

Obituaries of Mom and Dad



Thayumanaswamy Rajalakshmi Aachi



Thayumanaswamy Rajalakshmi (*aka* Bhooma) was born in Thirupayanthan Gudi, Madras Presidency, India on Wednesday, January 8, 1941 as the third child of T. S. Vedanayagam Pillai and Seetha Lakshmy Ammal. She grew up in the farming village with several of her brothers and sisters and was well liked both by her parents and siblings. She completed eighth grade in the local middle school and was a studious student. Bhooma's father was a farmer and her mother maintained a household with nine children where Bhooma took up the responsibility of being a big sister to many of her younger siblings.

On September 8, 1965, she married Appakutty Somasundaram Thayumanaswamy Pillai of Vedaraniyam and moved to Vedaraniyam (*aka* Thirumarai Kadu). There she had a dual role of a wife and a step mother to young children, Swarnambal and Somasundaram. Bhooma excelled in both by showering affection to the newly motherless children and a wife who needed to run a larger household by herself. Bhooma also took care of her mother-in-law until latter's death in 1968. She gave birth to three wonderful children Thiyagarajan in 1966, Thillaikkarasi in 1968 and Ambika in 1976. Until her death, she took care of herself and her beloved husband even as his health was failing. She was an excellent cook and a pious person following the Hindu religious customs and worship. She was a great role model to all her children and never complained about anything.

Thayumanaswamy Rajalakshmi passed away on Tamil New Year's day on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 9:00 AM in Chengal Pattu, Tamil Nadu, India on the lap of her son, Thiyagarajan. The cremation with full Hindu religious rites was held on Monday, April 15, 2013 at 12:00 Noon in Vedaraniyam as per her wishes and her ashes were disbursed in Bay of Bengal. The tenth and eleventh day Hindu religious rites were held together with her beloved husband's on Saturday and Sunday April 27 and 28, 2013 in the ancestral home and at Vedamirtha Lake in Vedaraniyam.

Appakutty Somasundaram Thayumanaswamy Pillai



Appakutty Somasundaram Thayumanaswamy Pillai (*aka* AST and Thayumanam) was born in Vedaraniam, Madras Presidency, India on Wednesday, December 8, 1926 as the third child of Appakutty Somasundaram Pillai and Thillai Kannu Aachi belonging to the Saiva Vellalar sect. He grew up with three sisters and was well liked both by his parents, sisters, and cousin. He completed eighth grade in the local middle school and went to Nannilam to complete his high school. After completing his high school, he returned to Vedaraniam to take care of the family businesses of salt production and tobacco farming.

In 1952, Thayumanam married Kuppuswamy Pattammal of Velukudi. They both had two beautiful children, Swarnambal in 1954 and Somasundaram in 1959. Following his father's death in 1956, he became the sole owner of the family business of salt production and ran it successfully until early 1990s. Despite his tireless efforts to find a cure and medicine for a heart ailment that afflicted his beloved first wife Pattammal, in April 1965 he lost her. In September 1965, he married Vedanayagam Rajalakshmi from Thirupayathan Gudi. They both had three wonderful children, Thiyagarajan in 1966, Thillaikkarasi in 1968, and Ambika in 1976. Even though he was only a high-school graduate from rural India, AST foresaw the importance of education and spent his life time and money in educating all his children. All of them went to complete college and became educators and business owners. AST was a courageous person never letting difficulties in his life impede with the goals he has set for himself and his children. He was a problem solver, a pacifist, and a great organizer. He was the General Secretary for Salt Merchants Association for over a decade and foresaw expansion of salt production and distribution through Indian Railways. He was a patron of Hindu religion, donating money, time, and land to several religious activities and ceremonies. He gave free books to children from low-income households and took personal care of all his employees.

Appakutty Somasundaram Thayumanaswamy Pillai passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 6:00 PM in Chengal Pattu, Tamil Nadu, India surrounded by all his children, just four days after his second wife passed away. The cremation with full Hindu religious rites was held on Friday, April 19, 2013 at 6:00 PM in Vedaraniam, his ancestral town, as per his wishes and his ashes were disbursed in Bay of Bengal. The tenth and eleventh day Hindu religious rites were held together with his beloved wife's on Saturday and Sunday April 27 and 28, 2013 in the ancestral home and at Vedamirtha Lake in Vedaraniam.

He is survived by two sons Somasundaram (Gnanabhanu) of Tallahassee, FL, USA and Thiyagarajan (Anita) of Chengal Pattu; three daughters Swarnambal (Rathnakumar) of Tambaram, Thillaikkarasi (Shanmugavelu) of Trichy, and Ambika (Vijaay) of Thanjavur all in Tamil Nadu, India; eight grandchildren Gayathri (Sri Ram) of Tambaram, Niveditha and Muthu Kumaran of Trichy, Vivek Thayumanam of Tallahassee, FL, USA, Vidhushini and Arjun Thaimanam of Chengal Pattu, and Sibi Kiran and Rishi Hrithik of Thanjavur; and one great grandson Abhay Krishna of Tambaram.