History of Bhadrakaliammman Temple

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One of the Asta durga Protecting Rameswaram is Bhadrakaliammman. The temple located on the way to Mankadu. For many locals Badhrakaliammman is the ancestral goddess and being worshipped by Lkhs of people all over Tamilnadu. Every New moon and full moon day is very auspicious in this temple. Festivals are Navarathiri, Chithirai Thiruvizha and Aadi festival.

Mythology

Karna Parampara Story – Bhadrakali and Nambunayaki

It is believed that Bhadrakaliammman and Nambunayakiamman are Sisters and the former is the elder and the later is the junior. Bhadrakaliammman is married and is having seven childrens and Nambunayaki is yet to get married. One day Nambunayaki told Bhadrakali that she is going to visit her house and so Bhadrakaliammman felt that there is a need to hide her children. Bhadrakaliammman thought since Nambunayaki is yet to get married on seeing her children she may feel jealous which may affect the health of the children. So she kept her children in a basket covered with a cloth.

Nambunayaki came and was talking to her Elder Sister and spent time with her. She was asking for the children and Bhadrakali told they have gone for the playing. Nambunayaki asked what is there in the basket. Bhadrakali told it is Kozhukkattai a south Indian Sweet. Immediately Nambunayaki laughed and said all will be kozhukkattai in this basket and she opened and to the shock of Bhadrakaliammman all the children have turned into Kozhukkattai sweet. Bhadrakaliammman was furious towards Nambunayaki and cursed Nambunayaki that she will live amidst the sand. Even now Nambunayaki temple is surrounded by big sand dunes. One can see the children of Bhadrakali in the form of kozhukkattai in a stone.

Karna Parampara Story – Ravana and Lanka Devi

Ravan’s Sri Lanka is protected by Ferocious Lanka Devi. When Hanuman came to Sri Lanka he has to face Lanka Devi and on having a fight with her Hanuman realized that she is in the form of Parasakthi Parvathi Devi. Then Hanuman bowed down to her and explained the reason for his visit. Realizing Lanka devi allowed Hanuman to enter Sri Lanka. After Hanuman episode of burning Sri Lanka Ravana was angry with Lanka Devi who is the protecting goddess of Sri Lanka and said you being our protecting goddess of Lanka and have allowed a vanara to enter our country. By doing this you have not kept your duty hence we don’t need here said Ravana and threwed
the idol of Lanka Devi above the sky and the idol fell down in Rameswaram. Locals have built the temple and named her as Bhadra kalamman and started worshipping her. She is also known as ilangai kali (Lanka Kali).

**Temple Structure**
One can find many Grama Devathas in this temple

- Sri Madaswamy a grama devatha gives the blessings from the entrance.
- Sri Mmanicka Naatchiyar is the protecting goddess of this temple.
- Sri Raakaatchiamman sannathi is next to Manicka naatchiyar. Raakaatchiamman is one of the famous Village goddesses.
- Sandi Chamundeswari is a powerful place for those who seek victory over their rivals. For any dispute people put a lamp and pray for victory. On Fridays, Amavasya and full moon days one can see the stage surrounded by lamps.
Another Grama Devatha Sri Irulappaswamy is the one next to Chandi Chamundeeswari.

**Bhadrapaliamman**

There are two idols inside the temple. The history of it is that once a devotee arranged for an idol to replace the existing main deity. After receiving it when the community sought the divine permission, they could not get it. Hence they have created another sannathi near the main deity and placed her inside the temple.

- Specialty of this temple is that there is a sannathi for Pancha Pandavar along with Droupathi in this temple.
- Nagar swamy idols were located exactly at the back side of Bhadrakali Amman deity place. On Saturdays maximum devotees worship these idols.

- On the right side of the main deity Muniyaswamy idol is located. This is another form of Grama devatha.
- Karuppanaswamy another powerful protecting goddess is there in the right side - fag end of the Bhadrakali Amman temple.

**Petchiamman**

Opposite to the Main goddess is ferocious looking Petchiamman. It is believed that she gives Putra prapti. If somebody prays placing their hands on her, she will bless them for progeny.