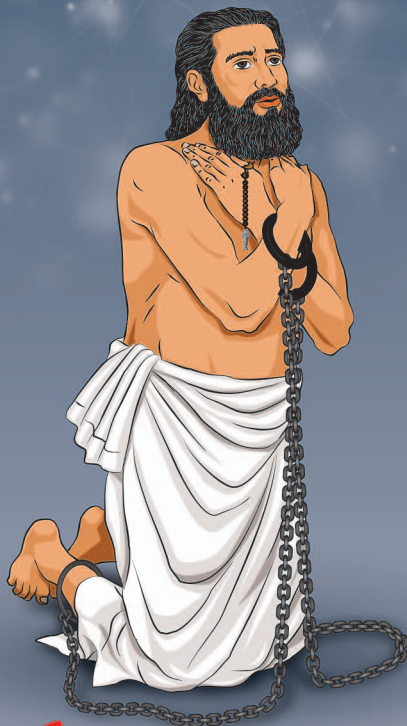


Kattadimalai Martyr



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(FAQ on Servant of God Devasahayam)

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From the Authors

It is really a pleasure to prepare this small booklet on the life of the Servant of God, Devasahayam. Since the two previous Tamil books, Kattadimali Kaalthadankal (Footsteps) and Kattadimalai Kadithangal (Letters) and a booklet, Kattadimalai Kathiravan (Biography) received such a warm reception from pilgrims and readers, it was considered useful to provide an English booklet about the Martyr in the user-friendly form of frequently asked questions and answers. Hope this will be useful to anyone wanting a quick reference about the Martyr.

From the Publishers

Anal Publishers are very proud to present this booklet on the Martyr Devasahayam on the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Martyr. It is hoped that this small contribution of easy literature on Devasahayam will bring joy to readers.

KATTADIMALAI MARTYR

(FAQ on SERVANT OF GOD DEVASAHAYAM)

1. Is there an official diocesan website for Servant of God, Devasahayam ?

The official diocesan web address for Servant of God, Devasahayam is [http:// www.martyrdevasagayam.org](http://www.martyrdevasagayam.org)

2. Who was the first man to be martyred for Christ in India?

St Thomas the Apostle was the first to be sacrificed for Christ in India.

3. When did St Thomas come to India?

St Thomas came to India in the year CE 52.

4. When did St Thomas attain martyrdom?
He attained his martyrdom in the year CE 72.
5. How many churches did St Thomas build?
He built seven and half churches (one was not completed).
6. Who was known as the second Apostle of India?
St Francis Xavier was known as the second Apostle of India.
7. When did St Francis Xavier come to India?
St Francis Xavier came to India in the year CE 1542.
8. How many churches were built at the time of St Francis Xavier?
Forty five churches were built at the time of St Francis Xavier.

9. What was the liturgical language used by the first Christians of Travancore?

The first Christians of Travancore used Syriac as their liturgical language.

10. When did the usage of Syriac as the liturgical language change?

The arrival of the Portuguese changed this to Latin.

11. Which are the most important historical places connected with Devasahayam?

There are a number of important historical places connected with Devasahayam, specifically;

Nattalam- His place of birth.

Vadakankulam- The parish where he was baptised.

Puliyoorkurichi- The place where the first miracle took place during the shaming parade.

Kattadimalai- His place of martyrdom.

Kottar- The place where his mortal remains were buried.

12. When was Devasahayam born?

Devasahayam was born in CE 1712.

13. What was his father's name?

His father's name was Vasudevan Nambudiri.

14. What was the occupation of his father?

His father was a poojari at Nattalam Adikesavaperumal Temple.

15. Which was the native town of Vasudevan Namboodiri?

The native town of Vasudevan Namboodiri was Maruthamkulamkarai, near Kayankulam, in Kollam District, Kerala State.

16. What was his house name?

His house name was Maruthamkulamkarai.

17. What was his mother's name?

His mother's name was Devahi Ammai.

18. What was his sister's name?

His sister's name was Lekshimi Kutty.

19. What was his original religion?

His original religion was Hinduism.

20. What was his Hindu name?

His Hindu name was Neelakandan.

21. What is the meaning of Neelakandan?

It means a God with a blue neck.

22. How did the God get this name?

God consumed poison to save humanity and the neck (throat) became blue from contact with the poison.

23. Which caste did he belong to?

He belonged to the Hindu Nair caste.

24. What was his teacher's name?

His teacher's name was Santathiru Karaikanda Mutthappan.

25. Who were his close friends?

His close friends were Kottavilai Asan Thommai Chinnathampi Annaavii, Thomman Thirumuthu, and Mariamallan Maayakutty.

26. What was his Christian name?

His Christian name was Devasahayam.

27. How was he popularly known?

He was popularly known as Devasahayam.

28. What was the Latin name for Devasahayam?

Dei Adjutorium.

29. When did he have his basic education?

He had his basic and traditional education from 1718-1721.

30. What did he learn?

He learnt Sanskrit and had special training in martial arts.

31. What kind of martial arts did he learn?

He learnt traditional martial arts called "Kalari."

32. What languages did he speak?

He spoke both Tamil and Malayalam.

33. Did he have any other training?

Yes, he did have training in archery, Varma Sasthra (study of the body's nerve system) and use of weapons of war.

34. Did he study anything else?

He also studied subjects such as philosophy, grammar and Hindu doctrine.

35. Did he ever serve in the army?

Yes, he served in the army from 1729, when Marthandavarma was crowned king.

36. Who was the founder of Travancore?

Marthandavarma was the founder of Travancore.

37. When was the Travancore kingdom founded?

Travancore kingdom was founded in the year 1729.

38. At what age did Marthandavarma become king?

He became king when he was 23.

39. What was the kingdom of the Marthandavarma dynasty called?

The kingdom of the Marthandavarma dynasty was called Chera Kingdom.

40. How long did Ramaiyan Dalava, the prime minister at the time, serve King Marthandavarma?

Ramaiyan Dalava served King Marthandavarma from 1736-1756.

41. How long this Travancore survived?

Travancore survived for 220 years from 1729 -1949.

42. How many kings ruled Travancore?

Twelve kings ruled Travancore kingdom during a span of 220 years.

43. Was Marthandavarma a ruthless king?

It is reported that he was capable of killing anyone who opposed his right to be king.

44. Was Travancore known for riots?

Yes, it was known for riots, especially at the time of Balavarma (1721-1729) when there was heavy taxation.

45. What was the reason for higher taxation at Travancore?

The taxation was high because the Travancore kings were supposed to give tribute to Madurai Nayaks.

46. How many taxes were there in Travancore at the time of Marthandavarma?

There were 108 taxes in Travancore at the time of Marthandavarma.

47. How many castes were there at Travancore?

There were seventy-two castes and 1050 sub-castes.

48. What did Swami Vivekananda say about castes in Travancore?

He said that Travancore was a den of castist, insane people.

49. Was Travancore society considered a superstitious society?

On April 29th, 1604, there was a solar eclipse that was understood as the wrath of Hindu gods and 40 churches were destroyed.

50. What were the special names given to Marthandavarma for his art of war and annexing places?

He was compared with popular western emperors and called the Travancore Napoleon and Travancore Julius Caesar.

51. Who was the role model for Marthandavarma's Statecraft?
Marthandavarma took Aurangzeb as his role model for statecraft.
52. What was Devasahayam's first job?
His first job was to fight for the king as a soldier.
53. After retiring as a soldier where did he work?
He worked at Padmanabapuram Royal Court.
54. Was he married?
Yes, he was married.
55. What was his wife's name?
His wife's name was Bargaviammal.
56. What was her Christian name?
Her Christian name was Theresa - in Tamil she was called Gnanapoo.

57. What was the pet name of Theresa?

Her pet name was Paaru, a shortened Tamil version of Parkavi (Bargaviammal).

58. What was his family responsibility?

Since his elderly father-in-law was the head of the family, as per their custom automatically all responsibility was transferred to Devasahayam.

59. Who introduced Catholicism to Devasahayam?

Captain Eustachius Benedictus De Lannoy introduced Catholicism to Devasahayam.

60. What was De Lannoy?

De Lannoy was a Dutch Military officer caught as a prisoner of war at the Colachel battle.

61. When did the Colachel battle take place?

The Colachel battle took place in the year 1741.

62. What was the reason for the Colachel battle?

The reason for the Colachel battle was the defiance of the Governor of Ceylon, Van Imhoff, against King Marthandavarma.

63. What was the motive of the Dutch to wage war at Colachel?

The Dutch wanted to create a colony at Travancore coastal line.

64. What did Marthandavarma ask De Lannoy?

Marthandavarma asked De Lannoy to modernise his army in a European style.

65. What was the bargain De Lannoy made to help the king to take responsibility to train the army?

He requested that the war prisoners be sent home.

66. How many were captured as prisoners of war at the Colachel battle?

Twenty-three along with De Lannoy were captured as prisoners of war at the Colachel battle.

67. Which was the first ammunition factory in India?

Udayagiri Fort was the first ammunition factory in India, which was renovated by De Lannoy.

68. Where did De Lannoy get iron ore to produce rifles?

He got iron ore from the Marungoor Hills.

69. When did Johannes, son of De Lannoy, die?

He died when he was nineteen at the battle of Kalakadu.

70. Why was Ramaiyan Dalava jealous of De Lannoy?

Ramaiyan Dalava was jealous of De Lannoy because he did not want a foreigner to be chief of the army.

71. How many years did De Lannoy work with Marthandavarma?

De Lannoy worked with Marthandavarma for 37 years.

72. What was the tragedy Devasahayam went through?

He went through two major tragedies when his bulls died and his crops failed.

73. Whom did he share the tragedies with?
He shared his tragedies with De Lannoy.
74. How many years did they continue their friendship?
They continued their friendship for 16 years.
75. While listening to the tragedies of Devasahayam what did De Lannoy say?
To console Devasahayam and to strengthen him he narrated the story of Job from the Holy Bible's Old Testament.
76. What was the moral he taught?
De Lannoy demonstrated how God tests one's faith through suffering.

77. What was the effect of this discourse?
It made such an impression on Devasahayam that he requested to be baptised.
78. What was the reason for Devasahayam requesting Baptism?
Devasahayam was convinced about the explanation of God testing one's faith through sufferings.
79. Where did he receive his Baptism?
He received his Baptism at Vadakankulam Church.
80. What was the name of the Jesuit mission at Vadakankulam?
It was called the Neman mission.
81. When did the Jesuits officially inaugurate their mission in Travancore?
They officially inaugurated their mission in Travancore in 1698.

82. When did the Jesuits begin their Neman mission?

The Jesuits began their Neman mission in 1710.

83. How many Catholics were there at Neman when it was established as a mission?

There were 9,000 Catholics when Neman was established as a mission.

84. Who baptised Devasahayam?

Fr Giovanni Baptista Buttari, a Jesuit missionary, baptised him.

85. Did Buttari baptise him immediately?

No, he did not; instead he took time to give proper catechesis and tested the maturity of his faith.

86. How long did he take to prepare him?

He took nine months to prepare him.

87. When was he baptised?

He was baptised on May 17th 1745.

88. Was there any significance to the day he was baptised?

Yes, it was the memorial of St Paschal Bailon.

89. Who gave First Holy Communion to Devasahayam?

Fr Thomas Fonseka SJ, the parish priest of St Francis Xavier church, gave First Holy Communion to Devasahayam.

90. What was the Indian name for Fr Buttari?

The Indian name for Fr Buttari was Paranjothinathar.

91. Who popularised the writings of Fr Buttari about Devasahayam?

Fr. Peter Dahman, a young Jesuit, popularised the writings of Fr Buttari about Devasahayam.

92. To whom did Fr Buttari write about Devasahayam?

Fr Buttari wrote all about Devasahayam to his own sister, Rev Mother Maria Madelena.

93. What was the name of the church where he was baptised?

It was named after the Holy Family.

94. What was the first contribution of inculturation by the Jesuits?

The change of names into the vernacular language was the first contribution of inculturation.

95. Is Devasahayam a Biblical name?

Yes, it is a Biblical name, Lazar

96. What is the meaning of Lazar?

The meaning of Lazar is "God has helped."

97. Did Devasahayam have access to any appropriate literature?

It is thought that he may have had access to the writings, in Malayalam, of Fr John Ernst Hanxleden and in Tamil, of Fr Beschi.

98. Did Devasahayam bring anyone into the Catholic Church?

Yes, he brought many. The first one was his own wife.

99. Was there any noticeable change after Baptism in the life of Devasahayam?

Yes, there was a noticeable change in the life of Devasahayam. He began to mingle with everyone, especially the so-called "polluted persons."

100. Did his Christian life give any difficulty?

Yes, he was accused of the crime of betrayal and contempt of Hindu religious practices and insult of their Gods.

101. What was his prayer life?

He spent every morning and evening in contemplative prayer. He read books on the lives of saints. He fasted on Fridays and Saturdays.

102. When did the resentment start against Devasahayam Pillai in the family?

When there was distress and mishap in the family, the members of the family began to accuse Devasahayam saying that his conversion to Christianity offended their Goddess, Bhadrakali.

103. When there was a bitter feeling in the family of Devasahayam where did the couple go?

When there was a bitter feeling in the family of Devasahayam the couple went to Kuntikadu at Kalkulam.

104. When did the resentment of the Brahmins against Devasahayam increase?

A discourse on the one true God by Devasahayam during the installation of

the Goddess Bhadrakali celebration at Devasahayam's Elangam Veedu made the Brahmins furious against Devasahayam and they began to devise a plan to get rid of him.

105. Was there any other incident which contributed towards the scheming against Devasahayam by the Brahmins?

Yes, there was a discourse on the sacred thread between Devasahayam and a Brahmin Mendicant, wherein he said that he was going to gird his loins with the so-called sacred thread.

106. Was Devasahayam a real threat to the Brahmin aristocracy and ascendancy?

Yes, he did challenge their position with heated arguments about turning their (Brahmin's) sacred thread into his waist thread.

107. How did the Brahmins scheme against Devasahayam?

After the two discourses about the true God and the sacred thread, the mendicant reported everything to Singaram Annah who was personal secretary to the king.

108. What did the Brahmin priests do next to fulfil their plan?

They could not keep quiet, so reported everything to Ramaiyan Dalava who was the prime minister of the country.

109. Did Devasahayam at any time profess that he was the leader of the Christians?

Yes, when an order was issued by the king to the Christians to renounce their faith he came forward to defend their faith.

110. What did Ramaiyan Dalava do to Devasahayam after receiving reports from the priests?

The prime minister, Ramaiyan Dalava, warned Devasahayam of the serious nature of the crime, and during the conversation the situation became hostile and Devasahayam said that if he was planning to persecute Christians for their belief in Christ, to begin with him.

111. How long did he function as a palace official after his Baptism?

He functioned as a palace official for four long years.

112. Why did they take four long years to apprehend Devasahayam?

The king was too preoccupied with other matters.

113. What was the positive reason for allowing Devasahayam to function as an official at the royal court for four years even after his conversion?

The simple positive reason for allowing Devasahayam to function as an official at the royal court for four years even after his conversion was that he put the interests of the State before everything else.

114. How many years did he serve at the court of Marthandavarma?

He served at the court of Marthandavarma for twenty one years.

115. Was there a change of role in the royal court after his conversion to Christianity?

Yes, there was a change of role. Earlier, he was one of the officers in charge of the Neelakandaswmi temple, then his job involved to distributing salaries to the soldiers who were doing construction works.

116. As an officer of the royal court was Devasahayam popular among the masses?

Yes, he was very popular among the soldiers and the landless peasants because he treated all soldiers as equals irrespective of castes and among the peasants, he tried to bridge the gap between the landed and landless by way of bringing changes in the leasing of land policies.

117. Was there any political reason for the king to postpone action against Devasahayam?

It is possible that the king wanted Western support for military weapons so he postponed action against Devasahayam.

118. Was the king well aware of the conflict between the new converts to Christianity and their opponents?

No, the king was not well informed.

119. What was the specific reason for the Brahmins to apprehend Devasahayam?

It was their hatred for the faith and for Devasahayam.

120. Did he take away any political documents?

No, the only reason recorded was that he brought about a rebellion.

121. What was the reason for the deceit, duplicity and scheming to get rid of Devasahayam?

He was giving able leadership to the impoverished Christian community.

122. Was there any immediate reason for Devasahayam's arrest?

No, there was no reason properly recorded.

123. During the arrest of Devasahayam what was De Lannoy's position?

He was warned by the king to keep his distance from the matters of Devasahayam.

124. Did the king warn anyone else on the matters of Devasahayam?

Yes, it is said that he warned all the priests on the coast that they should not draw the nobility to Christianity.

125. What was the foremost reason for Devasahayam to be arrested?

The foremost reason for Devasahayam to be arrested was nothing but brazenly disregarding the age-old caste rules and customs which were upheld as the ritual superiority of the people of noble birth.

126 Did the Brahmin priests report the allegations to the king?

Yes, the Brahmin priests reported everything to the king.

127. What did the king do after receiving the complaints?

After receiving the complaints the king ordered Devasahayam to be arrested.

128. When the king wanted to release him during incarceration, why did the Brahmins object?

They said that he had brought about a rebellion.

129. What was the rumour spread about Devasahayam?

The rumour spread about Devasahayam was that the king had condemned Devasahayam to the gallows for being unwilling to abjure his faith.

130. When was he arrested?

He was arrested on 23rd February 1749.

131. Where was he arrested?

He was arrested in his quarters at Padmanabapuram.

132. Before his arrest did he consult anyone?

Yes, he did consult De Lannoy.

133. What was the advice Devasahayam got from De Lannoy?

De Lannoy advised Devasahayam to fight with fortitude like an athlete of Christ.

134. What happened after the arrest?

The king found Devasahayam guilty of disobeying the law of the land, so ordered him to be imprisoned.

135. What was the next stage after his imprisonment?

The very next day the king ordered him to be beheaded at Kulumaikadu.

136. Did the officials execute the order?

No, Prime Minister, Ramaiyan Dalava, advised the king regarding political etiquette of beheading a Christian and the consequences it would have on any relationship with Westerners.

137. Did the king withdraw the order for beheading Devasahayam?

Yes, the king withdrew the command and ordered that he be imprisoned again.

138. How long did he suffer this imprisonment?

For about eighteen months he was imprisoned with severe punishments.

139 . What happened after eighteen months?

He was taken to the presiding officers to be interrogated and punished.

140. What was the first jail he was put in?

The first jail was Padmanabapuram.

141. What was the second jail he was put in?

The second jail was Thiruvithancode.

142. What was the main duty of the taluk official?

The main duty of the taluk official was to maintain law and order.

143. How long was he incarcerated in Thiruvithancode Jail?

He was in Thiruvithancode jail for 11 months.

144. How many days was he taken to the shaming parade?

He was taken to the shaming parade for sixteen days.

145. How many years were he chained?

He was chained for 3 years.

146. Why did they parade the imprisoned Devasahayam?

They wanted to terrorise the Christians with this shameful parading.

147. Why did they choose buffalo for the shameful parading?

They chose Buffalo because it was the animal used by the God of Death.

148. Why did they garland him with Carotropis Gigantea?

They garlanded him with Carotropis Gigantea because criminals were given this before beheading.

149. During the parade what was his ejaculatory prayer?

During the parade his ejaculatory prayer was "Lord, Help me."

150. How many villages did Devasahayam go through during the shaming parade?

Devasahayam went through 103 villages during the shaming parade of sixteen days.

151. Did Devasahayam evangelise the tribals at anytime?

Yes, on the way to Nedumankadu the tribals came to see him.

152. Did the shameful parading serve as a deterrent to the new Christians?

No, it did not serve as a deterrent.

153. During the parade did Devasahayam look pathetic?

No, he did not look pathetic; instead his calm and serene demeanour impressed the people.

154. Why did the taluk officials take interest in interrogating Devasahayam and give harsh punishments?

The taluk officials took interest in interrogating Devasahayam and gave harsh punishments because the one who succeeded in bringing back Devasahayam to the mother religion would be honoured by the king.

155. As a prisoner, did Devasahayam put on a victim's face?

No, he was very enthusiastic and used the opportunity to preach to visitors, fellow prisoners and soldiers.

156. How long did Devasahayam stay at Peruvilai?

He stayed at Peruvilai for seven months.

157. What kind of prison was he put in at Peruvilai?

Peruvilai was a kind of open prison, a sheepfold.

158. What was the miracle which took place at Peruvilai?

He blessed the barren lady of the jailor and she conceived and gave birth.

159. What was the reason that life as a prisoner at Peruvilai was comparatively not very cruel for Devasahayam?

The prison life at Peruvilai was comparatively not very cruel for Devasahayam simply because the soldiers began to treat him as a human being.

160. What was the reason for the change of heart of the soldiers, to treat Devasahayam as a human being?

The reason for the change of heart of the soldiers to treat Devasahayam as a human being was the unconquerable patience of Devasahayam which impressed the soldiers.

161. What was the soft side displayed by the soldiers?

The soft side displayed by the soldiers was that they did facilitate a clandestine flight for Devasahayam if he wanted.

162. Why did Devasahayam refuse to take a secret flight?

Devasahayam refused this because he realised a clandestine flight could

increase the persecution and torture of Christians.

163. Did Devasahayam have any other reason for not agreeing to the offer of a clandestine flight?

Yes, Devasahayam had already made up his mind to die as a martyr.

164. What were the other benefits available for Devasahayam?

The other benefits available for Devasahayam were that he could freely speak to the people and had the chance to receive the sacraments.

165. Who suggested that Devasahayam run away?

The jailor suggested this run away idea.

166. Did Devasahayam consider this idea to run away?

No, he did not consider it, but he did consult De Lannoy regarding the clandestine flight.

167. What was the advice given by De Lannoy regarding an escape from Peruvilai?

De Lannoy clearly said, "do not take flight without the knowledge of the king."

168. What was his first miracle?

His first miracle took place at Puliyoorkurichi, where due to thirst, he planted his elbow on a rock which gushed with water to quench his thirst. This still continues to give water.

169. What was his second miracle?

The second miracle was that through his blessings, the jailor at Peruvilai obtained a child.

170. While Devasahayam was incarcerated, did anyone represent the plight of the persecuted Christians?

Yes, catechists represented the cause of the persecuted Christians to Ramavarma.

171. Who was Ramavarma?

Ramavarma was the prince who succeeded King Marthandavarma.

172. Did the representation of the catechists have any effect?

Ramavarma went out of his way to help

distressed Christians and donated a piece of land on which to build a new church at Neman.

173. Could Ramavarma do anything to sympathise with Devasahayam?

No, he could not do anything since the case had been instigated by King Marthandavarma.

174. For how many years did Marthandavarma rule the country?

Marthandavarma ruled the country for 29 years.

175. What was the popular public demonstration of piety the king performed?

The king performed many public popular pieties as exemplified below;

October 4th 1735- Alpasi Ulsavam - Renovation of Padmanabaswamy temple.

March 1737- Tulapurusedanam - Weighing the body of the king against equal gold.

January 3rd 1749-Tirupadidanam- Laying down the state sword at the feet of Lord Padmanaba.

June 17th 1751-Hiranyagarbadhanam- Entering into a cow-shaped golden vessel.

Muraijapam (three times in 29 years)- 56 days of uninterrupted prayer.

176. What leads to a belief that Marthandavarma had great respect for Brahmins?

Marthandavarma had great respect for Brahmins because he listened to them all the time and acted on their advice. He even buried 15 children alive as a votive offering of his success at war, as the Brahmins advised.

177. What do we know of the negotiation skills of Ramaiyan Dalava?

Ramaiyan Dalava had very good negotiating skills; for instance, he paid money to invaders and averted war to settle matters.

178. How do we know that Ramaiyan Dalava was ruthless?

Ramaiyan Dalava was ruthless since there is evidence that when Marthandavarma was disrespected by the Nambudiries of Suceendram, Ramaiyan Dalava became wild and destroyed the houses of the Nambudiries.

179. Why did Marthandavarma go against the Christians?

Marthandavarma went against the Christians because he wanted to show himself as the defender of the majority.

180. What was Devasahayam's third miracle?

His third miracle was the marks left by his knees and elbows at Kattadimalai, Aralvaimozhi.

181. When was he shot down?

He was shot down on 14th January 1752.

182. Why was he shot down quietly?

He was shot down quietly due to the fear of public unrest.

183. What was the name of the Bishop who requested the priests to sing Te Deum for martyr Devasahayam?

It was the Most Rev Clemens Joseph SJ, Bishop of Cochin, who requested the priests to sing Te Deum for martyr Devasahayam.

184. What is the meaning of Te Deum?

The meaning is "God we praise Thee."

185. Where are his mortal remains buried?

His mortal remains are buried at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Kottar, as it was a prominent church in the town.

186. What marked the remembrance of his martyrdom at Kattadimalai?

In remembrance of his martyrdom at Kattadimalai, Our Lady of Sorrows church was built in 1820. Prior to the erection of the church, a Kurusady (small place of worship like a grotto) was built between 1752 to 1756

187. How did Devasahayam's martyrdom become popular?

Mostly it was through different forms of folklore such as drama, clap-dancing and ballads.

188. Who promoted the devotion of Devasahayam?

The devotion of Devasahayam was promoted by the Jesuit missionaries at the first stage.

189. Was there any fear in establishing the historicity of the martyrdom of Devasahayam?

Yes, there was fear in establishing the historicity of the martyrdom of Devasahayam because it might go against the avowed religious tolerance of the Travancore kings.

190. Is there any proof of his martyrdom?

Yes, Paulinus wrote on the life and martyrdom of Devasahayam.

191. Are there any Government records regarding his martyrdom?

Yes, Ward and Connor carried out a survey between 1816 and 1820 wherein they have noted the execution of Devasahayam.

192. Are there any controversies regarding the historicity of the martyrdom of Devasahayam?

Yes, Nagam Aiya had questioned the certitude of the historicity of Devasahayam's martyrdom.

193. Were there any proper answers to the controversy?

Yes, there were proper answers to the questions raised.

194. What was the objection raised by Nagam Aiya?

He questioned the compatibility of alleged religious tolerance of the kings of Travancore.

195. What was the response to Nagam Aiya?

There was religious tolerance to the lower castes but not to the upper castes who embraced Christianity.

196. What was the strongest testimony of Devasahayam's martyrdom?

A lay man was buried at the cathedral, an honour normally exclusive to clergy.

197. Was his martyrdom an apotheosizing?

No, he was buried in the historic Francis Xavier church by his contemporaries.

198. Who submitted the quinquennial report to the Holy Father regarding the martyrdom of Devasahayam?

The quinquennial report to the Holy Father regarding the martyrdom of Devasahayam was submitted by Most Rev Bishop Clemens Joseph SJ.

199. When was the report sent?

The report was sent in 1756.

200. Who was the Pope to receive the quinquennial report?

Pope Benedict 14th received the quinquennial report in 1756.

201. What was the quinquennial report?

The pastoral report of the diocese by the Bishops during their Ad Limina visit.

202. What is an Ad Limina visit?

The regular visitation of the Bishops to the cemetery of the Apostles.

203. What was the Catholic population of Cochin according to the quinquennial report of the Bishop?

The Catholic population of Cochin according to the quinquennial report of the Bishop was 120,000.

204. What did the Bishop say about the persecution in his quinquennial report?

The Bishop in his quinquennial report referred to the persecution as a dangerous storm.

205. To whom did Archbishop Joseph Clemens compare Devasahayam?

He compared him to the Old Testament character, Eleazer.

206. What did he say about him joining the Church?

He said that he had joined the Christian army.

207. What did the Bishop say about attempts to bring Devasahayam back to the mother religion?

He said that they debated, advised, made promises and finally threatened.

208. Did the persecution stop after the martyrdom of Devasahayam?

No, it continued - according to the

quinquennial report there was another persecution on July 1755.

209. When did the persecution end?

The persecution should have ended by 1757, when Marthandavarma died.

210. When did Ramaiyan Dalava die?

Ramaiyan Dalava died in 1756.

211. When did Gnanapoo Die?

She died in 1766 at Vadakankulam.

212. Who was the first Bishop to formally apply to the Congregation of Saints on behalf of Devasahayam?

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph Cariattil, on the 26th year of his martyrdom, in 1778, applied to the Congregation of Saints.

213. Who submitted the first petition to the Cardinals in Rome for the Canonisation of Devasahayam?

The first petition to the Cardinals in Rome for the Canonisation of Devasahayam was given by two persons, Archbishop Joseph Caryathil and Thomman Paremakkal.

214. Who submitted a report to the Holy Father regarding the martyrdom of Devasahayam?

A report to the Holy Father regarding the martyrdom of Devasahayam was presented by Paulino De S Bartholomeo, a Carmelite Missionary.

215. Who was Paulino De S Bartholomeo?

Paulino De S Bartholomeo was an Apostolic Visitor to the Kingdom of Travancore.

216. How long did he stay in India?

He stayed in India for 13 years.

217. What was the reason for the delay of the Process?

The reason for the delay of the Process was mainly that in the first place the cause of Devasahayam was dealt with by the Jesuit Missionaries. Since there was the Suppression of Jesuits during that time, they could concentrate very little on the Process and the spirit slowly died from the hierarchy.

218. When did the Canonical opening of the tomb of Devasahayam take place?

The Canonical opening of the tomb of Devasahayam took place in 1913.

219. Who donated the land to Puliyoorkurichy church?

The land was donated to Puliyoorkurichy church by Adichapillai in 1765.

220. When was the Puliyoorkurichi memorial built?

The Puliyoorkurichi memorial was built by Fr Joseph Andreas in 1870.

221. When was the Nattalam shrine built?

The Nattalam shrine was built on 30th December 1976.

222. Who built the Nattalam Shrine for Devasahayam?

The Nattalam Shrine for Devasahayam was built by Fr S Joseph.

223. What is the speciality of the Nattalam shrine?

The speciality of the Nattalam shrine is that the Sword and Axe used by Devasahayam are carefully preserved in the shrine.

224. What is the speciality of the Vadakankulam shrine?

The speciality of the Vadakankulam shrine is that the turban worn by Devasahayam is kept there.

225. What was the history of the Process?

It had many stages and phases such as Preliminary, Introductory, Diocesan and Roman.

226. At the Introductory Phase who took the initiative for his Canonisation?

At the Introductory Phase the Catholic Club of Nagercoil, a group of laity, took the initiative.

227. When did this initiative take place?

This initiative took place on 23rd October 1984.

228. Who were the elected lay members of this Beatification initiative?

A group of three; Mr Amalagiri Antoyimuthu, Mr Antony Thamburan and Mr P.J. Dhas.

229. Which Bishop initiated the Process in a Canonical manner?

The late Bishop Arokiasamy initiated this Process in a Canonical manner.

230. Who released the first prayer officially for Beatification?

Officially the first prayer for Beatification was released by the late Bishop Arokiasamy.

231. Who was the first spiritual guide to the committee which did the preliminary work for canonisation?

The first spiritual guide for canonisation committee was Fr Leon Tharmaraj.

232. What was the special event which enthused the committee?

His Holiness Pope John Paul II's visit to Thiruvananthapuram, India, enthused the committee.

233. What was the significance of this Papal visit?

A souvenir with the inscription of the two pillars of Kottar Diocese, St Francis Xavier and Martyr Devasahayam was presented to His Holiness.

234. What was the special contribution of the committee?

It made a very special contribution of historical research in book form.

235. When was the book released?

The book was released in 1988.

236. When was Fr Gabriel appointed as postulator?

Fr Gabriel was appointed as postulator on 1st January 1993.

237. When did the laity present a requisition to the regional Bishops?

The laity presented a requisition to the regional Bishops on 20th February 1993.

238. When did the committee get the Nihil Obstat for the same?

They got the Nihil Obstat in the same year, 1993.

239. Who granted the Nihil Obstat?

The Chairman of the Conference, His Grace Archbishop Arokiasamy.

240. When was the first tribunal constituted?

It was constituted on 3rd December 1993.

241. When did the Historical Commission present its report to the Tribunal?

The Historical Commission presented its report on 18th April 1995.

242. Who was the full time worker for the cause?

Bro Paul Chinnappan SJ was the full time worker for the cause.

243. Who was the main historian of the committee?

The main historian of the committee was Mr Amalagiri Anthonimuthu.

244. When was the monument of Devasahayam at St Francis Xavier Cathedral blessed?

The monument of Devasahayam at St Francis Xavier Cathedral was blessed on 3rd December 1999.

245. When did the practice of celebrating Martyr Devasahayam Day begin?

It started on January 14th 2001.

246. Who was the Diocesan Archivist who supported the committee?

The archivist who supported the committee was Rev Fr Antony.

247. What was the contribution of Rev Fr Dr Narchison?

Rev Fr Dr Narchison wrote the documented history of the Servant of God, Devasahayam.

248. What was the name of the book?

It was titled, "Martyr Devasahayam: A Documented History."

249. When was the new prayer card approved?

It was approved on 26th October 2003.

250. When did the diocese open a new office for the cause?

It opened a new office on 25th May 2004.

251. Who was the postulator at the Roman phase?

The postulator at the Roman phase was Rev Fr George Nedungatt SJ.

252. When was Fr George Nedungatt SJ appointed as postulator?

He was appointed as postulator on 14th November 2003.

253. When did Rome declare Nihil Obstat for the appointment of postulator?

Rome declared Nihil Obstat for the appointment of postulator on 22nd December 2003.

254. Who was the vice postulator for the Roman phase?

The vice postulator for the Roman phase was Fr Gabriel.

255. What was the significance of the postulators' visit to the diocese?

The significance of the postulators' visit

to the diocese was that he recommended a new Historical Commission for the cause.

256. When was the new Historical Commission appointed?

The new Historical Commission was appointed on 5th July 2004.

257. What was the task of the Historical Commission?

The task of the Historical Commission was to establish beyond doubt the fact of the martyrdom of Devasahayam.

258. What was the contribution of the new Historical Commission?

The contribution of the new Historical Commission was that the members of the

Commission found the original manuscript of Varthama Pusthagam (1773-1786).

259. Where did the Commission find it?

It was found in the archives of the Archdiocese of Ernakulum.

260. What was considered as the breakthrough of the Historical Commission?

The discovery of the Quinquennial Report of the Most Rev Dr Clemens Joseph SJ was considered as the breakthrough of the Historical Commission.

261. When was the museum of the Servant of God, Devasahayam opened at Devasahayam Mount?

The museum of the Servant of God, Devasahayam was opened on 12th January 2006 at Devasahayam Mount.

262. When was the retreat centre at Nattalam opened?

The retreat centre at Nattalam was opened on 14th January 2006.

263. When was the Supplementary Tribunal constituted?

The Supplementary Tribunal was constituted on 3rd March 2006.

264. When did the presentation of the cause to the Congregation for Causes of Saints take place?

The presentation of the cause to the Congregation for Causes of Saints took place on 15th November 2003.

265. When did the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) endorse the Cause of Devasahayam?

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) endorsed the Cause of Devasahayam on 9th January 2004.

266. When was the Diocesan Enquiry Commission inaugurated?

The Diocesan Enquiry Commission was inaugurated on 28th January 2006.

267. When was the Diocesan Enquiry Commission concluded?

The Diocesan Enquiry Commission was concluded on 7th September 2008.

268. When was the Diocesan Enquiry Commission Report sent to Rome?

The Diocesan Enquiry Commission Report was sent to Rome on 24th September 2008.

269. Who was appointed as Relator for the Cause?

Fr Zdzislaw Kijas OFM was appointed as Relator for the Cause on 9th July 2010.

270. Who was appointed as External Collaborator for the Cause?

Rev Msgr John Kulandai was appointed as External Collaborator for the Cause on 9th July 2010.

271. As External Collaborator what did Rev Msgr John Kulandai do?

As External Collaborator, Rev Msgr John Kulandai prepared the Positio (Position Paper) in July 2011.



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Dedication

to

Rev. Dr. E. John Kulandai



Notes

Prayer for Canonization of The Servant of God Martyr Devasahayam

God Our Loving Father!

We thank you for your Servant, Devasahayam, who, burning with love for Christ, your Son, willingly relinquished everything, underwent very many trials and was finally martyred on the hill of Kattadimalai at Aralvaimozhy and was buried in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Kottar.

You have endowed your Servant with deep faith and unassailable courage. Glorify him also with the honours of the altar that he might help us in our needs by his powerful intercession. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



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