

ROLE OF MARUTHU BROTHERS IN SIVAGANGAI

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ABSTRACT

Agambadi is one of the backward communities among the Tamil Nadu Communities nowadays they mostly live in Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and Madurai districts in TamilNadu. Marudu brothers were one of the members in this Community when there was trouble in politics in Sivagangai, these brothers turned as leaders of people and safe guarded their dignity. The period between AD 1780-1801 seemed that Battle against the British. They administered the government well among many problems. They accomplished economy, art and literature work. They were not only good heroes but good rulers and patriotic.

Giving importance to some leaders is seen in Indian history. Some of the liberation heroes' history is unknown. So the purpose of this research is to focus the world on to omit such short comings and to show these heroes with the availability of sources. Observations, interviews, newspapers, books are used to conduct this research and analyze the basis of the approach of history.

KEYWORDS: Local rulers, Palayakarar, Kalayar kovil temple, Battle of Kalayar kovil

EARLY LIFE

Europeans came to Eastern countries for trade and cunningly interfered with those countries' politics and fulfilled their aims by creating conflicts among the rulers. The British were important among these Europeans. They were ready to do anything to safeguard their dignity in Indian territory (*Mahrada,2013*). So their inland rulers took actions against

English to control their activities. Those who were against whites were punished without any sympathy by the British in their early period. Tamil Nadu was not exceptional though the Inland rulers were all over the countries Maruthu Pandians ruled the country for twenty one years and they were challenged by the British.

The person Mokkaiahaniappan from Alagapuri Mukkulam in Virudhunagar district married to Anathai who was called as ponnaththal. She gave birth to Periya Maruthu in A.D 1748. He was called Vellai Marudu. He was fair and for this reason he was called. After five years Sinna Maruthu was born.

He killed a tiger in the forest with bare hands, used a weapon called as Valari and thrilled the neighbors, when the king governed the period, made people govern, constructed temples, followed religious activities (*Maareeswaran,A., 2010*). Declared war against the British for the first time. Produce liberation unions all over places of Tamil Nadu and cornered the British were some of quotes for their bravery and records of their regime.

Both were very good in education and war training when they were young, their bravery and records were spreaded all over the place. Peria Marudhu bent Arcadu one rupee coin with his fingers. Sinna Marudhu is also talented. Arcadu Navab Sent a pigeon. When It was flying in the sky Sinna Marudhu shot it with a weapon called vallari. Vallari is made of wood and used to attack a soldier. When one who throws this weapon to a foe, It attacks the foe and returns to the same person. To handle this weapon good practice must be needed. Otherwise it will kill the same person (*Kalaiventhan, M.,2009*).

Sinna Marudhu had some special characters. He could understand the weakness of foe – and used those weaknesses for his own benefit. What he thought was the correct thing, then he accomplished it. Every one of his deeds made the British fearful. His foes thought the people disagreed and they got fearful when they saw his activities. Ramanathapuram forts incharge Colonel Martins was attacked by Sinnamarudhu's brave deeds and became his friend.

Colonel Wesley learnt to handle Vel, Vallari Sward as Tamils war weapons from him. It was mentioned in his diary. When they were young they entered the place without knowing and body and touched those weapons and returned home and played with kitchen utensils as in battle.

BECOME MINISTERS

Muthu Vaduganathan was a king of Sivagangai who was one of the people who appreciated their brave deeds. Like him, his wife Velu Nachchiar is also a heroine. She had own history. So the king and queen gave ministers posts to the Marudhu brothers in their government. When Muthu Vadule Nathan went hunting a tiger appeared suddenly then these brothers fought with the tiger and saved the king and won the respect from the king and got appointed as leader of forces (*Mangaiyatkarasi, K., 2011*).

As many people of Palayam against British Marudhu Pandiars were only declared war against British Colonel Wolles mentioned that these brothers used to rock in battle at temple forest. Whites were surprised about their gorilla attacks. Colonel Agniwa stated that they were defeated in this battle.

Tanjour king took war against Ramanathapuram in A.C1770. At that time, Thamotheampillai was a minister who managed the situation and chased away the Tanjour king. Arcadu Navab saw this and feared then wrote a letter to the British requesting to send forces to fight against the Tanjour king. The British accepted his request and asked Kernel Smith in Trichy to help Navab (*Mangalaruby, S., 2015*). Continuously Nawab's son Umathul Umara joined with the army of the British and marched towards Tanjour and won the battle.

The Invasion at Ramanathapuram by the British and Navab's Forces

Navab requested the British to send the forces, and said false information that Ramanathapuram king and sivagangai king prepared for war and they wouldn't give ransom. A regime led by Joseph Smith moved to Ramanathapuram in A.D.1772 (*Mangalaruby, S., 2015*). King of Puthukudi Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman also sent his forces as support. By the end, the British easily conquered Ramanathapuram and put into jail a boy who was 9 years old and ruled the place at that time and his mother and relatives.

The Invasion at Sivagangai by the forces

And their victory at Ramanathapuram gave a path to sivaganagai. Strengthened forces of British Navab engaged in this battle. The King of Pudukottai also sent his troops. This coalition forces attacked Kaliyar temple which was a fort to Sivagangai. This battle is called the Kalayar temple battle in history. This coalition forces faced a big challenge: Marudhu

brothers' confidence and courage in battle came out in this battle. They actively participated against coalition forces Vellaimarudhu and Sinna Maruthu were ministers in those days, it was started before too. Rulers Muthu Vaduganathan and Velu Nachiyar also took part in this battle (*Mangaiyatkarsi, K., 2011*). However enemies were strong enough hence Muthu Vaduganathan sent his wife and Marudhu brothers then he thought with them only. Finally he was killed by the British brutally. After cutting his two hands and legs he was shot by cannon.

After the war the British were engaged in looking and got 50,000 Pagodas valued gold (*Ravikumar, N., 2009*). Sivagangai is in the hands of Navab. From that day Sivagangai name was changed to Usain Nagar. Ramanathapuram changed to Ali Nagar. People's lands were snatched and handed over to government supporters.

Marudhu brothers as rulers of Sivagangai

Navab divided Sivagangai as many united and left it for lease. This practice was no longer. People did not pay tax for lease. As a result violence broke out all over the country. Navab could not control the violences and he escaped and thought to hand over the country to Velunachiyar. He did what he thought was an opponent of British Hither Ali's activities, son Thippu sultan's activities are remarkable. As Velu Nachiyar doesn't have a son, Marudhu brothers come from *Servaikarar* family and they have heroism and ability to rule the country, she thought that it was better to hand over the country to Marudhu brothers, and did like that. Later Vellai Marudhu stated in his death declaration the power of ruling was handed over to him because he married (*Sanjeevi, N., 2014*).

However, Marudhu brothers' thankfulness for unity in Velu Nachiyar matters considerably when she was at Virupakshi with her son for 8 years; they safe guarded her and son carefully. When they took the ruling powers, they did many common works for the people. They thought that they could win people's support by doing these works. People considered them not only rulers but gods too (*Tamilarasan, S., 2007*). They ruled Sivagangai for 20years from A.D.1780 Velu Nachiyar died in A.D 1800.

Invasion again at Sivagangai by British

After Velu Nachiyar death created troubles at Sivagangai as the key of ash. He placed a question on how one can become ruler from the Servaikarar family among people. This made people to provoke the government. At that time Kaddapomman thought against the British. Hence they decided to take action against Kadapomman then to look into this matter.

After Kaddapomman was hanged to death, his relative as brother named Oomathurai escaped from the prison and became a refuge to the Marudhu brothers (*The Hindu*, 5 November 2008). As they gave refuge to him, anger of the British against the Marudhu brothers increased. As this is the background, the British marched towards Sivagangai in A.D.1801. They thought Kamuthi and the Marudhu brothers won the battle.

After that, the British attacked Sivagangai freely. When this battle was going on, before falling the capital Siruvayal of Sivagangai to the hands of British Marudhu brothers destroyed it and stayed at Kalayer temple with their soldiers. In this stage the British took the benefit of cash and appointed Uday Deivam as king of part of Sivagangai. The Friends of Marudhu brothers and well known people went to the British and turned as their agents. so, Marudhu brothers annoyed (*The Hindu*, 5 November 2008).

The British knew the secret that the Marudhu brothers were hiding in Piram mountain and attacked so they rounded up. The British were up in this battle. Hence Marudhu brothers reached Kalayer temple. Heavy battles took place in this place. The British used modern weapons and captured Kalayer temple. But the Marudhu brothers and Oomathurai escaped from there and reached Sangaraphthik fort. But a British agent showed them.

HANG TO DEATH

English people attacked the marudhu brothers at midnight. They thought that they would not fall into the hands of the British and escaped to the forest. Their government informed them to pay 4000/= Rs to the person who will capture the brothers. However, nobody saw them. Once they saw the three persons were going in the woods, and they attacked them. Periya Marudhu got injured in the leg and other two men lifted him. At that time the British captured them (*Mangaiyatkarasi, K., 2011*). They were imprisoned in Tirupattur fort. Then they were hanged to death. Oomathurai was taken to

Panchalangkuruchchi and hanged. They didn't stop. Relatives of Marudhu brothers, friends were taken to the prison and given punishments.

WORK OF TAMIL LANGUAGE

Even the Marudhu brothers faced many problems; they did their work as the people. Their work for Tamil is great. There were 21 poets in their regime. Sawathu poet, Muththuvél poet, Vethantham Muththuvél poet, Vethantham Subramaniampillai, Muththuparathy, Second Sakkarai poet, Muththumari poet are some of them. The songs written about them are now in use. The Marudhu brothers gave a village for the poets as presents. As the three kings regime, not only Sward and Valari rise up but books and pens too (*Mangalaruby, S., 2015*).

Once Periya Marudhu decided to construct a food house at Kalianagari and came there. Sargarai poet from Sirugambai heard this and decided to write a poem “Adda Nagabandham” and to give it to him. His son also wrote a poem and kept it inside his father's book. When the father gave his poem to the king he read the poet's son's poem then he called that boy and praised. Then he was given a place in the poets lobby – and named as Santhup poet.

Lord Kundrakudy Murugan cured Peria Marudhu's *Pilavai* illness. Hence he constructed boundary wall halls and ponds. He asked poet Shanthu to produce Mauragiri kovail of lord Murugan and staged it in A.D.1799 (*Ravikumar, N., 2009*). He gave clothes and jewelry and presented a village Maruthangudi near Kalayer temple. In these 14 songs it tells the glory of lord Murugan and Marudhu Brothers' contribution.

“Valli Mayilser Mayinmalaike

Maruthaiyan Seitha

Mayilai Virumbum Kuganarul

Venthan ” (Tamil Poem)

Poet Shanthu was happy with the Marudhu brothers' love; not only was he a poet but engaged in battle too. After the British destroyed the Marudhu brothers' he also died.

Once, Muththu poet and his wife from the country Kamuthy were coming to meet Marudhu brothers, and the thief stole wife's chain. Poet was coming with a crying face to the palace. Then the Marudhu brothers gave him a new chain and asked him to wear it for his wife. Their fame was in history. Arcadu Navab sent a spy named Kalaiman towards the Marudhu brothers. But he was afflicted by Periamarudhu's behavior. He was friends with them later as he changed his mind. Periya Marudhu was attracted by Kalaiman's heroism. The Kalaiman sent a message through a pigeon of Arcadu Navab. Sinna Marudhu was suspicious about this; finally Kalaiman was killed by Sinna Marudhu. When Periamrudhu heard this, he felt sad. Even though he was the enemy's man, he praised his heroism and made a school for him (*Kalaiventhan, M., 2009*).

GENERAL SERVICES

In their 21 years of service, they constructed many temples during 10 years which seemed quiet. Kuntrachkuddy temple Kalayer temple, Thirumohur Perumal temple, two temples at Narikuddy, temple at Veerakudy, Tirupattur temple, Thirukoddiur temple, Thiruppachethtur temple, Memble Alah temple, Sarugani made temple were some temples repaired by them. They constructed temples without showing any difference or cash and religion. They constructed a 151 feet tall tower at the entrance of Kalayer temple. The Marudhu brothers also were fond of art like morals. They dug wells and ponds. Ponds in rural areas are called Pandiankulam nowadays too. Considering the safety of the region they constructed fort too.

They constructed public houses and handed them over to poor people. We can mention the rest houses at Narikuddy, Pampan, Kadiyoor, Mana Madurai. Their glory spreaded not only in Tamil Nadu but all over India by their deeds. Some of Kannathan's poet lines describe the Marudhu brothers regime.

“Sivakangai Valrtha Dhevar

Thirukkovil Kattik Kaakka

Navamani Vilaiyum Boomi

Nalkinar Thunaijum Ninrar” (Tamil Poem)

In the beginning the British kings made many struggles against them. When considering Tamil Nadu, who were in power in Southern parts such as Ramanathapuram, Thooththukuddy, Madurai, Tirunelveli were big challenges for the British. Marudhu brothers are among them. They thought against the British until last not only they thought, they cindered the plan of work of welfare. They gave support to Tamil and Poets. Maintained understanding among religions.

CONCLUSION

Marudhu brothers work and contribution is respectable at Sivagangai in history. They changed a small region as respectable in history. From the beginning of joining with Muththu Dangantham and till hang to death their activities were in struggle. They were joined to work against the British and they were able to work as a plan and compare with the British. However they were beaten by the British, their instinct to liberate as not to give tax, not cooperate was not beaten. They had the chance to continue their government with the support of the British; in any situation they didn't get their support. As they needed freedom, they opposed the British. Hence they considered the British not as their foe, but common enemy. They were an example for cooperating with religion. The Political aims were seen only by some Palayam people. Marudhu brothers were the first in those. In any situation, foreigners could not win them, so they selected cast as an arrow of last weapon. Their attempt was successful. The Tamil Nadu government released a stamp of their heads and gave them a glory that was remarkable.

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