



A Important Role In Mysore By Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni

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Abstract

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana was the queen mother of Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar. She was a very courageous and brave hearted woman who steered Mysore during the politically turbulent period successfully. Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana is remembered in the annals of the history of Mysore state because of her poise, decision making skills and valiant approach in times of pressure. Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana instilled in the future maharaja and her elder son Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar indispensable qualities of courage, compassion and self-esteem. She added dignity and stateliness to royalty and her carefulness in bringing up her children is reflected in the superior personality of Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar. Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana's significant role as a queen mother, as a regent, as a maharani is considered remarkable in the annals of Mysore history. Her great qualities are mirrored in the individuality of Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar under whose regime Mysore principdom was termed as Ramarajya and a Model state.

Keywords: Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana, Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar, qualitative reflection, epitome of mother hood,

Introduction: Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar ruled Mysore Princely state from 1895 to 1940 and his reign is considered as a golden period in the annals of Mysore History. The Mysore state saw all round progress and development activities surpassed several milestones. Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar imbibed great qualities of statesmanship and governance from his mother Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana. All the public welfare measures taken up during his period was influenced by the stately nature of regency under Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana.

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni and her childhood :

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni was born in 1866 to Narase Urs and Kempa Nanjammanni of Kalale kingdom. When she was five, an efficient teacher was engaged to educate her on Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhaghavatha. She was a brilliant girl with amazing gifts of sharp memory and grasping power. People adored her unique skill of memorization of stories on Sita, Savitri, Draupadi, Damayanti and Ahalya and also for her remarkable qualities like patriotism, humility, nobility, kindness, affection and generosity.

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni and her marriage:

When Kempa Nanjammanni was 12 years old, her mother decided to get her married. Since Narase Urs was known to the Royal family and also that her fine prowess had reached their attention, a proposal was made for the young Maharaja Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar .

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni and her initial problems

The Palace was in debts due to drought in Mysore at the time, 1878. But it was decided to proceed with the marriage in spite of the prevailing conditions. As it so happened, the rain-god rescued the situation with a great bounty just a couple of days before the royal wedding which took place on 26.5.1878 and appeased everybody. In 1881, the famous Rendition of Mysore was carried out and the British handed over the rule back to the natural prince after 50 years. In 1884, Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar was born to the royal couple. In quick succession, they also had another son in Kanteerava Narasimharaja Wodeyar and three daughters.

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni and her widowhood

Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar, on one of his annual visits to Calcutta in 1894 [to the Court of Viceroy who resided there], developed diphtheria and died there, thus abruptly cutting short, a promising reign that lasted only 13 years. He was just 32 and had already left his mark as an excellent leader. His death suddenly created a void as prince Krishna raja Wodeyar IV was still in minority. The unexpected tragedy was regarded as a great national misfortune throughout India and was deplored by the British Government as an Imperial loss. The royal family plunged into great sorrow and the citizens felt orphaned.

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni and her regency

The burden fell on Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni. It was here all her sterling, divine qualities came to the fore, as she courageously stepped forward to play her beloved husband's responsible role in such a crisis. She was nominated as Maharani-regent, a post this saviour faire held for eight tough years [1895-1902] and served the people with great self-confidence, dignity, devotion, authority and merit. She earned the respect of one and all for the fabulous way she held forth. This is how Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana reign is classified as a wife , mother , regent and administrative guide.

Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni & her able dewans- Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana had the services of Dewan Sir K. Seshadri Iyer at that time and Sir T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty the Former Chief Judge, Senior Member of the Regency Council, who officiated many times as the Dewan, and later her brother Sir M. Kantaraj Urs (later Dewan) as her Private Secretary. She helped Mysore recover from crash. Generation of electricity from river Cauvery, promoting Indian Institute of Science, construction of Mari Kanave Valley Anicut (Vani Vilas Sagara), construction of the new palace, extension of new localities in Mysore, provision for water supply through pipes, and laying of foundation stone of Victoria Hospital in Bangalore were enough testimony. Maharani Kempananjammanni was a great believer in women's education and under her patronage Maharani's College got all due attention.

Conclusion: Thus Maharani Kempa Nanjammanni Vani Vilasa Sannidhana whose qualities of resilience, fortitude and determination marked a played a prominent role in the transformation of Mysore Princedom into a *Ramarajya* . Her authority during the regency period was a manifestation of good governance which was followed after the coronation of the Prince . Her era as a regent witnessed materialization of successful administrative skills. Her patience, perseverance and resilience won the hearts of the British residents as well. She was handling administration during a politically tumultuous period and came out successful forging her fortitude as embodiment womanhood.

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