

Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa

South Jersey Ayyappa Bhajan Group

Ayyappa Mandala Pooja and Bhajan

8th December 2018



We invite all the devotees to participate in the event coordinated by South Jersey Ayyappa Bhajan Group (<https://www.facebook.com/SJABG/>) under guidance of Sivaguru Kumaraswami Dixitar.

Sri Rajaganapathi Temple

774 Paulsboro Road

Swedesboro

NJ 08085

Ph: 856-241-1008

Program:

- 9:00am Abhishekam (Sponsorship \$101)
Bhajans (Bridgewater Ayyappa Mandali,
Sai Datta Peetam, Delaware Ayyappa
Group)
Chendamelam
- 1:00pm Annadhanam

For more information, please contact:

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Manoj Purushothaman - 732-887-4127

Ram Thekkekara - 215-692-2669

LORD AYYAPPA – BIRTH STORY

Goddess Durga killed the demon Mahishasur, his sister, Mahishi set out to avenge her brother's death. Mahishi had a boon from Lord Brahma that only a child born of Lord Vishnu and Shiva could slay her, so She was indestructible. To save the world from annihilation, Lord Shiva (Ayya) weds Mohini (incarnation of Lord Vishnu (Appa)) , and thus Lord Ayyappa was born.

Then, the ruler of the dynasty, Pandalam King Rajashekhara, the childless monarch adopted Ayyappa, who was left on the banks of Pampa river after his birth. When it was the time to name the heir to the throne. King Rajashekhara wanted Ayyappa to become king, but the Queen wanted her other son to be named the King. Ayyappa tricked by the Queen, goes to the forest for getting milk from a tigress (to save the Queen from a mysterious health issue).

On his way, he realized the purpose of his incarnation on Earth, and was to kill the demoness Mahishi. Lord Ayyappa and Mahishi had a fierce battle, and she died in Ayyappa's hands, and received moksha. Later, King Rajashekhara and Queen realise that Lord Ayyappa is no ordinary child, and request him to accept the throne. But Ayyappa refuses and goes to the heavenly abode.

THE FAMOUS PILGRIMAGE OF SABARIMALA

The temple is situated on a hilltop (about 3000 feet above sea level) in Kerala. King Rajashekhara constructed a temple for Ayyappa and was designed by the great Architect of Gods, Vishvakarma. The idol was carved by Sage Parasuraman, and installed it on the day of Makara Sankranthi.

Sabarimala Lord Ayyappan/Dharmasastha is a "Brahmachari" in a state of eternal bliss or Samadhi, holding "Chinmudra". Pilgrimage to Sabarimala begins from the 1st of Vrichikam, (in Nov) and devotees observe a 41-day penance. They should also avoid any physical abstinence from physical pleasures and other family ties and should live like a celibate or "Brahamachari". Pilgrims carries Pallikettu or Irumudi (A two compartment bag offerings including the sacred ghee for Neyyabhishekam [significant ritual involves pouring sacred ghee] carried on their heads). Pilgrims take the traditional forest routes as well as the one from Pamba which is less physically challenging to reach the temple., and then should bravely steep climb 18 stairs (Pathinettampadi) at sanctum sanctoruim. The temple is open to devotees belonging to all religions