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Bargabhima temple: seeking an unknown mystery

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Assimilation of History and religion there arise some different legends and mythological stories. Devi Bargabhima temple is one of such monuments which bears sizzling story of history.

Bargabhima temple is saktipith of West Bengal. This temple is one and only 51th saktipith in Tamluk. If you come here before the noon you can worship Devi and also can consume Devi prasad. Bargabhima temple is situated on the bank of the river Rupnarayan. This Temple is also known as a Bhima-Kali temple.

Devi Bargabhima temple is a Hindu temple. It is near to Kolkata in West Bengal at Tamluk. This place is 87.2 k.m far from Kolkata and 85 k.m from kharagpur. Tamluk is connected by national highway 6 and south eastern railway. Tamluk is one of the important historic place of East Medinipur. Tamradhaj of Mayur Dynasty established this temple.

This place also mentioned in Mahabharata which was occupied by Bhima. West Bengal government has declared this temple as a heritage site. Current temple is not very old. It was rebuilt before the middle time of Islamic rule of Bengal. Different Bengali Literature was also given reference about this temple.

Bargabhima is a mixture of Hindu, Buddhist and Bengali culture. Every year Durga puja is organized by local people. As this cause Devi Barga-Bhima was known Ribhasha. The temple is bordered by a long courtyard.

In General, Ancient time parbanchal was divided into five parts – Anga, Banga, Kalinga, Sumbha and Pundra. Tamralipta was the capital of this sumbha port. In ancient History of Bengal was referred Tamralipta as a port. The connection with Buddhism of this city is very deep. Budhidrum started his Journey to Sinhala from Tamralipta. Chinese traveler F- Hien and Hiuen-Tsang came Tamralipta. Independent tamralipta Jotiya Sarkar Was formed in Tamralipta during Indian Independent movement. Devi- Bargabhima is gurdiam of the people of Tamluk city. That is why remembering the Devi all sacred work are started by the people of Tamluk.

Bargabhima temple is situated or quite high from the main road. After crossing the stairs, We can see the nat mandir architecture of Bargabhima temple was influenced by odisha architecture. According to

puran In Daksha Jaina, After the dead of sati Bishnu split her body into 51th parts by Sudharshana chakra. One of that parts I came fall in this place (her left foot's toe). From that time among 51th pith one of the pith had been worshiped as Devi Bargabhima.

According to local rumor, one fisher woman every day provided a shol fish (snake head fish) to the king Tamradhaj, Suddenly one day the shol fish died but the fisher woman had to send alive shol fish to the king Tanrujdhaj of mayor dynasty. Then the fisher woman began to cry in despair. Then in that time Devi-Bargabhima appeared showing one tank told the woman that if she sprinkled the water from that tank on the fish, the fish would be alive. Devi told the woman that this incident should not to tell to anyone.

In this way the fisher woman everyday supplied the alive shol fish to the king. But the king felt astonish and doubted that hour the fisher woman everyday supplied herself alive shol fish. Then the king asked the woman and then the fisher woman revealed the whole incident in details.

Then the king thought if his people died, the holy water sprinkling on them then they would be alive. So Raja started his journey for searching the holy tank. Coming to the tank Raja saw one Devi idol but the tanks water dried. Then Raja Tamradhaj was established Bargabhima temple on that place. From that time Maa Bargabhima was worshipped.

About the establishment of Bargabhima temple another opinion was also very popular. Rich merchant was going to do business through sea route. In the middle of his journey he come Tamralipta port and Heard that water of this place's tank had a quality to convert copper into gold. So the merchant brought all the copper from the city and convert it into gold and sold it in the market. He earned huge profit for this cause during returning time he established Bargabhima temple.

Historical stories are memorable and sizzling, Suleman Karnan's army general was Kalapahar destroying any temple and monuments was his main purpose. This Kalapahar came to destroy Bargabhima

Temple but could not do it. He Felt asleep in the courtyard of temple. Devi Prasad available at noon and is distributed two times per day.

Beside the main temple one holy tank was situated. Touching This water all devotees do earn virtue, many people come here to do tarpan in the in the mahalaya. One Plumier tree (Kathchapa) is located between the Devi temple and holy tank. In Kartayani Chaturdashi the Saptasati Jajra is performed. Major festival of this temple are Durgapuja, Kalipuja, Jagatdhatri puja, Ratanti kalipuja. On that particular date Devi wears Royal Dress, One side of Maa Bargabhima there is a Mahisasur Mardini and in another side sarbananda idol , and Vairab idol. In the middle of sanctum Kalimurti has four hand, Upper two hands have trisul and lower two hands have demon's head. During independence movement many freedom fighter gathered at the courtyard of Bargabhima temple according to the history of Tamluk it mentioned that

Matangini Hazra did picketing against British in front of Baragbhima temple. In 1938 Netaji came here to worship the Devi.

In general It seems that before the establishment of Tamralipta this temple was established. Barabhimba temple built in Sen dynasty. Especially of the time of Ballal Sen. As the opinion of historian this temple actually was a Buddhist monastery. It is referred in Buddhist religion that this Hindu temple was established as the restoration of Hindu religion. For this course this temple was built in Sen time.

Some writings were depicted on the wall of Bargabhima temple Devi Puran, Chandimangal of Mukundaram and Markendio puran Devi Bargabhima was mentioned –

'Kapalini vinarupa Bamgulko

Bibhaske

Vasirabasheh mahadev Surbanand

Subhiprad

Twelfth chapter of Brahmapuran described that –
Tamralipta purdeshe cha Baagabhita Birajate :

Main temple was reconstructed but still it bears its same ancient structure. 60 fit high this temple has 9 fit wall. It has round shaped roof. It is divided 4 parts. Main temple is divided in Jagmahan, Jajana temple, and pot temple. All parts of this temple was not constructed at a same time. 27 terracotta work found of in Bargabhima temple. This is atchala temple of Bengal built in the style of Natmandir.



Different types of architectural Style of kalinga or Lingaraj temple was taken from Nagara style. Kalinga architecture was mainly two types, one is tower and other is 'hall'. Tower is called deul and the hall is called jagmohan deul and the wall of jagmohan was built by variety of motif.

The temple of Orissa has mainly three types deul – Rekha Deul, Pitha / vadra Deul and khakra deul. Devi-Barga Bhima is mainly Rekha deul temple. Long sikhhar, this type of sikhhar also can see in the lingaraj temple. Rekha deul is a architectural form where many temples are placed in one line. Bargabhima mandir has viman (structure containing the sanctum), Jagmohan (assembly hall) Nat mandir (festival hall) and Vogmmandir.

So, Architectural form of Bargabhima was mostly influenced by Orissa temple architectural style. Specially sanctum of mandir is quite similar with Jhargram Rameswar temple. Devi-Bargabhima temple architecture style is also similar with Sri-Hari Baldev-Jew-Temple which was established by Mayurbhanj Dynasty of Baripada.

So Devi Bargabhima temple is one of the important temple architecture of Kalinga architectural style. Ancient history and architecture of this temple demands more research. Next time we can hope that many research works would be organized in near future.

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