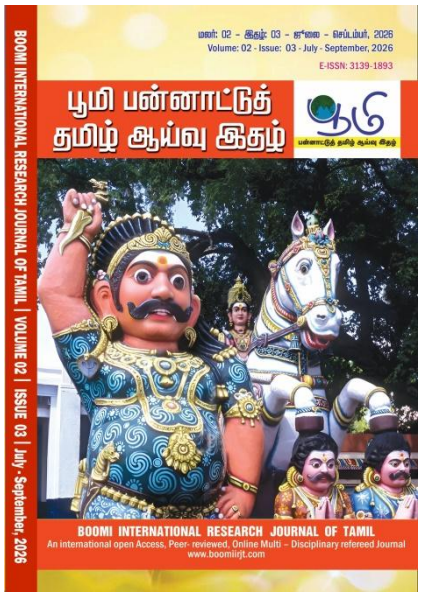
The Practical Role of Domestic Rituals in Saiva Siddhanta Liberation of Soul

இல்வாழ்வுச் சடங்குகள் சைவசித்தாந்த ஆன்ம விடுதலையில் வகிக்கும் நடைமுறைப்பங்கு



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திரு. கு.தவசீலன்
கலாநிதிப்பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், பட்டப்படிப்புகள் பீடம், கிழக்குப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், இலங்கை.
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மேனாள் தலைவர், ஓய்வுநிலைப் பேராசிரியர், இந்து நாகரிகத்துறை, கிழக்குப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், இலங்கை.

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Abstract

Saiva Siddhanta identifies the liberation of the soul as the ultimate goal of human life. Liberation of the soul refers to the state in which the soul becomes free from the bonds (Pāśas), attains Śivajñāna and unites with Śiva. This state is known by various terms such as Mukti, Vīṭupēṟu, and Moksha. Saiva Siddhanta emphasizes that liberation of the soul can be attained not only through renunciation but also through domestic life. Domestic life refers to a way of living in which an individual lives in relationship with society, undertaking family responsibilities, occupation, relationships, and social duties. Saiva Siddhanta regards domestic life as an important path for spiritual practice. Domestic rituals constitute a range of religious, social, and spiritual practices performed at every stage of human life, from birth to death. From the perspective of Saiva Siddhanta, these rituals serve as practical spiritual disciplines that contribute to the purification of the soul, the alleviation of karmic impurities, and the gradual preparation of the soul for the attainment of Śivānubhūti, the experience of Śiva. In the context of contemporary modern society, however, the philosophical meaning and spiritual purpose of many rituals have been forgotten due to various factors, and consequently, they are often practiced merely as external observances. Therefore, it is necessary to re-examine the actual practical role of domestic rituals in the liberation of the soul. Accordingly, this study seeks to analyze, within the specific scope of domestic rituals, the contribution made by such rituals towards attaining the concepts of liberation of the soul articulated in Saiva Siddhanta. It further aims to clarify how individuals engaged in spiritual life in contemporary society can transform domestic rituals into meaningful spiritual practices and understand how these practices can guide them towards liberation of the soul. Through this approach, the study seeks to highlight the significance of domestic rituals in practical life. With this broader objective, the research is undertaken using historical, descriptive, analytical, and field research methods. The study therefore seeks to establish the practical spiritual significance of domestic rituals within contemporary domestic life and their relevance to the Saiva Siddhanta conception of liberation of the soul.

Keywords

Saiva Siddhanta, Liberation of the Soul, Domestic Life, Birth, Rituals, Death.

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