

## SECRET & SACRED EMBODIMENT OF GODDESS DURGA IDOL

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A festival, which unleashes the 'Shakti' by Goddess Durga over the Demon God 'Mahisaasura' to win the good over the evil. Manifestation of Goddess Durga is done as we plunge into the secret and sacred ways of making the idol of Goddess Durga ready before the puja commences.

**Purpose:** The article highlights about the mysterious and tenebrous side of formation of Goddess Durga idol during Durga Puja.

**Design/Methodology:** It is a descriptive review where the difficulties and hindrances are highlighted as far as Goddess Durga idol formation is concerned.

**Research Limitations:** Lack of empirical data and the study is limited to theoretical aspects.

**Practical Implications:** Implied to age old traditional customs, belief which is still practiced in Bengal and some parts of Assam.

**Originality:** This is the authentic paper looking at Goddess Durga idol formation theoretically in religious aspects.

**Keywords:** Goddess Durga, Idol, Punya mati

**Paper Type:** General Review.

### Overview

Shaktism and Tantrism are the two opposite sides of the same coin. Shaktism is quite evidently seen to be practiced in all parts of Bengal and North East, especially Assam. Shakti here refers to 'Shakti' or the divine power which is derived from the from Indian Goddess like Devi or Kali or Durga. The cult of Hinduism where the female goddess is being worshipped and adored is known as Shaktism. (Rukmani, 2016) Shaktism itself embodies Shaivism. This Shaivism has two aspects mainly- one its specialists (who preach Shaktism called shaktas) lay more significance on the benediction of Supreme Divine Shiva (Effeminate aspect) and macho aspect of deific is utilized mainly to be preeminence where the manifestation of an almighty's drift and dynamism is not influenced by any surroundings or by any physical laws. Devotees of Shaktism more often button down 'Shakti' as the power which underlies the male principle. (Anderson, 2007). The incarnation of Goddess Durga Idol has transcended a lot many horizons and has come a long way by going through sundry turmoil processes. It is the age old belief; a custom which keeps floating for the tradition of creating idols are concerned. (Roy, 2000) Formation of Durga Goddess Idol is one of the daunting tasks ever faced by the Kumortuli's in Bengal. It requires an exact and avid knowledge of an artisan

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surnamed 'Pal' to construct the idol with the right ratio and proportions of cow urine, cow dung, clay from the river banks of Ganga and sacred soil to be bought from the land of a prostitute. One hundredseventeen types of soil bath has to be done to the formed idol during its creation. **(Guha, 2004)** The somber part is that the place from where 'punya mati' is brought or begged is only from the red light areas. The sex workers who have been a prey of curse, frustration, anguish and slang have their importance felt to the Brahmin on those days in the idol formation process. Difficulty is some of these workers rebuke the Brahmin by not allowing to take the dust from their respective land. On many occasions; artisans take the assistance from the clients who visit the brothels and stealing the dust is somewhat is also practiced. **(Jana, 2009)**.

### **Elucidation**

The very word 'Durga' means fort or palace which is very hard to reach as it is shielded always. Durga itself manifests 'Maa or Mother' or The Supreme Divine Power who fosters mankind from an act of evil and hypocrisy. A victory of good over the evil by tarnishing wicked forces such as wrath, prejudice, treacherousness, self-centeredness and hatredness.

Footprints of Goddess Durga would go back to Vindhya, Aravalis where old age customs or tribes such as Sabaras and Pulindas. Probably these roots would associate her with anti-Aryan; where boozing, cannibalism was always in their cards. Durga was considered to be the first celibate clarified in Mahabharata. Durga is a power enabler towards the growth of crops & vegetation; which she indeed became a part of it during her Durga puja. The genesis of idol Durga dates back to Mesopotamian culture. Divinity of Ishtar which was the then worshipped in Mesopotamia strikes facsimile to Goddess Durga in Hindu mythology. Ishtar is an auto archic celestial figure who moves around the mangrove forests and was an all-time appellant for crusade. She was portrayed as riding a lion and possessed multiplicity of arms holding a variety of weapons. She had many wooers from a diversified background and this was significantly the most appropriate reason for her rising popularity among common man of ancient history as she gave preference to raw energy than self-importance associated with other deities. This innervation of her class division was emancipated by many lovers from all social and low profile classes.

Durga Puja is considered to be one of main festivals of Bengal and Assam. It marks the triumph of good over the evil. The demon (Mahisaasura) who got the deity status from Lord Shiva only sheer due to his pious, austerity and devotion. This coveted festival makes us go around old memory lanes of glory when Lord Rama seeked blessings from Goddess Durga for saving Sita from the notorious Ravana. The other name of Durga Puja is 'Akalbodhon' as Lord Ram mobilized the Goddess during the season of Autumn.

### **Flawless Mystery Process**

A festival which marks the victory of good over the evil in a joy and pompous manner; but at the same time it is the unmarred cliffhanger which keeps us soaked in darkness as far as creation of Goddess Durga Idol is concerned. When the festival nears by, a Kumortuli's whose surname is Pal is pitched with dementedness. Kumortuli is the hub of people who are artillery craftsmen; having expertise in incarnation of idols. Goddess Durga, Karthikeiya, along with the making of Goddess Lakshmi is itself a dismay task.

Clay from the river banks of Ganges, cow urine, cow dung and soil brought from a brothel's house. Without the soil brought from a harlot's dwelling would simply make the idol creation incomplete. There has to be equal proportion of 'punya mati' for the creation of Goddess Durga Idol. The most fundamental query is from where does the Brahmin get the propitious soil?

Age old customs, glory, tradition is still a taboo in many parts of India. The 'blessed mati' has to be sought from the land of red light areas. Conundrum is still yet puzzled about why this sacred mati is being preferred and brought from unfurled territories. The Brahmin has to obtest the punya mati from a flesh trade worker where the 'mati' has to be given and distributed out. At the time of receiving the preacher has to soliloquize a unique mantra. Even if there is a refuse for it also, then the Brahmin has to keep obtesting until the soil is handed out to him by any prostitute.

The modus operandi is pious that the Brahmin should take a holy soak in Ganga and recite the required mantras all throughout the process of securing of punya mati. It is also important for the priest to hold the fingers in a yogic mudra style while receiving the soil from a harlot which is considered to be most religious if received as a gift from a sex worker.

### **Essence**

The joy of basking in good over the evil marks Durga Puja but many are unaware about the dark side of the creation of idol Devi Durga before the beckoning of the worshipping the Goddess. The land of Almighty makers known as 'Kumortuli' faces a stern test; a kind of nemesis when the formation of idols is concerned. Forging of sacred Goddess Durga idol; four fundamental ingredients were used- mud which has to be brought from river banks of Ganga, cow urine, cow dung and soil from brothel's area ('Nishiddho Pallis meaning contraband areas'). Four of these have to be constituted and failing even to bring any one of the said mentioned things would simply make the idol incomplete.

### **Intact Perplexity**

The sacred soil collected from a harlot place is said to be most deistic because the client who visits a brothel basically leaves their unsulliedness and righteousness

on her doorstep. So, all the sanctity, righteousness gets bundled outside her dwelling. According to some Hindu preachers, before there was a gallant fight between Goddess Durga and the demon (Mahisaasura), the demon God tried to be harmful and attempted vexation. Wrathed by this unholy behavior, Goddess Durga used all her energy and competence to deplete the Demon God who vivaciously looked upon the woman in a bad way. This could be one of the sole criteria's for which the soil taken outside of a red light area are noted to be as a gratitude of homage to women, who have been sidelined and abashed by the society. Purification of souls is also taken into account when handling over the blessed soil from the hands of a harlot to the Brahmin.

### **Limitations**

A kind of nemesis which every Kumortuli faces during the Goddess Durga idol formation process. Lack of empirical data and the study is limited to theoretical aspects. Difficult to know what objectives and measures are taken by other states for idol making apart from Bengal which is the paradise of genesis of Goddess Durga idol

### **Practical Implications**

Age old belief, customs, pious rituals may be a taboo but it is still practiced in Bengal and Assam in Goddess Durga idol making process.

### **Conclusion**

The baffling and unraveled mysteries are still intact where the traditional customs are followed minutely to complete the incarnation of Goddess Durga Idol. Bengal which is said as to be the epitome of Durga Puja celebrations seems to follow this rule as refraining it would give rise to inauthenticity in worshipping the idol. It is due to the obnoxious, canoodle character of Goddess Durga, which lets every human being in this universe to be included in her puja. To be equal, not to discriminate is sole motto, which keeps ticking in Durga idol creating process and adoring her.

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