

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 20
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 10/80
 (3) ஆதரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10/80

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

Jackie நிறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	2627	அச்சு பலவகை
நாள் :	2-11-1969	198

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

10/80/15 21/11

10
This is a copy of the
original reading by Mr. J. C. B. 18/10

10
18/10

MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:—

1. There is a celebrated temple
Temple, which is held in very high esteem
and villages and the 18 other villages and
many numberless pilgrims resort to them
to present their offerings and to perform

at parts of

2. The only Ootchavam which is celebrated in that temple is the Ootche-
vum called "Sodal Kanti" Ootchavum, is related by the newspapers as the "Hook-
swinging" festival, and it is one in which according to the prevailing belief of the
natives, a man is appointed by the Goddess, and on the day of the Car festival, the
selected man voluntarily comes forward and is pulled up in a pole placed in the car
and is sustained by two hooks attached to the pole, and the car is driven with the
Goddess on through certain streets.

3. The Petitioners submit that during the long series of years during
which the said festival had been performed, there had not been a single instance in
which the man that had to undergo the said penance had sustained any injury,
much less in which any casualty had happened, even though in the natural course
of events it is impossible that the man should not be grievously hurt.

4. Your humble Memorialists attribute this most remarkable state of
things in the selected man coming down from the pole in full consciousness and
without any serious injury whatever, to the act of the Almighty, in whom full belief
is placed not only by the selected man, but by the whole mass of worshippers who
attend the festival; and this act is calculated to inculcate in the minds of the igno-
rant masses in a practical manner that firm faith in God and God alone, and full
belief in his Divine Revelations, cannot but bring home to the believer the greatest
amount of happiness and prosperity, and that it will relieve him from any difficulty
whatever, be it so great as the position in which the selected man is placed, swing-
ing as he is amidst the hooks, and it is this simple truth that is underlying in this
practical deed, which is taught in eloquent words on the pulpit and upon the plat-
forms by the leaders of every religion, though with less force.

that up till the year 1875 or there-
place, your Memorialists and their an-
and the seasons have been very favour-
vest; and the wants and difficulties, the
mortality and the decreasing belief in
e felt and have had to undergo ever since
or other, stopped, is beyond all descrip-
the firm belief of your Memorialists that
cause of all these, and it was under this
n unanimously begun to perform the said
r, during which period your Memorialists
ore favourable, the crops more abundant,
diseases less virulent.

omit that this festival had been perform-
lp of the Police and the Higher Autho-
quietly without any disturbance being
to anybody whatever; and this festival
your Memorialists, but of a greater por-
the same "Sedal Kutti"-Ootchavam is
ther places, one of the foremost of which
e District, in the temple of Muthumari-
ple is Veerapandy in Madura District,
ten days before the unfortunate day on
ped, as described hereunder in a high-

di in v
Civil, and anot.
where this same festival has
which your Memorialists' festival was
handed manner.

7. This year as usual your M
tival, and lots had been cast, and the lo
mal Cavalguran, and while everything
last, to the great astonishment and an
been circulated and proclaimed by heat
Acting District Magistrate, L. C. Miller Esq.

"Whereas it appears that in the course of this exhibition it is proposed
to draw a car containing the person swinging from the hook round a portion of
the village through the public streets, and whereas it appears that the passing of
such an exhibition through the public streets is calculated to cause fear, disgust and
annoyance to persons dwelling therein and should not be permitted, the District
Magistrate hereby directs under Section 14, C. P. Code, that the proposed exhibi-
tion of hook-swinging shall not be conducted through the public streets, and warns
all persons concerned, that disregard of this prohibition will entail on the disobedient
the penalties provided by Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code."

And soon after, about 150 Constables were brought there to stop the
usual festival. The car, the poles, and the swinging post were placed under the
charge of the Constables, and the mass of people were stopped coming into the
temple to pay their homage and vows to the Goddess. Thus they have cost a heavy
loss to the temple and put an end to the festival.

alists began to celebrate the said fes-
upon one Malayandi, the son of Peru-
ready to take place on the 13th June
ee of your Memorialists, a notice had
om-tem on the 12th June 1894 by the
in the following terms:—

8. On the evening of the 13th June, the tenth day of the festival, the
said Malayandi who had been worshipping in the temple having been inspired by
the Goddess Mariamman to have the hook-swinging festival, and being in Avessam
(a state of unconsciousness of his real self) got therefrom, besmearing himself with
the holy ashes and carrying a copper plate in his hands containing bits of lighted
camphor, and went round the temple to make the Holy Pradakshnam, saying that
Goddess has come to him and inspired him to have the hook-swinging festival per-
formed. As he advanced with such unconscious and uncontrollable state of mind,
for which he was not responsible, three or four other persons immediately accom-
panied him, lest any injury should fall upon him in his unconscious state. Just as
they had been a few yards from the temple, the Police fell upon them with such
force as is calculated to create a great excitement and fear upon the people assem-
bled there for worship, arrested him with the three others on the spot, and remanded
them to the District Jail at Madura. The apparatus for hook-swinging which had
been kept with veneration for so many years have been defiled and carried away by
the Police against the wishes of the whole mass of people congregated there for
worship. Consequently the festival has not been completed. None would come to
help them to have the crowning ceremony of the festival celebrated for fear of the
Police, lest they should also share the same unfortunate fate, and consequently, to
the horror, annoyance and disgust of all the people of the said villages, the car
festival was stopped in a high-handed manner.

9. The Tahsildar thinking that Mr. Gopala Krishna Rowth was the lead-
ing member in this festival, since he had conducted the festival during the last three
years, sent a report to the Collector and had him charged under Section 107, C. P.
C., and the case is now pending before the Deputy Magistrate of Madura. These
being the facts of the case, your humble Memorialists, the residents of these villages,
as well as numerous other residents, most humbly beg to approach your Excellency
with this petition for the redress of their grievances, and respectfully submit that
they are of opinion and are afraid that great calamities would befall upon them and
their families, that dire diseases would be inflicted upon them and their cattle, and
terrible famines would distress their villages, and that the Goddess Janakamari-
amman would visit their place with wrath, and consequently their minds are so much
agitated that they cannot do their work properly, and that they fail to describe
in human words how deeply their religious feelings have been wounded, and in fact
everything appears to them disgusting and disagreeable, and they have their exist-
ence only in the ardent hope that, in spite of the unjustifiable and unwarranted acts
of the Tahsildar and the District Magistrate, they have a merciful and impartial
Government,—a Government which would not interfere with the religious beliefs
and ceremonies of its subjects, a Government which hath as its Sovereign, an Incar-
nation of mercy, whose gracious Proclamation, which even now falls upon them like
newer, had removed all past grounds of fear of tampering with their religious belief,
which golden policy has been invariably acted upon.

10. Your Petitioners further beg to urge that even such a custom as
suttee, which was totally repugnant to the feelings of the masses, and which was
revolting in the extreme to the ideas of humanity, and which custom was very
sparingly and only in exceptional cases being practised in India had not been

stopped in the high-handed manner in which the present burmese and mandarin religious ceremony connected with divination worship had been stopped, but a special legislative enactment had to be passed for the purpose, which is embodied in Regulation I. of 1830. There is therefore no justification whatever for the unwarranted acts of the District Magistrate in prohibiting the said ceremony altogether by a single stroke of his pen, publishing a notice under Section 144, C. P. Code, without consulting the wishes of the masses and without moving the Legislature for the purpose, thereby giving an opportunity to ventilate the opinion of the masses on the subject.

11. Your humble Memorialists are given to understand that on a similar occasion in which the same hook-swinging festival which was being performed at Valambagudy village, Vallam Birka, Tanjore Taluq, had been stopped by the District Magistrate, when this most benign Government had passed an order in their G. O. No. 1418, Judicial, dated 27th August 1890, to the following effect :—

"The attention of all District Magistrates and the Inspector General of Police will be drawn to the course of action adopted by Government in regard to the "hook-swinging festival" as indicated in the précis read above, and they will endeavour to discourage the practice as far as lies in their power. The District Magistrate of Tanjore District should, in the opinion of his Excellency in Council, withdraw the order which he appears to have issued on the subject, the policy of Government has hitherto been to discourage, but not to absolutely prohibit, the custom, and the policy has been approved by the Secretary of State in his despatch, No. 10, dated 11th March 1862."

12. If the above order has been passed, as your Memorialists trust it had been, the policy adopted there, and which is unwarrantably broken in the present instance, whatever by the District Magistrate, and interests of justice that the error into which he has fallen should be speedily remedied.

13. Your Petitioners further beg to submit that the reason put forward by the District Magistrate in his order under Sec. 144, C. P. Code, is totally inapplicable to the present circumstance and there are various other acts which are calculated to cause fear, disgust and annoyance to persons dwelling in the neighbourhood, which are not only allowed every day, but which are countenanced and patronized by men of eminence, such as balloon ascents, parachute descents, circus feats, horse racing, etc., not to speak of the fire treading festival, the sacred custom of circumcision, the compulsory shaving of Young Hindu widow's head which under other circumstances would amount to grievous hurt, being a permanent disfigurement of the face according to the L. P. Code and various other ceremonies which are in vogue throughout India, and similar orders passed in these cases, would, your Petitioners believe, not be welcomed by the people.

11. In fact a festival is being annually celebrated at Dindigul totally unconnected with Religion, viz., what is called *Chingal* *Chingal*, (jellikatti sport) a merry sport or pastime once a year, in which, in a place where thousands of people

assemble to see the tamash, fierce bulls are let loose with some cloth tied on their horns, and the man who boldly faces them and takes away the cloth is awarded a prize. In this sport there are a number of casualties every year to the knowledge of the authorities, and yet such things are allowed to pass on, while a harmless ceremony like the present one, intimately connected with the religious feelings of various thousands of people, has been put a stop to without even giving any sufficient previous intimation to the public concerned.

15. Under these circumstances, our most humble Memorialists do most respectfully pray, that your Excellency in Council would be pleased to inquire into their pitiable condition, and the great injustice that they had suffered under the hands of the District Magistrate and the Tahsildar, and bestow upon them that liberty of faith and religious freedom, that his Excellency deems fit to bestow upon them, and to issue orders to the Collector and the Police Superintendent to come to their help for Bandopasth as usual during the festival of hook-swinging, which ceremony is necessary to the completion of the festival, the only festival that they celebrate every year.

And your memorialists would ever pray

[illegible][illegible]

Handwritten text in a South Indian script, likely Grantha or Tamil, arranged in vertical columns. The script is dense and cursive, with many characters that are difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge. The text appears to be a list or a collection of names and titles, possibly related to a religious or administrative context.

Handwritten text in a South Indian script, likely Grantha or Tamil, arranged in vertical columns. The script is dense and cursive, with many characters that are difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge. The text appears to be a list or a collection of names and titles, possibly related to a religious or administrative context.

Handwritten text in a South Indian script, likely Grantha or Tamil, arranged in vertical columns. The script is dense and cursive, with many characters that are difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge. The text appears to be a list or a collection of names and titles, possibly related to a religious or administrative context.

Handwritten text in a South Indian script, likely Grantha or Tamil, arranged in vertical columns. The script is dense and cursive, with many characters that are difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge. The text appears to be a list or a collection of names and titles, possibly related to a religious or administrative context.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a list or record, covering the left page of the manuscript.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a list or record, covering the middle page of the manuscript.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a list or record, covering the right page of the manuscript.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a list or record, covering the far right page of the manuscript.

Handwritten text in a script, likely Tamil, covering the left page of the manuscript. The text is arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines, with some variations in ink density and line spacing. The script is cursive and compact.

Handwritten text in a script, likely Tamil, covering the right page of the manuscript. The text is arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines, continuing from the left page. The script is consistent with the left page, showing a cursive style.

Handwritten text in a script, likely Tamil, covering the right page of the manuscript. The text is arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines, continuing from the left page. The script is consistent with the left page, showing a cursive style.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a list or record of names and titles. The text is dense and covers the left side of the page.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, continuing the list or record. It includes several lines of text, some of which are underlined or highlighted.

Handwritten text in Tamil script, continuing the list or record. It includes several lines of text, some of which are underlined or highlighted.

1. Ramalinga...

Ramalinga...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

From

H. Lunan, Esq.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To

The Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Madras.

Home Department.

(Judicial)

Sir, the 18 October 1894.

Sir,

With reference to the enclosed Memorial from the
Dated the 11th Sept. 1894. residence of certain villages in the
Madras District. in which they appeal against the orders
of the acting District Magistrate prohibiting the cele-
bration of the Pookkottigal Festival at Soolavander in
that district in the month of June last. I am directed to
request that, with the permission of the Governor in
Council, the memorial may be informed that the Governor
General in Council declines to interfere in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

2789 702209 52094 mes

Justices

2409 2009

From

The Under Secretary

To the Govt of India

Order 2^d Nov 1904 No 2027

No 1137

Recd 18

Received 28

Registered 30

Enclosure 1

Oct 1894

Subject

Requesting that with the permission of the Government Council, the Memorialists of Kholavandan in the District of May be informed that the Government Council has decided to interfere in the matter of their appeal against the order of the District Magistrate prohibiting the celebration of the Holi festival during the

With reference to their memorial of the 11 Sept. 1894, the Residents of Shalavandan and other villages in the District of May be informed that the Government Council has decided to interfere on their behalf, in the matter of the celebration of the Holi festival during the

by No

To

The Memorialists of

24/2

5/10

150

ORDINARY, MS.

DEPARTMENT
G.O., DATED 2-11-86
No. 2627

INDEXED

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

In forming the residents of
Hoboken and other places
in the vicinity of Hoboken
with reference to their
arrival at the last place
that the Government
in formal letters to
inform me in this letter
in the matter of the abso-
lution of the North American
Journal.