

Bisket festival –At Bhaktapur

NOUVEL AN 2063

The emergence of the Bisket festival landmarks the cultural ecstasy in Khaktapur. Prominently observed on the advent of

of spring it is a festival of human emotions. The human emotions are symbolically depicted on multiple aspects of the festival at large.

The folk-lore as it tells about the slithering of a pair of snakes by a handsome youth bestowed with Tantric empowerment is the central point of the festival. It is said that two serpents came out of the nostrils of a beautiful princess at mid night while snizzling. They grew to a huge shape in the twinkling of an eye and took the life of these persons who slept with the princess. As always the serpents were about to sting one of the youthful persons in the hot bed, one night. The meticulous person caused the serpents breathe their last with his Tantric power.

Having found the person alive and the serpents dead, the following morning, Vishwo Malla the then ruler brought the practice of hoisting two long flags on a big long wooden pole. Symbolically enough the banners were designed after the shape of the deceased serpents. The big long pole meant for hoistening the flags were addressed-Yoshin-the pole of love and remained popular among the local people as of these days. The hoisting of the serpent,shaped flags are annually observed with great enthusiasm. The banners are also known as BISHO DHOJA after BISHO MALLA.

The mythical belief considers the firmament and the earth as the divine male and female object in the form of BHAIKAL. D Bhadrakali respectively.It says that the mating between the sky and the earth has made the creation possible on our planet.The rain that showers from the sky to the earth is considered the life giving element while the earth the creative base.An the hole in which the yoshin-pole is erected is the symbol of the female reproductive organ.So, the Bisket is also a festival of the mating of the Bhairab and the Bhadrakali. The metallic icon of the Bhairab and the Bhadrakali is brought out of the yashin pole. They are enthroned on the respective chariots called Bhaila kha and the nakinju kha.The Bhailakha and nakinjukha are voluntarily drawn by festive people with great excitement. The bhairab and Bhadrakali are respectively addressed as Bhaila deo and Nakinju ajima in localdialect. Essentially the concept of the festival is basedon conjugality, creation and continuity of life.On the last day of the year by the evening the bhairad and the bhadrakali chariots are drawn toward Yoshin-khyo where theYoshin-pole is erected. The Yashin pole rected by the late evening. A mammoth crowd in participation exclaims joy in songs.The energetic youths tend to reach the top of the pole climbing up the big dangling ropes aiming to pick up adjusted on the top.The treat behind the endeavours is funished with a belief; if one who would pick up the green shrub from the top of Yoshin-pole is the lucky one for a male child to give forth.The pole remainq perpendicular to the sky and and the earth for 24 hours.And the evening is followed by a big feast all over Bhaktapur.

The dawn of the new year turns to a joyous moment for all bhaktapurians. Most of them get assembled to the yashin khel in early hours of the morning. Paying, homage and sacrificial Puja to the Bhairab and Bhadrakali becomes the scenarion of the morning through mid day eve.The chhrful appearance and the festivegala signifies voluptuous moment of life and the advent of new bikram era.

The Yoshin Pole is pulled down to the ground by the evening. Mannoht crowd assembled of the eve give expression to their joyful mind with the seasonal melodies enchanting every now and then . Seasonal tunesin flutes, drums, symbols and other musical instruments arethe attractive features of the event.

People get concentrated to pull the Bhairab and the Bhadrakali chariots. They are pulled towards the Gahiti tole section.At mid night the Bhairab and the Bhadrakali chariots are collided symbolizing copulation.But this time the bhairab chariot does not move even a single inch. It is the Bhadrakali who keeps passionately dashing over the bhairad at mid night.

Life is all but a joyous festival and festivals to enjoy life.