**BHOOTHATH AZHWAR**

**MONTH**: Iypasi Avittam

**BIRTH PLACE**: Thirukadalmallai (Mahabalipuram)

**WORKS:** Irandam Tiruvandadhi

**NOTE:**

It was day time in Thirukkoilur, but the rain clouds have overcast the sky and cover of darkness spread all around. The torrential rain began beating the earth. Wandering Poigai Azhwar found out a small hiding place which was fit for one person to lie down. He had just occupied the space that Bhoothath Azhwar, coincidentally arrived there looking for a hiding place. Poigai Azhwar accommodated him by sitting, as only two persons could be accommodated by sitting. In the meanwhile, under strange coincidence, Peiazhwar also came soliciting against the heavy downpour. He was also accommodated as all the three preferred to stand because the space was too tight to accommodate three sitting persons. The darkness had become denser and inside the small room they were not able to see each other. In the meanwhile, they felt that some fourth one also forced his way among them.

The thundering of the clouds and associated lightning were frequently being witnessed. It so happened that some of the lightning could help flash light inside the room. The three azhwars could immediately see the fourth one with an exquisitely charming face; it was sublime and divine. The three azhwars could immediately realize that it was Narayana Himself huddling among them.

Poigai Azhwar wished to see His face continuously but the lightening was playing the hide and seek game. With a view to maintain the continuity of light and never miss the view of the divine face, he instantly composed 100 songs wishing the earth to be a big pot full of ghee of ocean where the sun could be the burning wick.

Bhoothathazhwar then sang 100 songs imagining to light the lamp constantly through ardent love for Him.

“Anbe Thagliyaa Aarvame Neyyaaga  
Inburugu Chintai Idu Thiriyaa  
Nanpurugi Gnaana Chudar Vilakku Etrinen  
Naaranarku Gnaana Thamizh Purindha Naan”

Meaning:

I who wrote this song that bestows wisdom, with love as the lamp, endearing involvement as the lubricant ghee and knowledge as the wick of the burning torch, dedicated myself to the service of the Lord.

The third one Peiazhwar sang another 100 songs where he could describe the enchanting charm of the divine face and described the association of Narayana equipped with Chakra and Sankha, and His divine consort goddess Lakshmi.

**STYLE OF COMPOSITION:**

Bhoothath Azhwar’s composition are set in the Andhadhi style. The word “Andha” means “end” and “Adi” means “beginning”. The most noteworthy feature of the work is that the ending word or the syllable of each verse becomes the beginning word of the succeeding verse and the last word of the hundredth verse becomes the beginning of the first verse, thus making the hundred verses a true garland of verses.

OTHER REFERENCE:

**Upadesa Rathinamala (Pasuram 4)**

Poygaiar Bhuthatthar Peyar , Pukazh Mazhisai

Ayyan Arulmaran Seralrkkon --Thuyya Bhatta

Nathan Anbar Thall Thuli Narr Paanan Nann Kaliyan

Ithivar Thorratthu Adaivu Aam Inghu

**Meaning:**

The order of avathAram of the AzhwArs in this earth is: Poigai Azhwar is First; Bhutham Azhwar is second; Peiazhwar is third; the reputed Thirumazhisai Piran is fourth; Nammazhwar of illustrious grace (Arul) is fifth; KulasEkara azhwar is the sixth ; the sacred Periyazhwar free of any blemish is the seventh;  Thondaradippodi azhwar (Bhakthangri Renu) is the eighth; Thiruppaan azhwar, the parama saathvikar is the ninth in order; dear Thirumangai azhwar is tenth .This then is the order in which they incarnated on Bhumandalam .(One may wonder about the absence of ANDAL and Madhura Kavi in the above list. Sri Manavala Mamunigal pays special attention to them later slokas of Upadesa Rathinamala).

**Upadesa Rathinamala (Pasuram 6)**

Iyppasiyil Onam Avittam Sathayamivai

Oppilavam Nalkal Ulahatthir !--Yeppuviyum

Pesu Pukazh Poykayar Bhuthatthar Peyazhwar

Tesudane Thonru Sirappal.

**Meaning:**

In this pasuram, Manavala Mamunigal tells, Oh, People of the World! Poigai azhwar, Bhuthath azhwar And PeiAzhwars have the distinct fame of being eulogized in every corner of the World.  If we were to ask as to which were the days in which they incarnated on this earth with their radiances, then they are Iyppasi Sravanam, Avittam and Sathayam respectively.

**Why they got the name of Mudhal Azhwars?**

Marrulla Aazhwarkalukku Munne Vanthu Uthitthu

Narramizhal Nool Seythu Naattai Uyttha -Perrimaiyor

Yenru Mudhal Aazhwarkal Yennum Peyar Ivarkku

Ninrathu Ulahatthe Nihazhnthu

By incarnating on this earth before the remaining seven Azhwars and by offering (to the people of the world) the means of salvation through the Divya Prabandhams of Mudhal Thiruvandhadhi, Irandam Thiruvandhadhi and Moondram Thiruvandhadhi, the first three Azhwars earned the name "Mudhalazhwars" -- a reference that has come to stay since then.

**Reference**

<https://varavaramuni.wordpress.com/2012/11/23/upadesa-ratnamalai/>

<https://varavaramuni.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/upadesa-rathinamaalai.pdf>