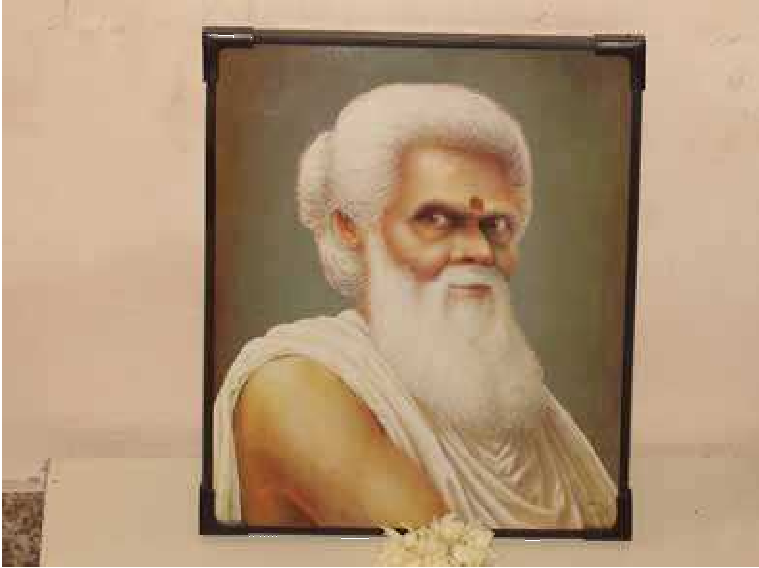


**CHAPTER 13**  
**NATCHINTANAI**  
**SIVA YOGASWAMI**

Siva Yogaswami



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## **SIVA YOGASWAMI - MASTER OF YOGA**

1. Siva Yogaswami was born to Ambalavanar and Sinnachi Amma on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1872 in Maviddapuram near Nallur in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Jaffna peninsula is situated in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. Nallur was once the old capital of the Tamil Kings and now, is situated in a suburb of Jaffna town. There, is Lord Murugan abode which is the most important temple in Jaffna dedicated to Lord Kandaswami. Siva Yogaswami lost his mother at the age of 10 and was raised by his relatives. After leaving school, where he acquired a good knowledge of English, Yogaswami joined government service and was employed as a store-keeper in the irrigation section of the Public Works Department at Kilinochchi, a remote forest region South of Jaffna. Though he did honest and punctilious work, Sivayogaswami was prompted by an inner anguish and a yearning for the realization of God.

It is said that in 1905, Siva Yogaswami found his Guru by name Chellappaswami, who was sitting under a Bilva tree outside the Nallur temple. It was at this moment that Sivayogaswami gave up his job and surrenders himself completely to his Guru. This situation can be said to be so similar to that of Saint Manickavasagar who met his Guru under a Karunda tree in Tiruperunthurai, centuries ago and renounced the world.

After the Mahasamadhi of Chellappaswami in 1911, Siva Yogaswami practiced severe austerities and intense spiritual discipline. He was seen living under a huge olive tree at Columbuthurai on the outskirts of Jaffna town. People of all ages and from all walks of life came to meet Siva Yogaswami and none went empty handed. Yogaswami was persuaded by his devotees to occupy a small hut near the tree he was living. At times the great Yogi would visit the house of his followers or would receive them in his hut. Yogaswami, the Gnani would also walk regularly a long way to visit Chellachchi Ammaiyar, a saintly

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1. Kilinochchi is 64 kms South of Jaffna.

154 *Singing with Saivite Saints* woman immersed in meditation and tapas. Once there he would feed Ammaiyar and do regular service. Sage Sivayogaswami used to visit many temples and chant inspired hymns.

Sivayogaswami was always '*summa*', yet constantly 'on the move'. He was ready to give help to those who needed it. His whole life was spent in this way. Siva Yogaswami, who gave no lectures and held no classes, is said to be as firm as Mount Kailash. His teaching was given spontaneously as it came. In December 1934, he requested his devotees to start a monthly paper devoted exclusively to religious subjects. In every issue would appear one of his songs. These songs were named '*Natchintanai*' (Good Thoughts). These songs flowed from him spontaneously and were written down at the time by the devotees. He was the mouth piece of the Divine.

In 1953 he gave his blessings at the request of his devotees to establish a place in Jaffna town, where they would meet. This was developed into a center where they gathered to sing devotional songs and do many other activities. The name of the paper, the institution and the organization was called '*Sivathondan*' meaning 'Servant of Lord Siva'. Siva Yogaswami preserved the tradition of Sri Chellappaswami in his heart melting songs, and in the garland of hymns, composed by him at different period of encounter with his Satguru and in his '*Natchintanai*' songs which was published for the first time in 1958. In many of his *Natchintanai* songs, Siva Yogaswami has sung the glory of the *groups of devotees* of Sivathondar.

Siva Yogaswami's *Natchintanai* handles a variety of Tamil poetic meters and rhythm with ease and assurance, and most of his inspired utterances have been set to music and are sung with great devotion by a large number of devotees.

Sivayogaswami attained Mahasamadhi in March 1964. The greatest of the mystics that he was, Yogaswami has contributed a lot to music by composing the hymns of the *Natchintanai* dedicated to Lord Siva.

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## **SIVA YOGASWAMI – NATCHINTANAI**

**Sollu Sivamey** sollu sivamey  
sollu sivamey sugambere maarkkam ondr u sollu  
sivamey vellum pagaiy ozhiya sollu sivamey  
veyru porul illaiyendru sollu sivamey allum  
pagalumara sollu sivamey anbey sivam endru  
sollu sivamey kallung karaiyak kavi sollu sivamey  
kaayamey kohyilendru sollu sivamey

allalattru vaazha vazhi sollu sivamey agam  
piramaasmi endru sollu sivamey ellavarkku  
nallanendru sollu sivamey ellaam sivan seyalaay  
sollu sivamey nillaathiv vaazh vendru sollu  
sivamey neeyum naanum ondrendru sollu  
sivamey pollaappu ingillaiyendru sollu sivamey  
putthadiyohm naangalendru sollu sivamey  
kollaamai perithendru sollu sivamey koosaamal evarmunnum sellu  
sivamey nalloor naduvirukka sollu sivamey naamey anaitthumendru  
sollu sivamey ullaasamaay engum sellu sivamey unmai muzhuthum  
endru sollu sivamey kallaarkkung gathiyendru sollu sivamey kattima  
naththaiyaalas sollu sivamey

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**MEANING**

Tell, O Siva, tell! Tell, O Siva, tell! The way to obtain happiness - tell, O Siva, tell That the overpowering foe may die - tell, O siva, tell That there is no second thing - tell, O Siva, tell That day and night may disappear - tell, O Siva, tell That Love is God Himself - tell, O Siva, tell A song that will even melt a stone - tell, O siva, tell That the body is a temple – tell, O Siva, tell

The way to live from sorrow free – tell, O Siva, tell *Aham brahmasmi* – tell, O Siva, tell That the Lord is good to all - tell, O Siva, tell That everything is Siva's work – tell, O Siva, tell That life is short and fleeting – tell, O siva, tell That there is nothing harmful here – tell, O Siva tell That we are new devotees - tell, O Siva, tell

That it is noble not to kill - tell, O Siva, tell Boldly go before all men - go, O Siva, go That we should keep good company - tell, O Siva, tell That we are all and everything - tell, O Siva, tell Joyously go everywhere - go, O Siva, go That everything that is, is real - tell, O Siva, tell That bliss is for the illiterate too - tell, O Siva, tell How to control and rule the mind - tell, O Siva, tell

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Nallur Kandaswami Temple - Jaffna, Srilanka

