

A STUDY ON THE TEMPLES AT TEMPLE CITY BISHNUPUR DURING MALLA DYNASTY (1682 AC – 1983 AC)

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Abstract: *The Malla rulers were immensely attached to the God, therefore they built several temples in the name of the God. During their realm 694AC- 1983 AC they built various terracotta temples. Which later facilitate to entitled the city as the Temple City. In this paper the focus is on to the study of the temples, established during the period of 1682 AC-1983 AC by Malla dynasty.*

Keywords: *Malla Dynasty, Temple, Bishnupur, Durjan Singha Dev, Gopal Singha Dev, Chaityanana Singha Dev*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bishnupur province is situated in Bankura District, West Bengal. This place is well renowned for its Dashavatar Tash, (a kind of play cards), lanthana (handmade lamp) etc, but the glory of city is terracotta temples. These are the main attraction of the city. The Malla rulers followed Vaishnav Dharma - a religion that was introduced by Shree Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, considered as the avatar of Lord Shree Krishna to spread love and non-violence.

2. OBJECTIVES

To study the temples established by the Malla Dynasty during 1682 AC- 1983 AC.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Historical research method was used for this study purpose.

4. TEMPLES ESTABLISHED DURING MALLA DYNASTY (1682 AC - 1983 AC)

4.1. Durjan Singha Dev (1682 AC – 1702 AC)

He was the son of King Bir Singha Dev and was a great king of malla dynasty and also a polite, kind hearted person in nature. He was also a devotee of Lord Krishna and built the Madanmohan Temple.

4.1.1. Madanmohan Temple (1694 AC): The Malla king Durjan Singha established this temple. The length and width of the temple is 12.2 meter and height is 10.7 meter. The temple was made of bricks with eka ratna style.

4.2. Gopal Singha Dev (1712 AC - 1748 AC)

The 55th king of Malla Dynasty was Gopal Singh Dev. During his realm the Bargis attacked Mallabhum. Therefore he used the Dalmadal kaman against the Bargis.

4.2.1. Jor Mandir (1726 AC): jor mandir consists of three temples, all the three temples followed ek ratna style. It is situated opposite the Nandalal mandir.

4.2.2. Radhagovinda Temple (1729): It was built by Mall king Krishna Singha. It is eka ratna style temple made of laterite stone.

4.2.3. Radha Madav Temple (1737): The temple was made by Churamani Devi – daughter in -law of king Gopal Singha in 1737. Social life, Krishna leela, various mythological scenes are depicted on the wall.

4.2.4. Nandalal Temple (Seventeen century): It is an eka ratna style temple made of laterite stones and work of terracotta in the lower relief of arch. It is built on a square ground plan and tower resting on a curved roof.

4.3. Chaityanana Singha Dev (1748 AC – 1801 AC)

The 56th king of Mall Dynasty was Chitanya Singha Dev. He was also a pious king. And devotee of Lord Krishna.

4.3.1. Radhashyam Temple (1758 AC): This temple was built by Malla king Chaitanya Singh Dev. It is another excellent example of terracotta temple, dedicated to the Lord Krishna.

4.3.2. Jugal Kishore Valaram Temple (Eighteen Century): this temple was dedicated to lord Krishna and his brother Valaram. the architectural style of the temple is quite similar with Odisha state.

4.3.3. Mahpravu Temple (Eighteen Century): As it's name suggests the temple was dedicated to Mahaprabhu Shree chaitanya, an avatar of Lord Krishna. This temple somehow is ignored by the local administrators; therefore, it is now turned into a debris.

5. Conclusion

The terracotta temples of Bishnupur are the witness of the glorious past of the Mallabhum. The depicted scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, hunting, social life style, various motifs of flowers, trees, animals, birds, etc. all of these generate a artistic contentment to us.

6. REFERENCES

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