

"Nithianandashramam" at Kanhagad

October 1, 2014 at 11:15pm

Unniettan (Prof. Krishnakumar - my teacher at Calicut University, and now with NIESR Bhubaneshwar as a Visiting Professor) asked me where this Ashram is. So, I thought, i shall give an elaborate description about the place and my visit:

I heard a lot about this Aashram during my childhood - the "Nithyanda swamy's Kotta". It is at Kanhagad near "Pudiotta" i.e., "Puthiya Kotta" - means, New Fort. The whole Taluk is called "Hosdurg" taluk - I belong to this Taluk. "Hosa" in Kannada means new - "Puthiyadu" and "Durg" means Fort, i.e., "Kotta" in malayalam. The region is also known as "Kottaccherry".

The "Nithyananada Swamy" was known to be a spiritually realized renounced sanyaasi, who after many years of wandering throughout the country and also Himalayas, founded this ashram at Kanhagad. In fact, he first stayed a few years at a place now called "Guruvanam" about 4 km from the fort where the Ashram is situated. At Guruvanam as well as at the Ashram, there are temples with "Nithyananda swamy" as deity.

The temple at the Ashram is situated at the top of the fort. On the ground, there is an entrance to the caves: There is a straight cave of about 20 meters and there are many tributary caves too. At the walls there are spaces to sit and meditate. There are also smaller caves within the cave where one can take rest as well. I felt like entering into a wonderland!

Although Udma (the place where I belong to) is hardly 15 kilometers from Kanhagad, and although I had travelled hundreds of times very close to the Ashram, I never visited this place earlier! I wanted to visit this place for a long time; but could not - better say, "did not".

Only last week I got an opportunity to visit this Ashramam, as the Organizers of the "National Seminar" at Nehru college, arranged the accommodation for me in a hotel, "Bekal international"

("International" is only in the name!), very close to the Ashram.

The first morning itself (on Friday, 28.09.2014) I had my morning walk upto the Ashram.

Had "darshan" and also had some chats with the Pujaari. He told that every morning there is breakfast at around 7:45 and "Annadanam" in the afternoon at around 12:30. I did not wait for the breakfast, as I had to get ready to go to the college. He also told me about the cave. I came down from the temple and asked to a person who was reading newspaper, where the cave was. He showed me a way. The way to the cave looks like an entrance to a room. In fact, one has to enter through a small sanctum.

After coming out of the cave I walked towards the hotel. Then the person who was reading the news paper also walked along with me. He asked me where I am from etc. His name was "Vivek naik" - a very pleasant middle aged (> 55) person. He told me that there is a shortcut via the hillside to reach the hotel, and we walked along that way, chatting. He told me about the "Guruvanam" and that it is a very nice place to visit.

Next morning, on saturday, I went for morning walk along with two of the other speakers of the Seminar, Prof. Tikekar (formerly at IISc) and Prof. Balachandran (from Bharathiar University). On the way we met Mr. Vivek naik; he was returning from the Ashram/temple. I introduced my colleagues to him. He asked me whether I had gone to "Guruvanam" the previous day. On hearing that I did not, he offered to take us to "Guruvanam" after an hour or so. We decided to leave from the hotel at 8:30. This time I, rather we, discovered more caves inside the cave, and we sat inside and did some "instant meditations".

At 8:30 Mr Vivek Naik took us (Prof. Balachandran and his PhD student and myself) in his car to Guruvanam.

"Guruvanam is a very calm and quiet place. One of the special thing there was a "papanasham water flow" - continuous water from the hillside, all the days of the year. The water is collected in a tank and it flows though a tap. A steel tumbler is kept near the tap; people dink that water. We too drank - so nice feeling of having really natural water!

On the way back from "Guruvanam" Mr. Vivek Naik dropped us at "Kanhagad South" where my house construction is going on.

So, after the visit of the Ashram and Guruvanam, I felt that it was God's grace that I chose to buy a land of 10 cents at Kanhagad South about 16 years ago, and it was equally God's blessing that I decided to construct a house there. Hopefully, the house will be completed by the end of this year, and I will have more occasions to visit these "puniastans"; definitely, some of you also will have occasions to visit that place as well as my home!