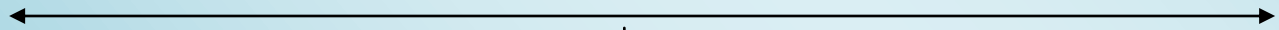


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of
Social Science & Humanities*

Chief Editor

Dr Rama Singh



Publisher

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik

Associate Editor

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trapathi

Honorary

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium



Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce B.S.A.U, Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: - Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No. 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815, Email: nairjc5@gmail.com , nairjc@nairjc.com , info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com

AWANTISAWMI TEMPLE OF KASHMIR

URMEENA FIRDOUS* & MUSHTAQ AHMAD TANTRAY*

*Research Scholar at AIHC& A, Vikram University, Ujjain M.P.

Avantiswami Temple, half a mile distant from Avantiswara, is smaller but decorated and better preserved. It is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is the work of Avantivarman's youth, before he came to the throne. It has been reclaimed by the removal of an enormous mass of silt and debris which during which a thousand years of neglect (for the temple had already silted up when it suffered from iconoclasts) had accumulated to a height of 15' and buried the whole structure except the upper part of the walls of the gateway and a shapeless heap of stones in the centre.⁽¹⁾

The edifice comprises a colonnaded peristyle and enclosing a paved courtyard 174 by 148, in the centre of which is the main shrine, built on a doubt base with four smaller shrines at four corners. The peristyle is comparatively plain externally except on the west side, which has a row of fluted columns. The only decoration on the other three sides is a rectangular string-course and pilasters enclosing rectangular spaces, corresponding respectively with the cyma recta, cornice of the plinth and the cells inside. The entrance, which is in the middle of the west wall, is divided by a cross wall into chambers, and is approached by a flight of steps bounded on either side by a plain rail and a side wall. The front pilasters of the side walls bear figures of Vishnu and of his consort carved in relief on other side of it was a portico supported on tall massive advanced columns, one of which exists today, through in a precarious condition.⁽²⁾

The wall surface of the entrance is both externally and internally ornamented profusely with sculpted reliefs. The larger female figures on the right and left hand walls of the outer chamber represent the goddess Ganga and Yamuna, easily recognized by their respective vehicles, the crocodile (makara) and the tortoise. The scenes in the rectangular panel on the right hand pilaster of the wall represent probably a king and his two queens seated in "sportive fashion" on a simhasana (lion throne), here symbolize by two lions facing, one of the each side of the panel. On the two external sides of this plaster the scene are the same with slight variations. In the scenes in front the lions have been replaced by two standing females. In the south panel the king has his right hand in the abhaya mudra (attitude of granting immunity from fear), and the lady on his right is admiring his own charms,

reflected in a round pocket-mirror which she holds in a right hand. In the other two panels the figures are seated on separate cushions; hers and three occupy a single long cushion.⁽³⁾

Three rectangular panels are carved on the huge block which forms the lowest course of the left wall of the gateway. The largest panel is in the middle and contains a bas-relief. In the center are three figures, a male between two females with chauri bearers. (chauri is flywhisk made of tail of a yak). But much more interesting are the highly caparisoned elephants who are fighting with horned birds of monstrous size. It is evident that elephant is fighting at a disadvantage. (perhaps the scene symbolizes the fight of Garuda with the Nagas, the later here being represented by the elephants and not the usual snake gods. Naga means both snake and elephant). The other two scenes contain each a male figure with folded hands between two human-headed birds. Above this is a row of *Kirtimukhas*, or lions heads, surrounded by a line of rosettes. Higher still is another row of circular panels each containing a Garuda. The rectangular panel, in the left cross-wall contains a male and two female figures seated on a cushioned sofa in a grove of trees. They seem to be in a joyous mood. The man is offering a lady at his left hand a cup of wine, while the doves at their feet are billing and cooing in sympathy. Above the group is a pedimental niche which contains goddess Ganga. On the narrow facets, on other side of this niche is a vertical row of standing pairs of male and female figures. This row starts from a rectangular panel which contains the figure of a four armed atlas wearing a cushion like head-dress. The walls were decorated with numerous groups of figures, but unfortunately most of them are now too defaced to be distinguished, much less identified.⁽⁴⁾

The view of the courtyard from the inner chamber of the gateway is charming. In place of the bald monotony of the external surface of the peristyle, the eye feasts on all sides in the picturesque ruins of a beautiful range of cells, preceded by a noble row of fluted columns. Another flight of steps similar to that on the outside leads down to the stone paved courtyard. The side-walls of this stair are plain, but the pilasters are covered with sculptured reliefs. Each of the smaller panels facing the courtyard depicts an erotic scene.

In the middle of the space between the gateway and the main shrine is a stepped stone which appears to be the base of a Garuda-dhvaja. It will be remembered that Garuda, the divine eagle, is the vehicle of Vishnu, and also forms the emblem on the banner of his master. Thus the Garuda-dhvaja column is always an indispensable adjunct of Vishnava temples.

The central shrine is built on a double base, the only decoration of which is a torus moulding and a cyma recta cornice. The base is intact, but the sanctum, which measured 33ft. square externally, has almost disappeared. In fact the only fragments remaining are some parts of the lowest courses and few stones of the north wall.⁽⁵⁾

Unlike Avantisvara temple lower down the road, this edifice has only one stair. But that apparent deficiency is more than rectified by the sculptured reliefs in its pilasters. The two scenes facing the gateway represent Vishnu, the deity worshipped in the temple, seated in an easy attitude between his own consorts, Lakshmi and Bhumi (?) Lakshmi in the northern group is distinguished by the cornucopia which, even in the late 9th century, to which this temple belongs, was retained as the special emblem of the goddess, who traces her descent, through Gandhara, from the Greek-Athene. Vishnu in the northern relief possesses six arms, two of which, in impartial affection, encircle the bodies of his two consorts, while the remaining four hold his distinctive emblems, the bow, the mace, and the lotus, etc. Below the throne are the two pairs of parrots, springs the cusped arch which canopies the divine group. The panel is surrounded by a dentil course consisting of conventional lions heads (kirti-mukhas) alternating with geese and flowers. This panel is surrounded by a border of square rosettes.⁽⁶⁾

REFERENCES

- ❖ Kaul, Anand. , History of Kashmir, Anmol Publications New Delhi 1998, pp. 168.
- ❖ Kak, R.C. , History of Ancient India, New Delhi 1971, pp. 42-43 Wani, Nizamuddin Muslim Rule in Kashmir, JK Book House(Jmu) 1972, pp. 198-99
- ❖ Hassan, M Mohubbul, Kashmir Under Sultans, Gulshan Pub. Sgr. Kmr. 1970, pp 98-100
- ❖ Haig Colnell. The Sultans of Kashmir, Ramesh Publishing House Jammu, 1984, pp. 213-214
- ❖ Matto, Abdul Majid, Kashmir Under Mughals From 1586-1752, Shalimnar Arts Press Sgr. Kmr., pp. 78-79
- ❖ Soil, Dr. G.M.D. , Kashmir, A History of Kashmir Vol. I, Light and Life Pub. Jammu, pp. 239,295
- ❖ Sharma, Dewan Chand. Kashmir Under Sikhs, 1983, New Delhi, pp. 125.
- ❖ Bazaz, Prem Nath. Struggle For Freedom in Kashmir, Gulshan Pub. Sgr. Kmr. 1989, pp. 185-186.

Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

**Address:- Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No-221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301
Jammu & Kashmir, India**

Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,

Ph No: 01933212815

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, nairjc@nairjc.com, info@nairjc.com

Website: www.nairjc.com

