

## Twitter Thread by Savitri S



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**Thanjavur is synonymous with the 1000yr old Brihadeeswara Temple, fondly referred to as the Periya Koil or Big Temple**

**However, when you enter Thanjavur via Ariyalur, you are welcomed by a Divya Desam\* comprising 3 Temples, situated on the banks of River Vennaru**

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Sri Thanjai Manikundra Perumal Temple

Sri Narasimha Perumal Temple Sri Neelamega Perumal Temple

This is the third of the 108 Divya Desams

\*Divya Desams: These are the 108 Vaishnavite temples, the 12 Alwars-Vaishnavite saints who lived ca 5th-10th CE have composed hymns on

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Manikundra Perumal Temple

Built on a small hill (kundru), before 7CE

Perumal is in sitting posture, flanked by Sri Devi n Bhu Devi

The deity is around 6ft

As per legend, sage Parasara lived here

3 demons, Thandaka, Thanjaka n Tarakasura made impediments in the yagnya he was doing

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The sage requested Lord Shiva to protect him

Lord Shiva sent Kali

She killed Tarakasura but could not kill the other 2

Then the Sage approached Vishnu

He took the form of Narasimha and killed Thanjaka

On seeing this, Thandaka hid in Patal loka

Vishnu then took the form of Varaha

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and killed Thandaka

After killing the demons,the Lord gave Darshan in the form of Neelamega Perumal to Sage Parasara

Lord Vishnu blesses us in 3 different names in 3 temples close to each other

The 3 temples together are known as Thanjai Maamani Koil

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6/6 River Vennaru is believed to have descended from Vishnuloka -Viraja there - and is said to contain Amrit

This place is also considered as Bhuloka Vaikuntham

It is one of the 5 Krishna kshetrams

There are other legends abt these temples slightly differing from above

