

## Three Minutes - 25 Ohhhhhh, no. Not my people! Never!

tan aDiyAr tiRattu agattut  
tAmaraiyAL Agilum sidagu  
uraikkumEI  
ennaDiyAr adu seyyAr  
seydArEI nanRu seyAr enbar  
pOlum

(periyAzhvAr,  
periyAzhvAr tirumozhi 4-9-2)

தன்னடியார் திறத்து அகத்து  
தாமரையாள் ஆகிலும் சிதகு  
உரைக்குமேல்

என்னடியார் அது செய்யார்;  
செய்தாரேல் நன்று செய்தார்  
என்பர் போலும்

(பெரியாழ்வார்  
பெரியாழ்வார் திருமொழி 4-9-2)

Agilum = Even if  
tAmaraiyAL = shrI mahAlakShmI  
uraikkumEI = tells  
tiRattu = about  
tannaDiyAr = His devotees'  
sidagu = flaws (and)  
agattu = related information  
ennaDiyAr = "My devotees  
adu seyyAr = will not do those things  
seydArEI = (even) If they did it  
nanRu = (only the) good ones  
seydAr = they would have done"  
pOlum = it looks that (is what)  
enbAr = [the Lord] might have said.

viShNucittar (one in whose mind  
viShNu comes and stays), known as  
periyAzhvAr, was born in  
shrlvilliputtUr and was performing  
service (kaiMkaryam) to the Lord by

cultivating a small flower garden  
(nandavanam) and offering fresh,  
special garlands (mAIA) for the local  
deity. He is unique among all  
AzhvAr-s in blessing the Lord with  
his "tirupallANDu" translating to  
"Long live for many, many, many  
more years". His affection and loving  
care towards the Lord was so  
erupting (pongum parivu) that he  
could not control his motherly  
feelings of worrying about Lord's  
safety. It was so incredible, that he  
went so far to the extent of  
completely forgetting about himself  
as an ordinary human being  
(aki~ncana cetanan) and started  
blessing the all powerful Lord  
(sarvashakti bhagavAn).

To escape from bondage (samsAra),  
for any individual soul, there are only  
two options - bhakti (deep devotion  
and constant contemplation) and  
prapatti (total unconditional  
surrender); the latter is an easier to  
perform, quickly rewarding, and  
universally applicable. In this kali  
yuga, one needs to go through an  
AcArya (teacher, guru) and shrI  
mahA lakShmI (inseparable consort  
of shrIman nArAyaNa) for the  
prapatti process to succeed. They  
are the inevitable recommenders  
and mediators.

We, as cetana-s, are submerged  
under the ocean of sins (pApam-s),  
hold on to the mother's feet and beg  
her. Despite our ageless misdeeds  
and continued faults, lakShmI, by  
natural kindness (dayA) and extreme  
compassion (vAtsalyam), and  
tolerance (kShama), pardons us and

recommends to the Lord for mokSham (ultimate bliss). The Lord may be the final authority for mokSham, but He has no choice, when shrl mahA lakShml gives the recommendation. He may be the lord for everyone, but He still listens to His wife every single time. Thus, one notices the power that she wields and her ability to sway (vAllabhyam) Him. Her mediating efforts can be described as "She lies in between, where one side is the crib and the other side is the bed ( oru pakkam toTTilum, oru pakkam kaTTilum ) to take care of both of them".

AzhvAr describes here, an imaginary conversation between shrl mahA lakshml and shrlman nArAyaNa. lakShml was referring a cetana that she has recommended for mokSham, sometime in the past. Now, she wants to verify His steadfastness and likes to tease Him. She pretends and says " My dear, remember that cetana I recommended the other day! I didn't know then, but now after looking through his ledger of never-ending sins, it looks that he is the worst of all sinners. His actions are so bad that I am now second guessing about my recommendation. So, please forget about granting mokSham to him and withdraw your offer." Remember, this is just a test.

Hearing this, Lord gets really angry. Remember, this is true. He says "Not a chance! If I promise once, that is the end of it. I am never going back on My word. Besides, you said they are My devotees. They have

reached Me as the sole refuge. If it is so, they would not have done those (wrongful) actions, whatever you are mentioning. Even if they had done something, all I see is only good deeds. I don't see anything bad here like what you say". Thus Lord ascertains His promise. In essence, bhagavAn will reject any charges made against His devotees even if they were to arise from His own inseparable consort, shrl mahA lakShml herself.

When svAmi deshikan refers to tAyAr as utterly merciful and unaware of punishment (aj~nAta nigraham), why tAyAr, jagan mAtA (mother for the world) of all the people will do such an act, one may ask? She simply wants to assure the world that Lord will never go back on His word. He will not desert us. He will not let anything to stand in between Him and His devotees. The Lord is brimming with innumerable (asa~nkhyeya) noble qualities (kalyANa guNa-s). Among them, bhakha vAtsalyam (compassion towards devotees) and parama kAruNyam (extreme sympathy) stands tall. Because of this, when the cetana does prapatti once, He pardons and blesses him, however cruel he might have been in the past and keeps up His word, whatever comes up, as long as the cetana is still faithful like a married woman (pativrata).

Here, periyAzhvAr might have wanted to show the greatness of the Lord, but who wouldn't say such remarks about his/her son-in-law?

But shrl mahA lakShml goes one step above of Him to prove two things. 1. Lord will keep His promise (satya vratan), no matter what. 2. Affirm the poor souls like us, that He will never desert us. To prove that point, to show the world the greatness of her husband, she even hides all her natural noble qualities and pretends to say things that are quite contradictory to her character. Now ask yourself, who is greater of the two? shrlman nArAyaNa or shrl mahA lakShml?

But love is blind, and Lord  
cannot see  
Flaws of one, who made a  
frantic plea

What we learn from here -

1. **To err is cetana. to ignore is Ishvara.** Don't ever forget Lord's infinite mercy.
2. **Shrug off your anger and dislikes.** When all powerful Lord Himself ignores our faults, who are we to get mad on someone?
3. **Lift yourself high.** Bad feelings come from myopic and microscopic look. It takes a great heart to be magnanimous.
4. **Patience is not weakness.** Respect people who are patient. Don't go and tell them, "You are so dumb, if he would have done the same thing to me..." etc.
5. **Listen to your wife.** Generally, she is more right than you are. (I know, now I am getting into trouble!)