

## Narratives of Nanda Devi in Nauti Nanda Devi Temple in the Holy land of Uttarakhand (India): Jubilation and Revelation of Pain and Suffering

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### Abstract

The write up explores different narratives of Nanda Devi in Nauti Nanda Devi temple situated in the holy land of Uttarakhand. They are celebrated through Nanda Jagar and sacred songs in the holy Himalaya. The first narrative is pertinent to Hemant Rishi and Ressayau village. It describes Nanda's marriage with Lord Shanker and her pain and aloneness in Kailash. The second narrative is pertinent to King Bhanupratap and queen Balampha. It describes Nanda's curse on the Kingdom of Kannauj. The paper concludes with the meaning of jubilation created through Jagar and sacred songs of Nanda Devi at Nauti temple.

**Keywords:** A goddess worshipped and revered in the holy land of Uttarakhand invocation songs blissfulness a village in Uttarakhand state

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Nanda devi: A Short Acquaintance

Uttarakhand, a land of divine powers, is known for its incommensurable culture, rituals and traditions. So many deities are worshiped here from the very ancient time. Bhagwati Nanda, mythologically and traditionally worshiped as a manifestation of goddess gaura (Parvati) wife of lord Shiva. She is the only folk goddess who enjoys equal regard and recognition in perhaps every part of Uttarakhand and Himalaya. Loved, venerated and invoked as a divine daughter of the Himalaya. Nanda is often looked as a protector of Himalayan people, well being and prosperity. SHE is one of the favourite goddesses of Uttarakhand. Nanda Devi is worshiped in Uttarakhand in so many forms. She is worshiped as mother, sister and daughter. Sherman Oakley in his book *Holy Himalaya: The Religion, Traditions and Scenery of a Himalayn province (Kumaun and Garhwal)* says-“Nanda Devi is a favourite goddess in Kumaun”.

#### 1.2. Different Narratives

According to Dr. Shuiv Prasad Naithani- “In Garhwal and Kumaun the name Nanda for Uma Parvati is more in Practice”. There are so many narratives about Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand. These narratives are varying from one place to another. Narratives of Nauti Nanda Devi temple are quite different from the narratives of Almora Nanda Devi temple. One of the famous narratives of Nanda Devi at Nauti temple is about Hemant Rishi, the father of Nanda Devi. Nanda Bhagwati is the daughter of Hemant Rishi who lived at Ressayau. Hemant Rishi is looking for an ideal husband for Bhagwati Nanda but Bhagwati Nanda wants to marry Shiv Shankar who lives in Kailash Himalaya. Nanda, being rigid, marry with Shiv Shankar and move towards her husband's home at Kailasha. She lives in Kailasha but after some time she commemorates her natal place Ressayau, her parents and friends. She thinks again and again and she wants to go there to meet her parents and friends. Nanda's deep sense of sorrow and pain is reflected in the following Nanda Jagar's lines:

बार व्हेनी पार देवी उदास व्हे गये  
किलै दीनी व्हेली माया ऊँचा कैलासा  
ये ऊँचा कैलासा मा पंछी भी नी औनी  
ये ऊँचा कैलासा मा पंछी भी नी औनी

(Many days have been passed, Devi has become upset. Why my mother marry me to high Kailasha. Not even a single bird comes to this high Kailasha).

She wails in the following lines:

क्वी बेनी दिनी बाबा सेना सोमेष्वर  
क्वी बेनी दिनी बाबा बाँका बागेष्वर  
क्वी बेनी दिनी बाबा नौलाख सलाण  
क्वी बेनी दिनी बाबा सौलाख बधाण  
सब से लाडली मी दिनयू ये पापी कविलाष ।।

(One of my sisters was married into the beautiful valley of Someshwar, the other into the prosperous Bageshwar, yet others to the places like Salaan, Badhaan. I alone became the mis-favourite of my father and was married into this eerie Kailash).

On the other side Bhagwati Nanda's mother Mandoli is also commemorating for her daughter. Mother Mandoli then asks his son Binsar to visit to Kailasha for bringing her daughter back to the parental home for some days. Regarding that wish these lines from Nauti Jagar are very emotional as follows:

माया जी मैंडोली माया कागजी ल्येखेली  
ल्येखेली कागजी माया काली धौली राठौ  
काली धौली राठौ रना बालौ बिनसरो  
तेन जाण पूत मेरा ऊँचा कैलासा  
तेन ल्याण पूत मेरी गौरा बुलाए

(Maya Mandoli wrote a letter to Binsar who lives at Kali Dholi Rath. You have to go to high High Kailasha son. You have to bring my daughter Gaura back).

The other narrative of Nauti Nanda Devi temple reveals a quite different fact that Maa Nanda is the daughter of King Bhanupratap of Chandpurgarhi. She has a sister named

Balmpha. Once, Nanda Devi saw a strange dream about her sister Balampha and brother-in-law king Jasdhhol. Then she makes a desire to visit her sister in Kannauj. She moves towards the kingdom of Kannauj. She meets queen Balampha there and for checking her sister queen Balampha's love for her, Devi puts a demand in front of her sister. This demand is about the kingdom of Kannauj. Queen Balampha refuses Devi's demand and replies that she cannot give her kingdom and she can wish for anything else. Suddenly, Nanda Devi becomes invisible. Then the kingdom of Kannauj was dissipated by the curse of her sister Nanda Devi. After demonstration of the fact that Nanda Devi's curse was fallen upon the kingdom of Kannauj queen Balampha and king Jasdhhol asks a priest for remedy and solution. The priest suggests that they have to go in a trip to Nanda Devi and then only this curse will be dissolved. As the line from Nauti Nanda Devi Jagar explores:

बतौलू ब्रहमा जी यो दोष जी  
 तुम्हारा कन्नौज नन्दा जी को दोष  
 कन्नौज लगे नन्दा जी को दोष जी  
 नन्दाल छो दीनी यो बडो सराप  
 रणौ घणौ दोष कन्नौज का राज  
 बतावा ब्रहमा ये दोष जी  
 कनके मिटौलू यो नन्दा को दोष  
 बतावा ब्रहमा उपाय जी  
 तुमुन जाण यो नन्दा जी जात  
 तब यो दोष मिटलू जी

(Tell me Brahmin about this curse. How this curse will remove. Brahmin please suggests its remedy. You have to go in a trip to Nanda Devi then only this curse will be removed).

One of the famous narratives is that Nanda Devi was the sister of King Bharti Chand (king from Chand dynasty). Once she was walking outside with her friends and suddenly a buffalo came there and she ran away from there with friends. She hides behind banana leaf. But again destiny plays a pivotal role and a goat came there and ate the banana leaf. Buffalo devoured the little goddess Nanda Devi and the nature became diabolic. Then Chand Raja started this festival for the peace of his sister's soul. In some places it is also said that Nanda Devi was the daughter of Nandu Mahar in Dwapar yuga. She born at the same moment as lord Krishna was born. King Vasudeva took his son Krishna to Nandu mahar and rescinds his daughter Nanda. When Vashudeva reached the jail Kansa, a malevolent king beat him. Kansa tried a lot to touch and beat Nandu mahar's daughter Nanda. But he failed every time. Then Nanda became disappear and suddenly over jump to the mountain and said in a boisterous voice- "O foolish person! You do not know me...your enemy has been born". After some time that mountain has become famous with the name Nanda Devi mountain and Nanda Devi's deify has started.

## 2. Conclusion

Bhagwati Nanda's marriage with Shiva and the ceremonial jubilation and celebration creates an atmosphere of 'Param Anand' through Nanda Devi jagar at Nauti temple. Hence, in this way there are many narratives of Nanda Devi in Nauti Nanda Devi temple which explores blissfulness as well as the pain and suffering. Willaim S. Sax in his book 'The blurb of mountain goddess' says.

Every few decades, thousands of Hindu villagers in the Central Himalaya of North India carry their regional goddess Nanda Devi in a bridal palanquin to her husband Shiva's home in the snows. A ritual dramatization of the post marital journey of married women from their natal villages to those of their husbands, this pilgrimage leads the travelers over the Himalayan ice-fields, past a show bound lake surrounded by human bones.

## 3. References

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