

## THIRUVAHEENDRAPURAM-THIRUKOVILOOR TRIP

This is a write-up about our visit to Thiruvaheendrapuram and Thirukoviloor Divya Desams. On 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 04, we (myself, Badri, my mom and mama) started very early (around 4 AM) to Thiruvaheendrapuram. Mama had arranged a car for us. It took nearly 4 hrs to reach Thiruvaheendrapuram and we went straight to mama's friend's home. He is Mr. Srinivasan and is the managing trustee of Sri Lakshmi Hayagriva trust. This trust is doing a lot of social service activities which includes running a school , an old age home etc. We had some time to rest and then we left for the temple. We had a wonderful darshan of Devanatha Perumal, Hemambujavalli Thaayar and Swami Desikan. Lord Hayagreeva is in a small hill near-by which is called AushadaGiri. We had planned for Thirumanjanam of Hayagreeva Perumal. Thirumanjanam is done only for the Utsava Perumal., Moolavar has Thaila Kaapu. Venugopalan ,Garuda Bhagawan and Narasimhar are also seen in the Sanctum Sanctorum. Thirumanjanam started with mangala vaadyam and was done in a grand manner. Perumal looked so beautiful adorning the Santhana Kaapu. It was a great experience for us to witness Perumal's Thirumanjanam from such close quarters. We again had a darshan of Devanatha Perumal and Thaayar and were given lot of prasadams. We had a good lunch in Mr. Srinivaasan's home., and thanks to their hospitality!

Around 2 PM, we visited the school (Sri Vidhya matriculation school) run by this trust. This has classes till X std. A small group of students assembled and chanted some verses from Desikar's Stotra paadam (Hayagreeva Stothram, Gopala Vimsathi, KaamasikaAstakam and Sudarshana Ashtakam). The recitation was excellent and we admired at the kind of training these small children were given. We felt so happy to see such small children reciting Swami Desikan's stotrams. We then left for a Lakshmi Narasimhar temple in Poovarasankuppam. This is one of the Ashta Nrisimha Kshetrams. The speciality of this shrine is that Thaayar ( AmirthaValli Thaayar) who is seated on Perumal's lap is facing Perumal. Usually Thaayar will face Bhaktas. Perumal is seen embracing our Thaayar. Bhattar told us that this Perumal is around 5000 years old and the temple has been recently renovated with the blessings of Srimad Azhagiya Singar. Thirumanjanam is conducted on every Swathi. Though this temple is in a remote place, many bhaktas come to take the blessings of this Perumal. Next visit was to Parikkal Lakshmi Nrisimhar temple. This is also one among the 8 Nrisimha Kshetrams and the Perumal looks very similar to Perumal of Poovarasankuppam. There is an Anjaneyar sannidhi at this temple, where people write their desires in Navadhaanyam in front of Hanuman and it seems they come true. Here also, Thirumanjanam is conducted on every Swathi.

We then left for Thirukoviloor divyadesam and reached the temple around 8 PM. Perumal's thirunamam is Thrivikraman. He is in the "Ulagalandha Thirukolam". He has the Sankhu and Chakrams interchanged ( ie., Sankhu on the right hand and Chakram on the left)..After receiving dhaanam from Mahabali , Perumal took the Panchachanyam to give a victorious naadham ..That is why He has Sankham on His right hand.

MudalAzhwars and Thirumangai Azhwars have done mangalasanam. Bhattar explained to us that this is the place where the 3 MudhalAzhwars got together and sang “Anbe Thagaliya”, “Arvame Thagaliya” and “Thirukanden Ponmeni Kanden” paasurams. Swami Desikan has composed Dehaleesa Sthuthi in praise of this Perumal. We had a wonderful time with this Perumal and left to take the blessings of Thaayar. Bhattar gave us a good sevai of Thaayar. We also visited SudarsanAzhwar and Swami Desikan’s sannidhi. It was close to 9 PM by the time we left the temple., had prasadam (from Thiruvaheendrapuram) for dinner and we reached Chennai around 1 AM. In all, we had a comfortable and wonderful trip covering the two Nadu Naadu Thirupathis and two Nrisimha Kshetrams.

Regards,  
Godha.