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The Lost Tale of Vellayi Gopuram, Srirangam | TN

#Thread

Vellayi means white in Tamil and named after Devadasi by the name of Vellayi . She had, centuries ago, sacrificed her precious life with the sole intent to protect the sacred Murti of Namperumal in the Garbhagraha



from the Delhi Sultanate forces who had invaded the temple town to loot the treasures. The forces had their eyes focused on the idol of Namperumal, which they believed was made of pure ‘Abaranji' gold. Fearing that the forces would capture Acharya and grab the Murti, Vellayi,

being smart as she was, performed a dance before the commander of the forces, thus allowing more time for Pillai Lokacharya to escape with the idol. After the dance, she told the commander that she knew where the Murti was kept and took the commander to the top of the goupram .

There she asked him to look down at a particular place where it was kept and before he could blink his eyes, she pushed him down from the tower and k!lled him. To avoid being caught
and humiliated by the Muslim forces, chanting the name of Ranganathar, she jumped to death

from the goupuram. Thus the Temple is named after her and till date it's painted White!! Her timely sacrifice went down in the history of this famous Hindu temple and thus pious and valiant Vellayi, a devotee of Ranganathar has become an immortal figure!