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## **VETTICODE AADIMOOLA SREE NAGARAJA MANDIR**

It is said that once Parashuram threw his axe in the sea and the sea withdrew from where the axe landed, letting Kerela emerge. The land was infertile due to salinity. Parashuram, then prayed to Nagaraja Anantha for a solution.



Pleased Nagaraja said that his serpents would desalinate the soil by spitting their venom on it, thereby making the land fertile.

Parasuram decided to thank the serpents by giving them a piece of land to roam undisturbed and uninhabited by human beings.

@Piyu\_Nair



Vetticode is believed to be one of the first two snake mandirs envisaged by Parasuram, the other being Mannarassala. It is said that the murti for the mandir was made by Mayasura, the asura architect and the consecration was blessed by the presence of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.



The protector family of Vetticode Mandir is Meppallil Illam (a local Brahmin household). It is believed that Parasuram himself has appointed the Meppallil family as the serpent protectors.

The Mandir has more than 100 serpent murtis which were brought from various places.



The month of Kanni is special in serpent worship as it is the month in which the serpents wake from their meditation. It is believed that one who is blessed by the sight of Vetticode mandir procession during Ayilyam festival will be protected from animal poison the coming year.

