THE PREVAILING HOPE –RIVER VAIGAI

The etymology stands as (vai+gai=place one's hand) to give wealth and yield support for the agrarian culture prevailing in the south of tamilnadu especially the land of temples "Madurai" have the hubris owning this wealth.

I remember my childhood travel to Madurai “every people travelling in the train which flew above the bridge had dropped some coins inside the river”-my parents explained me “Vaigai multiples the wish we desire”! Let us turn back for little history:

The narrative starts with Lord Shiva who arrived Madurai to marry meenakshi with no one accompanying him but one friend ,the root cause of the birth of vaigai -Rakshasa kundodhara .Yes , Vaigai was ascertained as a result of his thirst for water ,where Lord shiva streamed ganges from his hairmass !(Wow what an enigmatic tale)

While Kumbh-Mela for Varnasi ;Pooram for Kerala ; Thirupathi for Andhra speaks loud; Tamilnadu is portrayed with this festive where Lord azagar from west of tamilnadu travels to attend the marriage ceremony of his sister Meenaksi and Lord sundareswarer but unfortunately the ceremony ended before he reached Madurai and place where he halted and turned fierce was river Vaigai and since then this is witnessed by the lakhs of devotees on this festive season of chitthiri

Every year! This occasion ,the “Chitthirai thiruvila”is celebrated in festive manner and let us hope this gala persists still madurai lives and tamil cherishes . make remembrance for our mother river Vaigai .

The flow  of Vaigai originates  from western ghats running through the ancient named pandiya nadu(madurai) and empties in palk strait .

***"punal yaaru andru idhu poompunal yaaru"*** stated by great sangam poet ilangovadigal in his maginificient work of silapathikaaram which describes ***"this is not river but a stream in blossom".***

Madurai ,the land which boasted the sangam literature and dravidian culture rejoiced the ownership of The Vaigai - the daughter of sky(as in silapathikaaram) within its territory .

But in present this is engaged to threat and lot of environmentalist and social activist tell this "sorrow of south india" -where gone its pride is what we thinking !

As vallur reminded "***Nedunkadalum thaneermai kundrum thadinthelile-***" means even river gets dried up when clouds fail to give rain and present scenario is the same;but blaming the rain alone cannot make this justifiable !

The main causes are believed to be caused from the living beings the so called humans -we fail to blame ourselves often but this is truth.

The necessity of the land areas ,search for water, need for sand and resources ultimately  leads to the exploitation of the rivers and in the case of Vaigai this goes still vulnerable .The treat for our mother river is high end and the actions we take are at very low cause -"the thermocol tale which we think all of a sudden" .Lot of initiatives are taken by the NGO's in and around madurai and the Madurai city corporation has invested a sum of amount on the rejuvenation projects ,but the results cannot be seen in a day "a seed sown should reap for beneficiary",likewise investing in restoration projects in vaigai will surely give hands for future generation .Even few months before the students from **TCE** underwent for a rejuvenation step towards our mother river (as published in thehindu).

Make wisdom live wise and cherish the future society is what the sorrow tale of Vaigai gives as moral !

***"Use nature for our need but not for our greed"-mahatma gandhi***