Pada Padi

The temple of Lord Venkateswara is on top of the Tirumala Hills. At the foot of the Hills, there is a place called Padala Mandampam. The reason it is called Padala Mandapam is because Lord Venkateswara's Lotus feet are worshipped by all devotees before climbing the Hills to go to Tirumala temple.

Hills of Tirumala

These Lotus Feet appeared around a 1000 years ago. Here's the story behind it.

Bhagawad Ramanuja was a great saint. He used to stay at the bottom of the Tirumala Hills in Tirupathi, looking after the construction of Govinda Raja Swamy temple.

After finishing his daily morning prayers, he used to visit the place now known as Padala Mandapam. Acharya Tirumala Nambi was the guru of Bhagavad Ramanujacharya. After the morning services, Acharya Tirumala Nambi would climb down Tirumala

Govinda Raja Swamy Temple in Tirupathi under the direction of Bhagawad Ramanuja

Hills to give discourses to Bhagawad Ramanuja on Srimad Ramayanam by interpreting and presenting it 18 times in 18 different ways.

He would then leave in the evening to Tirumala to perform Lord Venkateswara's evening services. However, Acharya Tirumala Nambi was saddened by the thought that he could not offer his prayers and services to Lord Venkateswara in the afternoons.

The days passed by. One day while Tirumala Nambi was teaching Bhagawad Ramanuja, Ramayanam, both of them suddenly smelt pure camphor. Bhagavad Ramanuja searched for the source of fragrance and found the foot prints of Lord Venkateswara, close to the place where he was learning Ramayana.

Bhagavad Ramanuja understood the reason for Lord's appearance. He at once concluded Lord Venkateswara himself had come down to bless them and to remove the feeling of separation that his guru Tirumala Nambi had always felt, when he was away from Tirumala.

Lord's Lotus Feet

The place where Bhagavad Ramanuja discovered Lord's footsteps is called, "Pa:da Padi". Devotees who climb Tirumala by foot, begin their journey from this point.