

KOA- Jesht Ashtami Hawan



Jai Maa TripuraSundari Ashta dash buja Durga

Significance of Jeshtha Ashtami

The temple of Kheer Bhavani

The eighth day of the bright fortnight of Jeshtha is called Zethe-Aethum in Kashmiri. It is the birthday of Maa Raignya or Kheer-Bhawani of Tulmul in Kashmir. The temple stands in the middle of a natural spring surrounded by a vast expanse called Deevi-Angan with beautifully laid age old flat rectangular stone slabs. Lots of old but fresh huge Chinar trees with generously extended foliage around the temple spring give the temple a celestial aura and serve as a canopy for the pilgrims to rest.



The legend of Maata Raginya

It's said during Ramayana period the Goddess called Shyama had her abode in Sri Lanka ruled by the demon king Ravana who was Her fervent devotee and performed regular ablutions to her. When Ravana got Maa Sita the royal consort of Shri Rama forcibly during exile from their forest home to his palace the Goddess was annoyed beyond measure and she commanded Hanuman to take her on her shoulders along with her numerous snakes to Sati-Desh the old name for Kashmir.

The Goddess had an extensive survey of the valley with some stoppages at some places and settled finally in the marshy place of Tulmul, the present spot of the temple. Nobody knew about the presence of the deity for a long time till one day the Goddess appeared in the dream of a saintly Pandit of Srinagar and commanded him to find Her abode in the marshes of Tulmul. The Pandit took a small boat and ferried it across the marshes guided by a snake ahead of him until he reached the spot. Here the snake took a dip and disappeared. He took the clue and emptied here the pitcher filled with milk got along by him.

Thus started his regular visits at the spot and with passage of time the popularity of the place increased manifold as desired by the Goddess. Ma Raginya is called Kheer Bhawani because it's said that Kheer prepared with rice, milk and sugar is her preferred food and the devotees invariably prepare the dish on all Ashtamis, offer it to the Goddess and eat it as Prashaad.

Significance of Bhavani Sahasra Naama Stuthi

Bhavanināmasahasra is an important Sakta-stava much prominence for the Kashmiri Pandits as Lalitasahasranama has for the peninsular India. This eulogy to Bhavāni comprises a thousand names which depict the very nature, characteristic and causation of the Primordial Mover. Its source is the ancient Rudrayamala-Tantra, which is amongst the eight numerically equal groups of the sixty-four non-dualistic Tantras.

The scene of this hymn is laid on the Mount Kailasa, the charming abode of Siva. In that romantic scenery, one day, Lord Siva during his un-wavered meditation, was approached by His attendant-in-chief, Nahdikeshwara or simply called Nandi. Offering a hymn of glorification he implored Lord Siva to take him into confidence and reveal to him the object of His deep contemplation. Siva got pleased and revealed the glory of His consort Pārvati, describing her form, foot to the crown, depicting Her Universal Glory in the manifestation of Her Vidya and Avidya aspects. Thus the holy formula of the thousand gracious names was given as a favour to Nahdikeishwara. Therefore this sāstra is called Nandi Vidyā. The names sung and recited with earnest devotion to the Divine Mother, bring prosperity and proficiency towards emancipation.



The attributes of that Divine Power, Caitanya Sakti or Cit Sakit are so innumerable that it is difficult to conceive or express their meaning. There are, however, Satanarnas and Sahasranamas or the formulae through which the Divine Qualities of Mother Goddess are esoterically revealed to the intelligent and graced to the aspirant of intense devotion and love. This is the purpose of the Bhavaninamasahasra. Siva Himself names it “Stavaraja“, the chief among hymns. Symbolic meanings are unavoidable in the hymns of the Sakta tradition. This Stutih is therefore called Rahasya Sastra as is disclosed by Siva to His beloved disciple Nahdikeshvara. This secret knowledge was kept reserved by siva even from His son, Skanda.