

The Second Agamic Ritual Garbhanyanam

The second Agamic ritual after the Silanyasam is Garbhanyasam to be performed at the level of the sanctum sanctorum. A metal box containing 25 compartments in which various herbs, diamonds, precious minerals varieties are propitiated as the Garbha embryo of the Deity to be installed. An appropriate Yantram is also to be placed at the bottom of the box. Siva Sree Swaminatha Sivacharya, Principal of Dharmapuram Agamic Patasala and recognized as an authority in Sivagamas had been requested to prepare the Yantram. The Yantram was prepared and promptly sent to H.H. the Paramcharya blessed the Yantram and dispatched it to the Temple authorities through a special emissary. Shri V.Ganapathy Sthapati had also prepared a Yantram model on paper and had it blessed by His Holiness before coming to Delhi. A day before the Garbhanyasam ceremony, the two yantrams were compared to make sure that the two yantrams were compared to make sure that the two were one and the same. To everyone's surprise, it was noticed that the Sivacharya's Yantram related to Siva Garbham and was at variance from the Shanmukha Yantram of Lord Skanda. As stated earlier, both the yantram had been blessed by his Holiness. There was a dilemma whether we have to reject one or the other. There was no time matter. The devotees felt that it was perhaps the ordainment of Lord Swaminatha Swami that both the Yantrams should be placed before the Garbha. It was then decided that on the reverse side of the silver yantram received from Shri Siva Swaminatha Sivacharya, the Skanda Yantram should be engraved and this was done overnight. The Garbhanyasam ceremony was observed in all solemnity at the appointed hour, on the appointed day. The Garbha was laid at the appointed place along with the Sivaskanda Yantram by His Holiness Jagatguru Sri Krishna Bodhashrami, Sankaracharya of the Holy Bhadri Peetam. A very large number of devotees had gathered to witness the event and the Garbha was overflowing with liberal donations and offerings like gold rings, bangles, chains, necklaces and other ornaments. Thus, Lord Swaminatha Swami of Uttara Swamimalai was graciously pleased to choose the name of "Sivaskanda" as distinct from the name "Gnana Skanda", adopted by HIM in Dakshina Swamimalai. In a way, this was perhaps the pleasure of the Lord to confirm Gargi Dutta Mishra's insight that a Siva temple had existed on the spot in ancient times.