

Origin of Akasa Ganga

Tirumala Nambi, also called Srisaila Poorna was one of the five gurus of Bhagavad Ramanuja. Tirumala Nambi used to live on Tirumala Hills and serve Lord Venkateswara.



Papavinasanam Reservoir

Tirumala Nambi used to bring water for Lord's service from a waterfall named Papavinasam around 3 miles from the temple. He did this service every day.



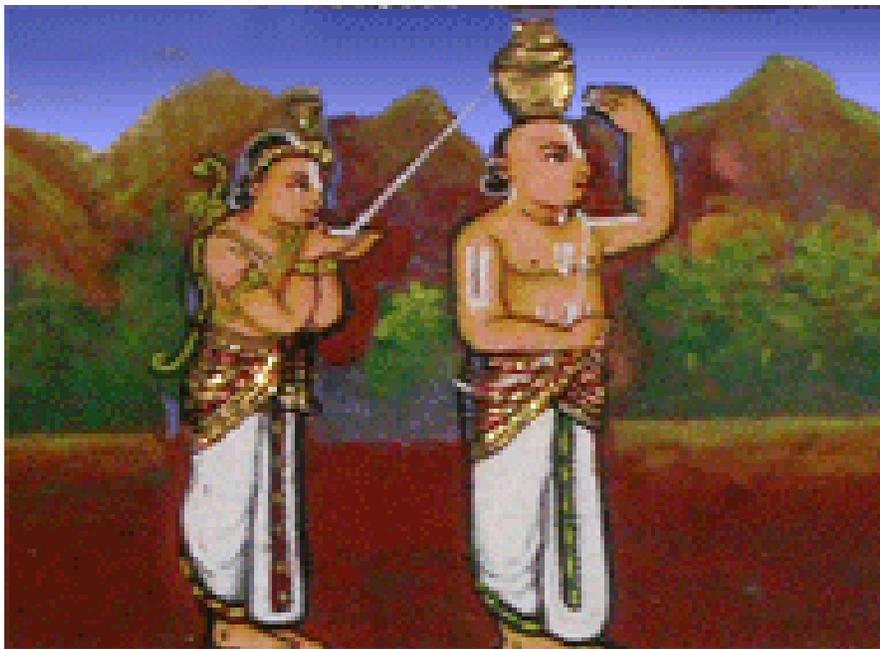
Hunter asks "Thatha, please give me some water to drink"

One day, a hunter came to Tirumala Nambi as he was coming back from Papavinasam with a pot of water. He asked "Thatha! Please give me some water! I'm thirsty."



Hunter shoots an arrow to make a hole to the pot

Tirumala Nambi refused. He did not want to contaminate the water meant for Lord's Abhishekam.



Hunter drinking water from the pot

The hunter pierced the pot with his arrow and quenched his thirst with the water flowing out.

Tirumala Nambi became disheartened that the pot which was supposed to have water for the Lord was empty. The hunter saw Tirumala Nambi's dejection and charged an arrow at a hillock nearby.



The hunter shoots an arrow on the hillock nearby and water gushes out from it

Water came rushing out from the rocks. The hunter named this new waterfall Akasaganga, and told Tirumala Nambi that this water should be used for Lord Srinivasa.



“ Hey Thatha, the water from Akasa Ganga is fit for your Lord” says the hunter

Tirumala Nambi deduced that the hunter was no one other than Lord Srinivasa, and continued his service to Lord Venkateswara everyday.

To this day, this tradition is followed at the temple.



Akasa Ganga

Three potfuls of water are brought from Akasaganga. While one is used for the afternoon puja, and the second is used for evening puja, the third one is kept for Brahma Anandam after the temple closes for the night.

During Brahmotsavam, the water from Akasaganga is brought in a parade on the back of an elephant.

In memory of Tirumala Nambi's service to Srinivasa, and Srinivasa's interaction with him, Tirumala temple celebrates a festival known as *Thanneramudhu* on the last day of the Adhyayana Utsavam. A member of Tholappacharya's family carries the pot of water from Akasaganga on his head and carries it to Lord Srinivasa's mandapam. This water is used for the Lord's Abhishekam, and at the end of the aradhana, the family member is taken in a procession around the temple streets and is dropped off at his house.