drawn to admire and foster the multifoliate greatness of Bharata Natyam, while young.

Siva, the Supreme, performs His pentad of divine deeds (namely evolution, maintenance, dissolution, concealment (tirobhava) and bestowal of bliss through His sempiternal dance which He alone can enact.

My deity Saint Sekkilar hails Siva as Varatar. This word means (i) boon-giver and (ii) Bharatar – the Dancer. Dance in South India is known as Bharata Nattiyam. Srimati Bala Devi took to the cultivation of Bharata Nattiyam while young and her adherence to her chosen art is constant and rigorous. Her dance is the way through which she adores Siva. May her obeisance guide others also.

Her performance at Thanjavur on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, was, truly speaking, a wonder of splendour. For two whole hours she did her arduous dance without any break. Her physical health is sustained by her spiritual goodness.

My worthy friend Kudavayil Balasubramanian and I felt that Mrs. Bala Devi has repaired a grievous and longstanding omission and has thus set things straight. It is the Devaradiyal who is permitted by the Saiva Agamas to enter the sanctum sanctorum of a temple, light the lamp known as Kumba dipa and present it to the Archaka who will then do the ritual waving of that divine dipa. This ritual is millennia old. This ritual was stopped by the British Government. In our freed India we must revive the time honoured ritual. The first one to take an effective step in this direction is Bala Devi. She has, on behalf of all Saivites, performed the much – needed expiation. Her service is unique. For this we must make her name proof against the tooth of Time and erasure of oblivion.

We pray for her and her family's welfare. One more word. Siva has a form, is without a form and also has a formless form. We appeal to Bala who was honoured by the citizens of Thanjavur with the title BHARATHA KALAI VANI, to highlight through her dance the formless form of Siva, also.

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