

## **SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM**

### **AADHI PARVVAM ANUKREMANIKAA PARVVAM**

#### **45. JeralkkaaruPithruSamaagamam (45. Meeting of Jeralkkaaru and His Father)**

Having seen the Pithroos or forefathers hanging upside down or head downwards on the root of a grass almost severed and about to fall down in a pit or a cave, Jeralkkaaru inquired about the reason why they had to and are in such a pathetic situation. They informed that they are in such a condition, without reaching Pithru Lokam, as they did not have a son to perform their last rites. The only son in their family is Jeralkkaaru and as he is leading Brahmacharyam or celibacy and leading an Avaddhootha life, they are left as if without having a son to perform their last rites. The Pithroos requested that if he, the Brahmachaari, meet him then to inform him about their condition and encourage and insist him to lead a Grihastthaasrama or Family life.

#### **Soothan Said:**

The great ascetic Jeralkkaaru wandered around the earth sleeping at wherever he reaches at dusk considering that as his home like a Muni or an Avaddhoothan. 1

He performed innumerable ascetic penances and rigid vows which are impossible to perform one who has no control of his senses and mind with Aathmajnjanam or Soul-Knowledge or Self-Knowledge. Taking ablutionary baths and visiting sacred places, Jeralkkaaru led an ascetic life of an Avaddhoothan. 2

He was living by eating nothing other than air [He was a Vaayu Bhakshakan,] meaning he was not eating any food at all. His material body was very lean, or he was lean-fleshed. One day he saw his ancestors or spirit of his ancestors hanging head down in a hole or a pit. 3

The ancestors were hanging head down on a thread of 'Veerana' grass root. [Veerana is a fragrant grass, and its root is used as a refrigerant .]

And that root of that grass thread was being gnawed and eaten by a rat in the hole. 4

These ancestors were so lean without food to eat, emaciated, and in a very pitiable condition. They were eagerly desirous of attaining salvation. Seeing their, ancestors', sorrowful condition Jeralkkaaru also became so sorrowful and spoke: 5

**Jeralkkaaru Said:**

Jeralkkaaru approached the pitiable Pithroos and very humbly asked: "Who are you all hanging heads down on the chord of Veerana grass root almost being eaten by the rat in the hole?" 6

The Veerana grass has only one root left and that too is being eaten by the sharp teeth of the rat living in the hole. 7

All other roots have already gone, and this is the only one left and that also would certainly be cut off at any time. And when that root is severed you will fall in the pit with your heads down. 8

Seeing that you all are hanging your heads down and afflicted of highly dangerous risk, I am feeling terribly sorry! Oh, I am very much afflicted of pity for you! Please let me know what should I do for you? 9

I can surrender and spend either one-fourth, one-third, or even one-half of my ascetic penance, please tell me immediately what I should do? 10

Otherwise, I am ready to spend the entire result of my austerity and penance for the sake of saving you from the affliction of this high danger. Please let me know should I do it for you? 11

**Pithrukkal or Ancestors Said:**

You are an old Braahmanan and pious Brahmachaari or Celibate. How can a Brahmachaari protect and save us? Oh, Vipra Sreshtta! We cannot be saved and protected from our danger by the power of austerity and penance. 12

Hantha or Alas! Oh, Thaatha! We know well the power of your austerity and penance. But because of the lack of a son or a child [there is no one to perform the Sraadhddha Karmmam or last rite] we will fall into Narakam or hell. 13

Even Pithaamahan or Braahmadheva himself has stated it is Ddharmma to have a son and as we are hanging our head down at the edge of the root of a Veerana grass our ideas are no longer clear and we do not have good senses. 14

Therefore, we are unable to recognize you even if you are very popular and famous. Oh, Bhagavan! You are very old and highly respectable and Worshipable. You are so kind and compassionate and desire to help us in our sad and pitiable state of extreme danger. 15

Oh, Braahmana Sreshtta! You are so compassionate, and kind and your heart melted with kindness . Please know who we are. We belong to the Vamsam or sect of Yaayaavara. We are with austere penance and rigid vows. 16

From lack or loss of children we have fallen down from Punya Lokam or Sacred World or Region. We lost all the accumulated virtues and holiness of our long penance as we do not have children [to perform Sraadhddham or last rites for us.] 17

It is not that we do not have a child. We do have a son or a child. But it is as good as not having a child. We are unfortunate or short of luck. Just like we are hanging on the root of Veerana grass we have a thread in One, that is our child. [They are referring about Jeralkkaaru.] 18

He is the most well-known Jeralkkaaru who is a great scholar in Vedhaas and Vedhaamgaas, Saasthraas, Upanishaths, Puraanaas, etc. He has conquered all senses and mind. He is highly intelligent. He is most powerful with rigid vows and severe austere penance. 19

With his allurement of severe ascetic penance and rigid vows, he has put us in this condition. Meaning, he has no interest in any material gains and no attachment to material life as he has become soul-realized and leading a transcendental life. He has no wife, no son, no children, and no relatives. And he has no material attachments. 20

That is why we are hanging on this grass root in the hole just like the blinds  
fell or trapped in the pit. Please be kind and compassionate to us and  
please let him know: 21

"Alas! So miserable! Your Pithroos or ancestors are hanging at the edge of  
grass root with their heads down. Please marry and lead a  
Grihastthaasrama life or family life with wife and children." 22

Oh, Thaapasa or Maharshe! He, Jeralkkaaru, is the only hanging thread for  
our safety in our Vamsam or family. Oh, Bhoosura or Braahmana! Our life  
is hanging on the almost-falling root of the Veerana grass. 23

Oh, Brahman or Brahmachaari Braahmana! He is the only chord or source  
for us to maintain our Vamsam or sect. Don't you see the half-eaten and  
almost-cut off and falling grass root on which we are hanging. his children,  
and his progeny are the only one to perform our Sraadhddha Karmmam  
and give us a strong hold and uplift to higher regions like Pithru Lokam.  
24

We are trapped in the mouth hooked by the time thread or chord. And it is  
that time chord which you see being half-eaten by rat. 25

We, the ascetic Munees, are holding and hanging on that falling Veerana  
root. Don't you see that rat nibbling the root of the grass? That rat is the  
most powerful and strongest Time which cannot be controlled by anyone.  
He shall even sink with us into hell. 26

Jeralkkaaru who is slow, in thinking, with the wealth of ascetic penance.  
Whether it is asceticism, sacrifice, holy acts, everything is inferior and none  
of those can defeat the Time. 27

His, Jeralkkaaru's, ascetic penance and rigid vows are not going to help us  
to cross this danger and help us from falling into hell due to lack of progeny  
to perform our Sraadhddha Karmmam promptly. Our Kulam or dynasty is  
on the verge of destruction and seems as if that the Time is going kick us  
down into Narakam or hell. 28

See we fell into such a pathetic and risky situation like this into this hole. We along with our relatives fell into this pit in that way because we do not have proper progeny to perform our Sraadhddha Karmmam. 29

When the time comes even, he, Jeralkkaaru, will fall into the hell by cutting off the little root left out and severing it. Whether the ascetic penance, rigid vows, or any other sacred and holy actions none of these are equal to having Santhaanam or progeny of children. 30-31

Oh, Child or Brahmachaari! Therefore, please see that Jeralkkaaru and tell him whatever you have seen here and our deplorable conditions in detail so that he will be prompted and encouraged to marry and create children and lead a Grihastthaasrama life. 31-32

You please be kind and compassionate to us and prompt and induce him, Jeralkkaaru, so that he will marry and beget children just like his friends or our own race as his own race. 33

Who are you so compassionate and kind to us and standing here as our relative? We are so anxious to know who are you, standing here so patiently desirous of savings us from our dangerous situation? 34

**So ends this section.**