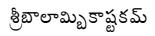
shrI bAlAmbikAShTakam



Document Information

Text title : bAlAmbikAShTakam File name : bAlAmbikAShTakam.itx Category : aShTaka, devii, otherforms, devI, dashamahAvidyA Location : doc_devii Transliterated by : N.Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in Proofread by : N.Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in Translated by : N.Balasubramanian bbalu@satyam.net.in Description-comments : skAnde vaidyanAthamAhAtmye Latest update : November 26, 2004 Send corrections to : sanskrit@cheerful.com

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February 3, 2023

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Introduction: Vaidheeshvarankoil is an important place of pilgrimage in Tamil Nadu State. The place is situated near the Chidambaram famous for its Nataraja temple. The presiding deity is Lord Siva, known as Vaidheeshvaran. The Devi is known by the name of Balambika. Lord Siva is said to have been worshipped by Jatayu, the eagle famous for his part in Ramayana and the Sun, Mars and the vedas themselves. So the place has the names Jatayupuri, Suryapuri, Angarakapuri and Vedapuri. Lord Siva at this temple is said to relieve the worshippers of their sins and other problems. It is at this place only Lord Kartikeya is said to have obtained the spear with which He could fight the demon Soora . So His shrine in this temple is very popular and attracts large number of devotees. Lord Siva at this temple had been worshipped by sages and siddhas. Saivaite saints (known as Nayanmars) have visited the temple and sung songs in praise of the Lord. People believe that by worshipping the Lord here they can get rid of even serious diseases: hence His name Vaidheesvara. The following verses in praise of the Devi appear in the Skandha

Purana. పేలాతిలఙ్ష్యకరుణే విబుధేన్ద్రవస్దేయ లీలావినిర్మితచరాచరహృన్ని వాసే । మాలాకిరీటమణికుణ్డల మణ్డితాజ్గే బాలామ్నికే మయి నిధేహి కృపాకటాకషమ్ ॥ ೧॥ కంజాసనాది-మణిమజ్జు-కిరీటకోటి-ప్రత్యుప్తరత్న -రుచిరజ్జిత-పాదపద్మే । మజ్జీరమజ్జులవినిర్జితహంసనాదే బాలామ్నికే మయి నిధేహి కృపాకటాకషమ్ ॥ _____

మల్లీనవీనకలికానవకున్దజాలే । బాలేన్దుమజ్జులకిరీటవిరాజమానే బాలామ్బికే మయి నిధేహి కృపాకటాషమ్ ॥ ౧౦॥ బాలామ్బికే మహారాజ్ఞి వైద్యనాథప్రియేశ్వరీ । పాహి మామమ్బ కృపయా త్వత్పాదం శరణం గతః ॥ ౧౧॥ ॥ ఇతి స్కాన్దే వైద్యనాథమాహాత్మే్య శ్రీబాలామ్బికాష్టకస్తోత్రం సంపూర్ణమ్ ॥

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