

Evergreen Magh Bihu at Barpeta



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Bihu is the national Festival of Assam. Bihu is also known as “Domahi” or “Domhi” for the people of barpeta. Magh bihu is very popular, especially for the people of Barpeta where Bihu is celebrated with satriya tradition(Parampara). This Domahi is the Domahi of Bhog, which means to taste the sweetness of Pitha, Laru, sandoh etc. In this festival the farmers granary is full and the women folk are busy making various delicacies. Magh bihu is the festival of eating and enjoying, because of which it is popularly known as Bhogali Bihu.

Magh bihu is celebrated at Barpeta satra in a different light. Domahi is the main source of unity for the people of Barpeta satra, which has been observed traditionally for hundreds of years. As it has been observed traditionally, it naturally unite the people into the one thread of unity and this unity was made by our duo gurus Mahapurush Srimanta sankardev and Mahapurush Madhabdeva through his vaishnavism.

The day before Magh Bihu is called “Uruka”. In uruka, the boys make bhela ghar with “Birina Ban” and enjoy the whole night making fun and having a feast in the “Bhela Ghar” made by them. Meji is the main source of enjoyment which is called “Bhelamag”. The youths bring “Birina” and “nara” for “meji”. The lightening of the meji is also an enjoyable tradition. After “Meji puoa” the bhaktas distribute Prasad and the people take “Tilak” from the ashes of the meji and taking the blessings from God as well as for peace and prosperity. The people of Barpeta also arrange feast in different localities. The mind of the people is also sublime at this moment and this purity of mind compels them to unite with one another. And with satriya parampara this tradition remained same and no modernism can be able to touch it. The boys also make “chouka”, and “alubhaji” amidst much merriment. The people of Barpeta satra welcome this festival very ardently. Besides other tradition there are lot of other things done in Bhogali Bihu with satriya parampara Naam- prasanga is one of the main events of the people of the satra. Barpeta Satra is infact famous for its Chaidhya Prasanga and without prasanga no satriya prasanga is complete. On the first day of Magh Bihu the Ayatis of barpeta satra used to go “Mitha Aamar Tal”(at Keteki Bari) singing naam- prasanga. “Charit Tola”(The Life history of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev and Sri sri Madhabdeva) is the main tradition of these ayatis and it is very beautiful. The Ayatis remember the life and the tradition of our Dujana Gurus. Afterall Naam- prasanga is the main source of tradition for the people of barpeta. somany ayatis take part in this “Charit Tola” programme.

Though it is a time of economic hardship for the Barpetians, yet the Barpetians observed this festival with pomp and gaiety. These Barpetians tried their level best to keep our tradition alive and no modernism and no ill culture can be able to demolish our tradition. And it happens only for the unity among the Barpetians. And this tradition of unity bounded the Barpetians into the one thread of brotherhood and peace.

Juthika Das

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