

A. Maruthakasi

Anand

The Club

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Aiyamperumal Maruthakasi (1920-1989)
திரைக்கவித் திலகம் மருதகாசி

- Born on Feb 13, 1920 in Melakkudikadu, Trichy District in an agricultural family. Family owned 35 acres of farm land.
- Father was a village chief
- Studied up to Intermediate at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam. Writer T. Janakiraman was his batch mate. Wrote stage plays while at college.
- Quit college to take care of his ancestral property (agriculture)
- For diversion, wrote songs for Kavi. Ka. Mu. Sheriff drama group. Wrote a song for the legendary music director G.Ramanathan. GR identified Marthukasi as a skilled lyricist who could listen to a tune and write instantly a song.
- When he was first introduced to Kalaivanar N.S.Krishnan for writing songs, NSK asked him not to waste his time because he deals with great lyricists like Udumalai Narayanakavi at that time. Maruthakasi replied- Narayana Kavi was his “manaseeka guru” and he was familiar with his style. Then he wrote “Sirippu, sinthikath therintha manitha jathiyin kai iruppu” for NSK in Narayana Kavi style. The song became famous and so did Maruthakasi.

- Modern Theaters Sundaram wanted to make Alibaba and 40 thieves based on the Hindi film. He wanted a song writer to write songs for the Hindi tune. When Udumalai Narayana Kavi was approached, he refused but recommended Maruthakasi. All songs became popular when the movie was released.
- R.M. Veerappan, Sandow Chinnappa Thevar, A.K.Velan and M.G.R supported Maruthakasi and he moved to Chennai to write songs for movies
- He wrote hundreds of songs for films until the arrival of the King, Kannadasan. When his chances became rare, he went back to agriculture in his home town. MGR brought him back to Chennai after 1967 elections. He resumed his song writing.
- Marudhakasi wrote 4000 songs for 250 films on various subjects such as agriculture, working class, lullaby (thalattu), love, society, philosophy and humor.
- He was a gentle man. He was prepared to forego his own opportunities to help others such as Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram and Vali to get into the film field.
- Being an agriculturist, he showed respect for agriculture in his songs. His association with genius G.Ramanathan resulted in many immortal songs. His legacy is shifting the focus of lyrics from manipravalam style (mix of Sanskrit and Tamil) to simple, pure Tamil understood by common man.
- He died on Nov. 29, 1989. His works have been nationalized by the State Govt.

Maruthaksai

Thirirty songs on
Love:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3yXvPmb1TpKaLSy0qzByh3O>

Thirty songs on
General topics:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3wiF2csq5y3D5kbve5WR7Tp>

See the following pdf for more songs (300 pages)

<http://www.tamilvu.org/library/nationalized/pdf/64-maruthakasi/tiriisaipadalgal.pdf>