



Dear Yagya Friends,

The August Health Yagya series in Palani was a wonderful success and you'll find some of the best photos included in this newsletter. More will be posted over the next few days in the Puja.net blog; please see the link on the site's opening page.

There is still time to sign up for the Ancestor Yagyas that begin on September 20th. These are great yagyas and a great way to honor previous generations of your family. Please join us.

Don't forget, Navaratri begins early this year from Oct 6 - 15 and the Puja.net web site will be updated by Oct 1st. for signup and with all the details of the program.

As always, thank you for your continued support and interest.

Very best regards,

Ben Collins



Ganesha from the free Vinayaka Chaturthi yagya on Sept. 9th

Upcoming Yagyas

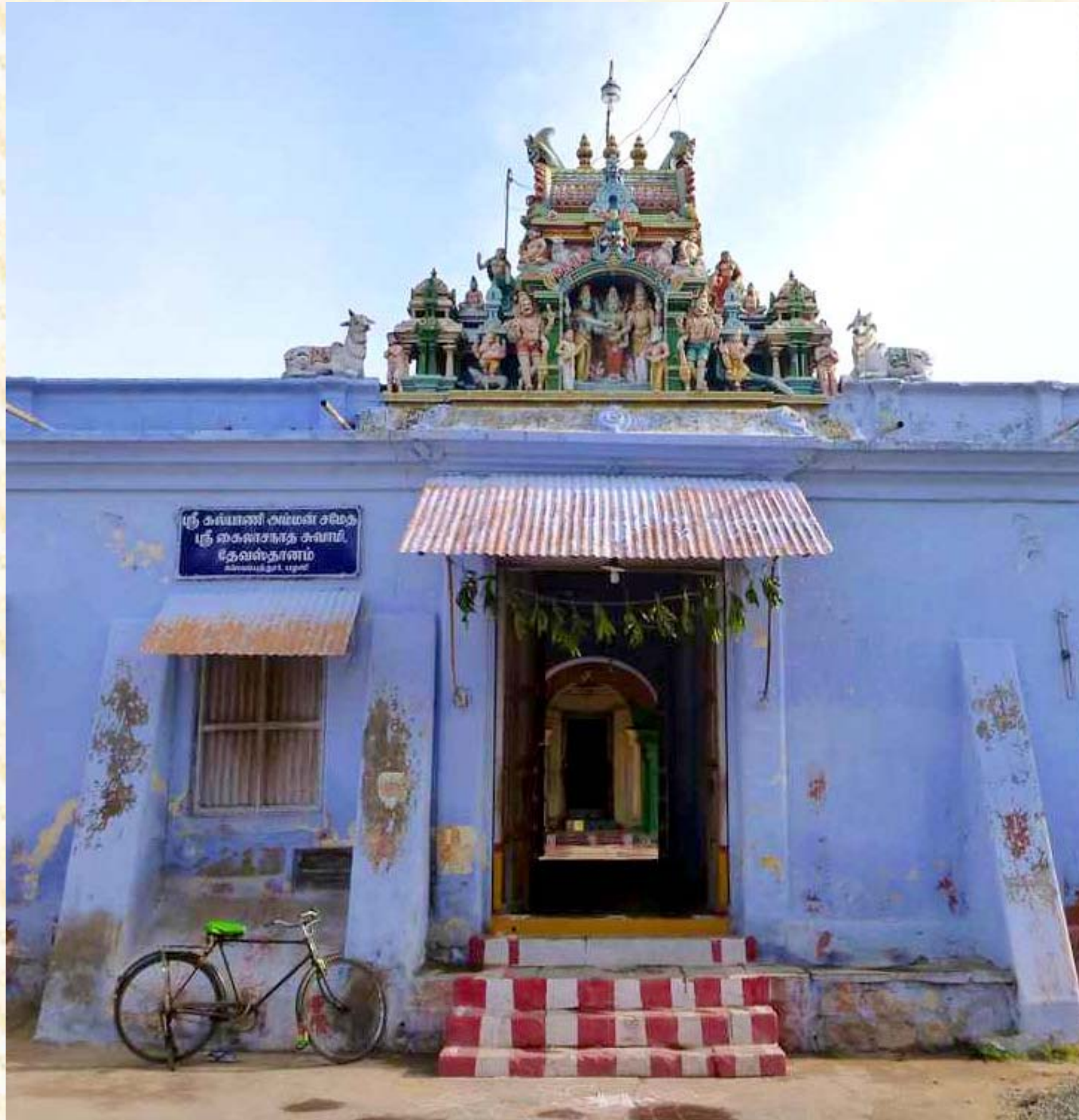
- * **Ancestor Yagya**
- Varanasi - September 20 - 23
- * **Sama Veda Yagya**
- Kanchipuram - September 14 - 22
- * **Navaratri Yagya**
- Kanchipuram - October 6 - 15

Health Yagya Series - Palani Temple

Tamil Nadu, August 2013



The August Yagya program took place in Palani at the site of a famous Subramanya (Murugan) Temple.



**We were fortunate to have the use of this temple for our entire yagya series.
Very talented local priests helped to perform the yagyas each day of the program.**



The temple grounds were peaceful and the well maintained. There was a nice Navagraha area (top right) where daily planetary pujas were performed. The Rudra Abishekam was performed daily as well (lower right).



Of course, the freshest ingredients were used; fresh flower malas every day of the yagyas, plus lots of coconuts, and bananas.



Here the priests are performing the daily Rudra Abishekam prior to beginning the health yagya.



The Shiva lingam is receiving its bath of milk (left) during Rudra Abishekam. An offering of light as a part of the day's yagya (upper right). The bell has Nandi, Shiva's bull on the handle (center). A tray containing rice, turmeric, sandalwood powder, camphor, and kumkum; all used in the performance of the yagyas.



Day by day, the yagya progresses and the atmosphere in the temple becomes progressively more refined and powerful.



The final aarti at the end of the yagya performance is always an inspiring conclusion.



The final mantras are recited at the end of the offering of light.
The mantra text is always a form of blessing asking for good health, happiness, abundance, and protection for the participants.



After many days of introductory yagyas, it is time for the fire yagya (havan) to be performed. This requires a lot of different and very specific ingredients. They come in boxes of 108 different spices, herbs, sticks, bark, seeds, and leaves. Each bag must be opened and mixed prior to being offered into the yagya fire.



The yaga fire is started and the vedic mantras are recited as offerings of ghee and the mixture of special ingredients are made. A lot of smoke is generated and the fire will burn for hours afterwards.



The final offering of ghee is made as the last of the mantras are chanted.



Of course, the yagya program included many visits to the hill top temple. Thankfully there is a nice tram to take you up!



Once at the top, the temple grounds are spacious and well maintained.





A special Ganesha puja was performed in one of the smaller temples on top of the hill. He looks great with our fresh malas and beautiful sandalwood and kumkum decorations.



The view makes you realize just how high up you are on top of this hill.



The local priests who helped performed the yagas. They all wish you good health and happiness.



*"This Atman fills all; beginningless,
endless, that which can not be
measured, changeless, and One
without a second -- is Brahman.
There is no "many" in this world.
Only Oneness."*

-Vivekacudamani
by Adi Shankaracharya