



Sri Siva Vishnu Temple

6905 Cipriano Road, Lanham MD 20706
Tel: (301) 552-3335 Fax: (301) 552-1204



Andal Kalyanam



Legend has it that Periaalwar discovered a beautiful infant girl in a lush grove. A delighted Periyaalwaar, brought up this infant, as his own daughter, naming her Kodai. A devout poet himself, Periaalwaar, brought up his foster daughter in his own footsteps.

Kodai, spent her time assisting her father in serving the Srivilliputtur temple, and in meditating upon Vishnu, with the desire of being his bride. Assigned the task of making garlands for the presiding deity at Srivilliputtur, with flowers picked from the grove in which she was discovered, Kodai would try out the garland on herself, without the knowledge of her foster father, and only then have it sent to the temple. Upon discovering a strand of hair on a garland meant for the presiding deity, a distraught Periaalwaar suspended the offering of the garland to the temple. It is said that the presiding deity of Srivilliputtur appeared in the saint poet's dream, and revealed to him that he actually preferred garlands that had been pre-worn by Kodai. Realizing that Kodai's purpose in life was a special one, Periyaalwaar named her 'Andal' and looked upon her as an incarnation of Divinity.

When Periyaalwaar, attempted to find a groom for Andal, she refused, claiming that she was destined to be the bride of none other than Maha Vishnu. She urged him to describe to her the attributes of Vishnu enshrined in several of the shrines that he knew of. Upon hearing of Vishnu enshrined at Sri Rangam, Andal decided that she was to become the bride of Vishnu's manifestation of Ranga Mannaar at Sri Rangam.

It is said that Ranganathar appeared in Periyaalwaar's dream and directed him to bring his bride Andal to the temple at Srirangam, where he would marry her. Following the divine ordinance, Periyaalwaar led Andal in a bridal procession to the grand temple at Srirangam, where Andal walked in with a sense of purpose and disappeared into the sanctum of the temple. Andal Kalyanam is celebrated at SSVT in January