



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

History

DRAUPADI GHAT TEMPLE OF HASTINAPUR: HISTORIC TO THE WORLD

KEY WORDS: Hastinapur, Draupdi Mandir, Mahabharata

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ABSTRACT

Hastinapur, located at a distance of about 40 km from Meerut, still preserves the heritage of the Mahabharata period. Pandeshwar Mahadev Temple, Karna Mandir, Maa Kamakhya Siddha Peeth, Budhi Ganga, Draupadi Ghat, Draupadi Ghat Temple, and Pandava Mound (Mound of Ulta Khera) encapsulates the memories of the Mahabharata epoch. Archaeological excavations in 1950-1952 gave Hastinapur a distinct cognizance. The floods in the Ganges during the reign of King Nichakshu also engulfed the glorious splendor of Hastinapur. Today Hastinapur has preserved the memories of Mahabharata with the help of this patrimony. Draupadi Ghat Temple in Hastinapur is the only temple in the world where Shri Krishna is depicted helping Draupadi during *Cheerharan*, this depiction has been given a message of respect for women.

INTRODUCTION

The real name of Draupadi was "Krishna". Being Krishna Varna, the name was named Krishna. In the Mahabharata, Krishna is described by many names such as *Yagyasani*, *Draupadi*, *Panchali*. Draupadi was the daughter of King Drupada. It has been said in many work of literatures that due to having five husbands, her name was *Panchali*, while this fact is not true. In the Mahabharata period, it has been seen that the names of individuals were named after the region, like the princess Gandhari of Gandhara, similarly, Draupadi's name was Panchali due to her living in Panchal.

It is believed that Draupadi was also one of the reasons for the war of Mahabharata because Draupadi was humiliated in the court of Hastinapur by Kauravas by making five Pandavas slaves. Draupadi was chirped by Dushasan, Draupadi was assisted by Vasudev Lord Shri Krishna. This whole conspiracy was hatched in Hastinapur at the behest of Shakuni. Later Vasudev Shri Krishna also had to bring a treaty proposal of Pandavas to Hastinapur, but Duryodhana refused to accept that proposal. The "Mahabharata" war took place as the last option.

Along with this, there is another incident in the Mahabharata that Guru Drona was humiliated by King Drupada. Burning in the fire of this humiliation, King Drupada reached Hastinapur. Bhishma appointed Guru Drona to teach weaponry to *Kauravas* and *Pandavas*. After completing the education of Kauravas and Pandavas, Dronacharya told them that they should take King Drupada as a prisoner and bring him to me. This is what happened, when King Drupada was taken prisoner by the *Pandavas* and brought before Drona. With the feeling of getting the best child, Drupada started in search of *Karmasiddha* Brahmins. While roaming on the banks of the Ganges, he went to a Brahmin settlement near the city and there he found two Brahmins, Yaj and Upayaz. Yaj performed a yajna for King Drupada to get the best child. Dhrishtadyman first appeared from the fire pit afterward Krishna appeared. Both of them were born to take revenge on Guru Drona and to destroy the Kaurava [1]. From the point of view of history, the birth of Draupadi and Dhrishtadyman was important, while for science the theory of designer baby was also invented by sage Yaj. Although it appears that the Panchal king had hated Hastinapur even before the birth of Draupadi. But nowhere in the Mahabharata is there a mention or description of Hastinapur being cursed by Draupadi.

Draupadi Ghat

Even today, memories related to Mother Draupadi will be seen in Hastinapur, the capital of Kuru Kingdom. The mainstream of the Ganges once passed through the palace of Kurus, traces of Budhi Ganga (old stream of Ganges) which can be seen even today. Although that palace is not present today, at this place, there is a mound named Pandav Tila or the

Mound of Ulta Khera. It is believed that this was the palace of the Kuru Kingdom. By the way, seeing the old signs of Ganga, this also seems to be true.

A stream from the mainstream of the Ganges used to come to this place where Draupadi used to take bath. The name of this place was given by the people as Draupadi Ghat. There is an influx of devotees here.



Image 1: Draupdi Ghat, a bathing place

The Historical importance of Draupadi Ghat Temple

Draupadi Ghat Temple is also located near Draupadi Ghat. One of the main features of this temple is that its Mahant (priest) is a woman named Begwati. About 200-250 years ago, a small monastery existed at this place [2]. The temple is now located in place of the monastery. In this temple, there is a statue of Mother Kunti on one side and on the other side Vasudev Shri Krishna and in the middle is a rare idol of the world (refer Image 3). That rare idol is Lord Krishna helping Draupadi during *Cheerharan* (refer image 4). Making this scene alive, perhaps such an idol will not be seen anywhere in the world other than Hastinapur. This idol has been the center of attraction for years. Ancient Peepal tree is also present in the courtyard of this temple (refer Image 5).



Image 2: Draupdi Ghat Temple, Hastinapur



Image 3: Statue of Lord Shri Krishna, Maa Kunti and in center Lord Krishna helping Draupadi during Cheerharan



Image 4: Lord Krishna helping Draupadi during Cheerharan.



Image 5: An ancient Peepal Tree in the premises of Draupdi Ghat Temple.

Fare

A big fair named *Sata Pheri* is also organized at Draupadi Ghat temple. This fair is organized on the *Saptami Tithi* after the new moon in *Baisakh* Month. Devotees from many states come to this fair and worship Maa Draupadi.

CONCLUSION

Hastinapur, which was once the capital of the Kuru Kingdom, located in the North-East from the capital of India, was established with great fervor by King Hastin. In Hastinapur, since ancient times, along with the worship of Shiva, there has

been a law to worship the Ganges. During an episode in Mahabharata too, Gandhari worshiped *Shivalinga* to protect the Kauravas. Even today many heritage sites in Hastinapur are mentioned in the names of characters of the Mahabharata period such as Karna Mandir, Pandaveshwar Mahadev Temple, Draupadi Ghat Temple.

The Pandaveshwar Mahadev temple is an example of the Maratha style, while on the other hand, the Karna temple also belongs to the period around this. But the Draupadi Ghat temple has a different identity of its own, the statue of Lord Vasudev Shri Krishna while increasing the rag of Draupadi installed inside the temple, attracts it towards itself. It is the center of attraction for the devotees who come in thousands of numbers.

Local residents even believe that no devotee goes disappointed with this temple of Draupadi. The very ancient Peepal tree also shows the antiquity of the temple. This Draupadi Ghat temple of Hastinapur will be the only temple in the world where such an idol of Draupadi is located.

This idol reminds us again and again that when a woman has been insulted, then God has come to the earth to protect her by impersonating a human body. The purpose of this temple may also be to awaken the light of respect for women.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Author is thankful to Shobhit University, Gangoh and Natural Sciences Trust, Meerut for support.

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