Twitter Thread by SK

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#Thread about a Shiva temple
where #ShivaRatri festival is said to have originated&then followed in other temples.

One of the Sthala Puranam of
Thiruvaikavur Vilvanavanathar
Kshetram is closely related to #Mahashivarathri day.

Here,Nandi's are facing away from Shiva Sannadhi.



Vilvaneshwarar Temple, Thiruvaikavur, Near Kumbakonam, TN - There is no Raja gopuram & no Dwajasthambam for this temple.There are no Navagrahas in this temple.

Here,we can have darshan of Dakshina moorthy is with a stick.

There is an interesting legend regarding the same



#storytimethread - Rishi Dhavanithi was performing tapas in this Kshetram.A hunter was chasing a deer.The deer came running &surrendered to Rishi Dhavanithi.The hunter threatened to kill the Rishi if he did not release the deer to him.



At that time,Bhagwan Shiva came in the form of a tiger in order to save the Rishi& deer.On seeing the tiger,hunter climbed on a tree.Tiger sat under tree &did not https://t.co/qyhqxhVSyV keep himself awake, hunter started plucking leaves one by

one &was throwing it on the tiger.



Incidentally,that night was Maha Shivratri & the leaf was Vilvam. Pleased with the hunter’s act, Bhagwan Shiva blessed him with his darshan & gave him mukti.
Meanwhile,Yama raj had also reached this place,as hunter’s life was to end in the morning.



Yama was not aware that hunter had been granted mukti by Bhagwan Shiva.He entered the temple to find hunter.Nandhi did not notice Yama entering into https://t.co/rFYF7AjZyO soon as he entered,Bhagwan Shiva took the form of Dakshinamoorthy &drove him away with a stick.



Bhagwan Shiva then instructed Dwarapalakas & Nandi not to allow Yama dev there again.
Yama created a tank known as Yama Theertham & performed abhishek to Bhagwan Shiva.The Nandi in this temple is

facing towards the entrance,signifying that he is keeping a watch to stop Yama.



As Bhagwan Shiva sent out dwarapalakas to chase Yama, there are no murthi of dwarapalakas https://t.co/Zj3nQvxfU0 their place, Mahavishnu&Brahma are acting as dwarapalakas.

This incident shows how Shiva gave mukti to the hunter even for act did unknowingly

Om Namah Shivaya ■

All photos in this thread- credit to resp.owners

Source text- based on details about this temple in various blogs & news article.

Thanks for reading
#OmNamahShivaya ■