

surname being 'Rajakesarivarman.' According to the *Kongudesarajakkal*, the king made certain gifts to the Chidambaram temple in Saka 926 (= A. D. 1004). It is probable that the *birudas* "Sri Rajaraja" and "Sivapadasekhara" (one who has the feet of Siva as his crest) were conferred on him by the temple authorities at Chidambaram; and, this was perhaps the time when the king conceived the idea of building the temple at Tanjore and made arrangements for its construction.

*Rajarajesvaram*, as this temple was named by its founder, fills a large portion of the southern half of the smaller fort, encircled by a moat on the east and west, by the new Mettur channel (originally a moat into which the channel has been let) on the south, and, by the Sivaganga gardens on the north. The temple is entered by an imposing gateway on the east, on either side of which stand two small shrines dedicated to Ganapati and Subrahmanya, and further on through another *gopura* 90 feet high. This way leads into an outer court, used as an arsenal (for a time) by the French in A. D. 1772, and thirty years thereafter, again by the English. A second and more handsome *gopura* further on leads into the main court in which the temple is built. The court is about 500 feet long and 250 feet broad, is well paved with brick and stone, and is surrounded on all sides by a cloister (பூசுச்சந்திரமடவிலாக). The eastern and southern wings have now the temple *yaga-sala*, kitchen, store rooms and feeding halls. The western and northern wings have *Sivalingas* consecrated therein, and there are paintings over these walls depicting the sixty-four sacred sports of Siva. It is noteworthy that for all the vicissitudes the temple has passed through, it has suffered remarkably little damage. The outer measurements of the temple are 793 feet by 397 feet. (*Vide* Plan).

The main shrine of Sri Brihadisvara, the Great God பெருயகைடவர், stands at the western end of the main court. It comprises five divisions—(1) *Garbhagriha* or the *Sanctum Sanctorum* and the corridor around it, (2) *Ardha-Mandapa*, (3) *Maha-Mandapa* with the open