

Durga Puja - A nostalgia beyond !

“Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else.”

~charles spurgeon

India is the only country in the world which has got the distinction of being the largest democracy and its secularism which is being practiced by all the citizens in letter and spirit irrespective of the religion they belong.

Sometimes I feel as to how all parts of the country are so united besides many reasons one thing comes to my mind i.e. religion. More precisely, the Hindu Festivals, the places of pilgrimage which are located in different parts of the country. If a Hindu has to do the pilgrimage tour to all the four Dhams , he has to visit Jagannath Puri in Orissa, Badrinath in uttaranchal State, Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu and Dwarka Puri in Gujarat. The lakhs of pilgrims keep on visiting these places round the year giving the message of religion to the states they pass through. This is one aspect of our religious life which keeps us united as Indians.

Now, comes the festivals which give the distinction to a state with a common goal of brotherhood and unity. The Ganapathi Festival in Maharashtra is being celebrated by people belonging to all religions and the whole month, the people from all walks of life in Maharashtra are busy in one form or the other having the message of Lord Ganesh for all the people irrespective of their religion. This festival in Maharashtra is not very old since the same was started by Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The Onam Festival of Kerala in South India State is another famous festival which is having the message of Hindu Religion and the same is practiced by people belonging to all the casts in the country. The fortnight of Onam Festival is having the feeling of brotherhood among all the people in South Indian States.

Durga Puja in Bengal is somewhat unique festival which is celebrated for the Goddess of power and prosperity. Maa Durga is being worshiped all over the country by all the Hindus in different forms whether it is for Laxmi, Parvati, Santoshi Ma, Vaishno Devi, or Kali Maa, these are all Maa Durga's different avatars. In Bengal, we have a distinction of worshiping Goddess Durga in a very special way. This celebration is unique. The people of all religions unite in making the Durga Idols which are worshiped for 5 (five) days and then emerged in Ganga. Then comes the Kali Puja. The whole fortnight is devoted to Durga Puja. The magnificence of Durga Puja is, the decoration, lighting and the process of making Durga Idols which starts months before, is something very great.

Such a zeal, spirit and enthusiasm among the people to celebrate this festival far away from any caste, creed and religion is the best feeling about this occasion.

Maa Durga comes every year with a new message and ray of hope . This year when the entire world is fighting with the deadly Corona virus. we can pray maa Durga ,with all our heart filled with utmost devotee to arrive and destroy the virus and revive mother earth from this pandemic this is nothing but an honest prayer to Maa Durga from the people who are suffering worldwide, because Goddess Durga is considered as the form of Shakti i.e. Power. This is my own hypothesis and imagination what I could perceive after knowing the fact that Maa Durga comes sometimes on Boat i.e. brings the crop and other materials for development. Durga comes on Elephant with the message of Peace and Durga's original form is on a lion, the powerful Goddess.

Durga Puja in Bengal is a festival which is not only for Hindus but for all the people. Thousands and thousands of people are involved in celebrating the festival as craftsmen while making Durga Idols irrespective of their religion i.e. Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Sikhs. While making the idols they have the feeling for doing their best for Maa Durga. This particular spirit touches me and we see Durga Puja as a festival of all religions.

Let us pray to Maa Durga on this auspicious occasion to grant peace all over the world and destroy the evil elements.