

Rare Sculptures at Thudaiyur - A Study

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Thudaiyur Temple is situated at on the northern bank of the river Kaveri. 17 kilometres distance from Thiruchirappalli to Musiri Road is occupied an unique and important temple in Tamilnadu. This temple was mentioned in an inscription as Kadambandurai Mahadevar. Now it is known as Vishamangaleswara Temple. Appar mentioned about this temple in Devaram hymns.¹

Vishamangaleswara temple has an Eka Tala Vimana, Mukha Mandapa and Thiruchchurru also.² Thudaiyur Temple belong to the Early Chola Period.

RARE SCULPTURES

Siva and Uma

On the west side niche is occupied by the Lord Siva and Uma . It is the most and peculiar scene is depicted by sculptor in this temple. We cannot see this peculiar form of Siva and Uma in the hugging form in any temples in an around Tamilnadu. Mainly on the west is allotted for Lord Vishnu or Lord Siva in the form of Lingotbhava or Lord Harihara. Here it is allotted for Lord Siva with Uma , this temple being peculiar one because of this sculpture.³

Lord Siva had Four hands. Front right hand is in chin, Left front hand is in (UMA) hugging form. His back hands carried Deer and Axe. Forehead, Panaiolai Kundala, Sarappali, jadamakuta, sacred thread, bangles rings idaikkaattu, muthumalai, udarabandha , half-dress and ornaments in the foot also. Smiling face is also seen in the sculpture itself.

Uma

It is very nearer to Siva one can see uma in a standing pose. She wears Sadaimakudam, Makarakundalas, shoulder ornaments studded with stones , Sarappali, Muthumalai, Svarnavakaksham , bangles, foot ornaments, Idaikkattu and wearing a Silk dress. Her left hand is in Katiyavalambita.

Mukha Mandapa – North

On the Northern side of the Mukha Mandapa is seen either Korravai or Makidasura Mardhini. In most of the Temples in Tamilnadu we can only the above said sculptures only depicted by the sculptors. But here there is a different sculpture can be seen. We cannot see this type of sculpture in any temple. This is the first time the sculptor is also attempted for this form of it.⁴ Whether this sculpture denotes either for a Queen or Deity. During the Pandya Period anybody can see Amman Deity with two hands. During the Chola Period Amman has Four hands. Here , There is a best Example for Thudaiyur Vishamangaleswara temple is Lord Amman. She has only two hands. Her right hand is holding lotus, left hand is in Katiya Valambita. There is no other object is seen. Karanda Makudam, Panaiolai Kundalam Sarappali, Muthumalai, Shoulder ornaments, Svarna Vaikaksham, Bangles, Breast band, Silk dress. Thiruvasi is decorated with fire form. It is a rare piece of Sculpture depicted by the Sculptor especially in this temple.⁵

Both of these sculptures belong to the Early Chola Period. Recent Research of this temple is also made by the scholar. One of the Measure is also pointed out here. ILUVAI is inscribed it on the Pattika of the Thudaiyur Temple.⁶

On the basis of Architecture, sculptures and inscriptions we came to know that this temple belongs to early part of the 10th century A.D.

Foot Notes

1. 6th Thirumurai, Adaivu Thandagam, hymn no.4.
2. Field Work on 15-09-2017 & 29-09-2017.
3. Field Work on 28-04-2019
4. Field Work on 12-05-2019
5. Dhinamani, 31-10-2017
6. The Hindu, 31-10-2017.