

## **Sthala Mahatmyam - Certain Miracles**

To divert a little, over the months much progress was being achieved in the construction work and preparation of the Vighras at Walajabad, it is but appropriate to recall certain remarkable occurrences - marvellous events believed by everyone to be due to some supernatural agency that have been continuously happening, before the devotees, round the mound, chosen to build the temple complex. At the mound, a wooden idol of Lord Swaminatha Swami had been installed and was being ardently worshipped by the devotees. One morning, a long black serpent associated mythologically with the Lord along with the peacock suddenly appeared at the mound to the thrill of the devotees who had gathered there, as usual, for worship. For almost three hours, it was meandering round playfully. A bowl of milk was offered to the serpent, personifying it, as the Lord Himself. It was requested by the devotees to indicate to them its place of abode. The serpent drank the milk and slid into the hole down below. To this day, Naga Pooja is being performed regularly at the place, - where an idol of the serpent (Naga Prathishta) has been installed. In order not to disturb the Nagaraj, blasting of the mound for the construction of the temple was not resorted to, but a protective rampart wall, to hold the rocks all round the mound firmly, has been constructed to strengthen the entire structure. Another occurrence, attributable to the presence of Lord Swaminatha Swami at the mound, again in the form of a serpent, happened before the devotees. A devotee had brought a glass of milk to the serpent God. It was about 3P.M. The milk could not be offered immediately. At about 8-30 P.M. in the night at the usual pooja hour, the milk was offered with the usual chanting of Vedic mantras. Suddenly the milk began to boil and overflow the vessel drenching several steps below the spot. Soon the boiling stopped. Lo! The vessel contained the same quantity of milk as it had contained earlier. As many as one hundred devotees were witness to this incident at that hour. They were all convinced that the mound and the place indicated by the serpent earlier, had all the markings of a holy spot where the Lord might have been worshipped in ancient times.