

A - Historical Study Of Bhutha Bhagavan With Special Reference To The Thiruvenkadu Swetharanyeswarar Temple

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Abstract

Human life moves on the basis of some belief. So, the important belief of many people in the world is belief in God. the major of the people around the world, considered religion to be an important part of their life. Humans believe that God is the main cause of events in their lives. Thus, based on the belief of the Hindu people, here we will see in detail Bhuthan bhagavan who is considered as the God who gives many turning points in life, many benefits, many arts, insights, and insights, etc. Let us see in detail the origin of Lord Buddha, worship, pujas, merits, and dosha of Buddha.

Keywords Bhuthan, Mercury, Thiruvenkadu, God, Navagraha, Planet, Hinduism.

Introduction

India has many religions and many gods. Among them, Hinduism is the major religion in India. Especially in Hinduism, there are many gods and many cults. Hinduism is based on three gods. They are Brahma the god of creation, Vishnu the god of protector, and Shiva the god of the destroyer. All these three are considered the main gods of Hinduism. Apart from these, there are other important gods. Prominent among them are the Navagrahas. Nava means 9 in numbers in Sanskrit. Navagraha means, Navagraha = Nava + Graha, Nava - nine, Graha – planet. Navagraha is a confederation of nine Gods. The Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu, and Venus they are called navagraha. Navagrahas are the reason of all events in human life. This Navagraha is based on the Solar System in our Milky Way Universe. The other planets revolve around the sun in the solar system. Similarly, the Navagrahas are centered around the Sun. The 9 gods in Navagraha are responsible for all events in human life like pleasure, pain, success, failure, wealth, disease, fame, knowledge, morality, etc. Among the nine such planets, Bhudan (Mercury) is the most important planet. He is considered to be the lord of education knowledge, wisdom, thinking, and ability. Bhuthan refers to the planet Mercury in the solar system. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. it is closest to the sun, it is only 29 million miles (47 million km), but at its farthest, the distance to Mercury is 43 million miles (70 million km). From an average distance of 36 million miles (58 million kilometers), Mercury is 0.4 astronomical units away from the Sun. One astronomical unit (abbreviated as AU), Bhuthan deva has a lovable and pleasant face, Buddha Deva with placid and cool, he is the blessed son of Chandra Deva.

Even if you get a girl,

you will not get Wednesday. - is a proverb.

That means it is difficult to find a good woman to marry, and even more difficult to find a Wednesday to do a good job. The seven days of the week are named after the seven planets. Each of the Navagrahas, except Rahu and Ketu, rules one day each of the weeks and also has Gemstones representing them. Wednesday is the fourth day of the seven days of the week. This Planet governs the nervous system. It is the belief of Hindus that worshipping Buddha can cure all nervous diseases in the body.

Story Of Bhuthan (Mercury)

Bhuthan (Mercury) is an important god among the Navagrahas. Lord Budha's parents are Saundra (Moon) and Tara. Rohini (Star) and Karthikai (Star) were the foster mothers of Buddha. Among them, Rohini brought up Budha with the most love.¹ Suriyan, sukiran and Bhuthan are friends. Bhuthan is a benefic planet. Bhuthan means Pandit. Ila was the 'wife' of Budha, the son of Chandra. Chandra committed the 'Mahapataka' or a great Sin of enticing Devi Tara, the wife of Deva Guru. Brihaspati, other Devas, and Brahma himself chided his nasty and immoral activity to no avail. Shukracharya the Asura Guru espoused the cause of Chandra and Tara.² In course of time, Tara was conceived and Brihaspati insisted that the delivery should not be in his residence til Tara's delivery and that she could join him after delivery. Meanwhile, Tara gave birth to bhuthan. Then Chandra's arrogance and selfishness, made Budha's placement in the firmament right opposite to that of his father's but Budha was friendly with Ravi(sun) and Shukra. Budha fell in love with Ila, a beautiful young woman, little realizing that she was actually King Sudyumna a pious ruler of his Subjects. he wandered several places and by mistake entered the "Sharavana' Garden, little knowing that whoever entered the Sharavana would instantly turn into a woman as per the instructions of Parameswara. The King entered a forest not knowing that it was a forbidden place as Shiva and Parvati spent their privacy and the ban was that any male entering there would become a female. Thus, the King became a beautiful woman but due to shyness did not return to his kingdom. Sudyumna(Ila's)brother Ikshvaku was worried about the disappearance of Sudyumna (Ila)and realized the fact that any male entering the Sharavana would be converted as a female and that Sudyumna(Ila) also would have been converted likewise. Ikshvaku prayed to Shiva. Sage Vasishta who was the Raja Guru of King Sudyumna came to know of the curse and performed severe Tapasya to Maha Deva (lord Siva). Meanwhile, Budha met Ila by chance and married her, and begot a child called Pururava. By then Vasishta was fortunate to secure Maha Deva Shiva's 'darshan' and requested that his King be returned to manhood. Shiva granted a partial dispensation that Sudyumna would become a male for half a year and during the second half continue as Ila Devi. Pururava after Sudyumana's retirement proved to be a model King administering the Kingdom on the strict principles of Virtue.³ Pururava, the son of Buddha, was the king of Pratisthan puri.⁴ Bhuthan(Mercury) performed severe penance towards Lord Shiva and became one of the Navagraha(nine planets).⁵ Bhuthan(Mercury) excels in knowledge. He is very devoted to Lord Shiva. There is a Shiva Lingam where Lord Buddha is worshipped in Kasi. It is said that because of the penance he did, he became the officer of the 5th canto of the Rigveda.⁶

Blemish (Dosham) Of Bhuthan

Budha's dosha was present from his childhood and we shall see them in detail here. The dosha of Mercury was that he had an unmanly character. That is, Alineess means that men who have the physical structure of a man and the feelings of a woman are called Ali.⁷ Mercury had this dosham. Budha sought the advice of many sages to remove his dosha and reached Thiruvankadu in the name of their advice. Chandran came to Thiruvankadu to remove the curse of his guru's betrayal. Both Mercury and his father Chandra worshiped Lord Swetharanyeswarar and got rid of their curses and infirmity.⁸ Chandran got rid of his curse. Bhutan (Mercury's appearance of ali changed and became a full male. Lord Buddha, who came to get rid of evil, stayed at this place because of his great love for Lord Shiva. There is a separate shrine for Lord Buddha here.

Other Names of Bhuthan

Bhuthan has a lot of names. From the name of Bhuthan (Mercury), many of his characteristics can be sensed. Being the best in knowledge, he got the names Butthimathaam sereshta, bhuthan, Gnani, Gnani Nayagan, etc. He was given the names Butthithatha for giving knowledge, and Butthi Vivarthanan for developing knowledge. he provides goods and etc, so he called dhanaprathan, Thayaakaran, thaara buthra, dhaanya pasuprathan. He is beautiful, so he is called as Ganja Netran, Manokaran, Soumyamurthy.⁹ bhuthan is called Vishnu Ruby because

he has similar to that Lord Vishnu. He is also known as Vidyakarakan as he is the ruler of education.¹⁰ he is also known as Graha Peeta haran because he has the ability to remove the Peetas(bad luck)from other planets. He is called Vanija Nibunan because he is good at business. And Bashara Resan, Lokabryan, and Grahadhipati like that the names he has.¹¹

Iconography Of Bhuthan

Let us see what is mentioned in the Hindu religion about the image structure of Lord Buddha as follows. Budha is sometimes known as Grahapati and is said to be the son of Chandra. The mandalam in which he resides is in the shape of an arrow.¹² He sits facing west. He appropriate turmeric, and sandalwood. A yellow umbrella and flag are his parts. There is a lion in that flag. Even though he has a lion vehicle, he rises in a chariot. Mercury is the northeast of the Sun in Navagraha Mandal. On his right stands Vishnu, his arch deity, with his retinue and consorts. Narayana is the deity of Mercury. His image should be seated upon a lion and should be adorned with garlands of yellow flowers and ornaments of gold. The color of the body of Budha should be the yellow of the karnikāra flower, and that of his garments should be also yellow. Budha should have four arms; one of the right hands should be in the varada pose, and the other three hands should carry the weapons known as khadga, lihetaka, and gada. The Vishnudharmōttara, however, states that the image of Budha should resemble that of Vishnu and be seated in a chariot resembling that of Bhauma.¹³

Iconography Of Bhuthan in Thiruvankadu Temple

Thiruvankadu is one of the Navagraha places. It is the proper place(sthalam)for Budhan (Mercury). Thiruvankadu is a place of worship of Lord Bhuthab(Mercury), one of the Nava planets. There is a separate shrine for Lord Buddha here. Mercury is left in the male form of this place. Lord Buddha is in a sitting position. Budha should have four arms; one of the right and left hands should be in the varada pose, and the other two hands should carry the weapons known as khadga, and lihetaka. Lord Buddha is wearing green color clothes. Mercury became Grahapadam, one of the new planets, by becoming severe penance towards Lord Shiva. While going to temples it is necessary to worship Lord Shiva after worshipping Chandikeshwarar, similarly, after coming to Thiruvankadu worshipping Swetharanyeswarar it is necessary to worship Buddha. After worshipping Lord Swetharanyeswarar, if one visits Buddha Bhagavan, He is able to give education, knowledge, speech, music, astrology, mathematics, sculpture, medicine, and proficiency in languages.¹⁴ His sannidhi, which gives tricks (Vittaikal) is on the left side of the Ambikai Brahmavidyambikai shrine in Thiruvankadu.¹⁵ Also the shrine of Buddha's father Chandra and Chandra Theertha is situated opposite Buddha's shrine.

Pujas For Bhuthan in Thiruvankadu Temple

It is auspicious to worship Buddha on Wednesday. daily (nithya poojas), six times a day. Sometimes special poojas (naimithya poojas) are also conducted on some occasions. The special poojas were conducted with garlands. flowers, nectar, camphor, fruits, ghee, payasam, etc. The daily pooja is done in three steps; abhisheka, alankara and aradhana. The Abhisheka is the process of giving bath to the idol with various objects like gingili oil, sigaikkai, milk, honey, curd, sandal paste, panchamirtha, tender cocount water, rose water or panneer etc. The Alankara done by the archakar. The idol is beautifully decorated with silk clouth, flower garlands. Aradhana is a camphor deepa being shown to Lord Budha. The ritual is performed by sprinkling flowers and chanting mantras. Apart from this, special poojas are also performed to remove Infertility, mental retardation and to get high place in education.¹⁶

Conclusion

The Hindus believe that Navagrahas play a key role in their destiny, and are responsible for all the good or bad times one faces in life. According to their belief, Navagrahas are worshiped to remove the mistakes, faults, and sins committed by human beings and to bring benefits to their lives. Mercury worship is also an important part of Navagraha worship. People who are great in knowledge are usually compared to Bhuthan (Mercury). Elders say that if Bhuthan is worshipped, tricks (arts) will come easily. He has the power to remove the effects caused by

evil planets. The merits and methods of worship of Budha Bhagavan, one of the Navagraha in Thiruvankadu, are known through this article.

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Fig: 1 Lord Bhutha Bhagavan, Thiruvankadu.