

In search of true knowledge

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During our search for ancient sacred symbols, we have observed many symbols on temple floors, rock surfaces, and erected stone slabs, along with ancient inscriptions and other engravings, etc. In order to decode these symbols, we have referred to a lot of books, but we find that only in a few books is the description of the symbols given, and the symbols are very few. We realized the journey would be tough, but the experience of finding sacred symbols is not as hard as the struggle in decoding their exact meaning. To put it honestly, we need to maintain an extraordinary interest in the research and study of sacred symbols, for we spend a great amount of energy in all aspects in order to acquire the sacred knowledge that was secretly kept within the symbols by our ancestors.

In our presentations on sacred symbols in symposiums and seminars, a few common questions were asked by many of audiences, students, and interested personnel during the questioning period: Why you are doing this research and study? What benefit have you gotten from it? We replied: In fact, these questions are really the hundred-million-dollar question. Even though we spend large amounts of energy, both physically and financially, we continue to do so without any expectations. What we get is the perfect satisfaction of the soul (*atma thirupthi*, in Tamil).

We would like to emphasize here that if no one comes forward to continue the research and study of sacred symbols, all their knowledge will totally vanish. As a result we will forget the history of our country. First and foremost, we would like to state that the author of this article found a group of symbols belonging to

Buddhism (6th Century A.D.) as well as an inscription from a later period near the Keezhakurichy village (behind Tiruchirapalli International Airport), of which the archeology department of Tamil Nadu, Tiruchirapalli, has been informed. Knowing the significance of these symbols, the Director of the above-mentioned department at Chennai published the same through all the communication media. As an end result, scholars from all over the world are visiting this particular site. Today this sacred site is well known by our country (mother India) and also by the other parts of the world. It should be noted that “the country which forgets her history and culture, will automatically forget herself”. Hence, we request that each and every one of us take an interest in sacred symbols and at least try to search for them, informing concerned researchers about their findings.

We also request that our sisters and brothers give importance to our own Intelligence (*Buddhi*) and not merely to our mind (*manas*). Intelligence is inherent in our body, the best friend for our life. The mind is the root cause for our entire struggles, and the temporary happiness and misery in our material life. Both happiness and misery are the outcome of the action and reaction of our mind. The mind is the commander, the five organs of action are the soldiers, and the five sensing organs are the feelers of the experience of the battlefield. The five vital forces (*prana*) will try to set the body and control the entire functioning of the body with respect to victory or defeat (happiness and misery), with its limitation. The disturbance of the functions of *pranas* is the cause of diseases.

There is no permanent happiness in this material world; this material happiness is an illusion or *Maya*. We can compare ourselves to those who are searching for happiness and traveling towards the mirages (*Kanalni*). Once they reach the spot, they find it is not true water. They will see the same mirage in the far distance, and move towards it, only to find again it is not true water. Even after knowing the mirage is not water, they continue their journey towards illusion; it

is due to their ignorance, which means we are all ignorant. Ignorant? Yes, we are ignorant. How? There is no permanent happiness in this material world. If we are happy today, tomorrow comes misery. Do we agree and believe this? We hope at least a few readers of this article will believe it; those who do not believe it will certainly do so during their next birth in this material world.

Let us take a few minutes to learn about belief and non-belief. Soon after we are born from our mother's womb, we cried, and our mother fed us milk. Who told or taught us the art of sucking the milk from our mother's breast? We identified with our mother, with smell of her body, and slept comfortably by her side. How did we get the knowledge of sensing through smell? She fed us water, juice, food, etc., and we accepted it. Even if she fed us poison, we might have taken it with out any objection or suspect. In that period of time there was no duality, such as belief and non-belief, acceptance and non-acceptance, because our Intelligence was alone functioning. The Intelligence (*Buddhi*) is the gifted power and also inherent in each and every being. Once we give importance to our Intelligence, the mind will automatically get set aside and duality will vanish. ***Let us remain as a child to the mother, the universal mother, till the end of our life.*** We will know the universal truth, the universal true love, the true love of mother goddess, the knowledge of universality, which lead us to know "the unity and diversity", the pathway to "heaven", the highest region, the origin, where each and every being came from and where we all must return.

Five-pointed Star

Sky, Air, Fire, Water and Earth are the five basic elements; our body is the combination of the same, and the universe is too. This was symbolically indicated as five-pointed star, which can physically be seen at many sacred sites. The five-pointed star is the symbol of remedy. Remedy for what? "It is vitalized as a safe

safeguard against destruction, evil and sin, and for good”.¹ In the Shyam-Kali Yantra, a downward triangle can be found at the center of five-pointed star, but in many cases, the downward triangle will be hidden as an invisible form, which is the power of the mother goddess.

Instead of the five-pointed star, the ***"Kangling"*** was shown in Buddhist symbols. *Kangling* is a ritual trumpet made of human thighbone. When blown, it serves to drive away evil forces and is mostly used by Tibetan Lamas.² As solid evidence, the symbols of a ***"Monkey"*** and a ***"Kangling"*** on top of an ancient inscription along with sacred symbols can be viewed on the stone surface, and in front of the temple gate of mother goddess at Kudumiyamalai, in Pudukottai district, Tamil Nadu, India. ***The symbol of Kangling is also very familiar among indigenous Americans.***

Trisul or Trident

The *Trisul* is a sacred symbol associated with five-pointed star. The Trident or *Trisul* is the divine weapon of Siva and Sakti. The *Trisul* is an exact replica of the trident of Poseidon and Neptune, the former being the Greek and the latter being the Roman mythological sea-god. This one is pre-Vedic though, circa 3000 B.C. Erecting a pole (similar to the trident) with three branches is one of the ceremonies in Indian Hindu marriage functions.

“The three prongs of this weapon denote the three attributes of God as creator-preserver-destroyer; the shaft represents the axis of the universe. It should be noted that the weapon of Lord Siva is called ***'Sulla'***. Like the thunderbolt, it is a magical weapon that drives away demons. Like the cobra, it is an element of

Lord Siva. It is also the weapon of mother goddess Durga and is an attribute of Agni (Fire), the fire god of 'Mahakala', the ferocious manifestation of Lord Siva."³

The weapon of the mother goddess is known as "**Trisulla**", which is the reason the mother goddess is called '**Trisulli**'. The three prongs of this weapon denote the three attributes of *sakti* (power), *iccha*, *Crea*, and *Gnana*. The center-most one is '*Gnana*'. The shaft represents the Universal *Vidya* (knowledge), known as **Sri Vidya** or **Brahma Vidya** or "**Knowledge of Immensity**". The path to attain the knowledge of immensity is **Sri Vidya path**. Let us set our mind and turn towards the "**Trisulla**".

Mind is compared to 'monkey', which appears to be a common symbol for mind all over the world as well as in all "isms". The following sisters and brothers confirmed the presence of the monkey symbol all over the world: *Shreemathi. Susan Wilett (UK), Madam. Liz Forrest (Ireland), Patrica Anne Davis, the indigenous Indian (USA), Madam Pattee (USA), Shree. Rob Milne (South Africa), Shree. Gary A. David, Shree. Jack Andrews (Arizona, USA), Shree. Gene D. Matlock (California, USA)*. Each and every one of us is fully aware of our mind, that it can travel a very far distance and return within a fraction of second. It never remains cool and calm; it goes here and there, thinks about this and that. It is the root cause for all our happiness and misery in this physical world. All the "isms" emphasize controlling our mind to attain bliss.

Is there any symbolic evidence? We present a group of sacred symbols, one inscribed on the rock surface, the other two on stone slabs, which are found in and around the city of Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India. The hidden sacred meanings have already been discussed earlier in this article. The upright tail of the monkey also has to be emphasized.



Let us jointly give thanks to our ancestors, those who left the sacred knowledge secretly in the form of symbols. Comments and remarks are most welcome along with feedback from scholars as well as readers.

Let us join together and continue to search, search for what? To search for the real truth and the true knowledge in www.srilalitha.org. If anyone is interested in having the above pictures and their locations, kindly contact us.

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References:

01. *Yanta, the tantric symbol of cosmic unity*, Madhu Khanna
02. *Sacred symbols of Buddhism*, J.R. Santiago
03. *Sacred symbols of Buddhism*, J.R. Santiago