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Holi Dance of Marati Community

(With reference to Marati Communities of Udupi District)

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Abstract:

Holi Dance or a dance on full moon day of the year cycle on the special occasion on Holi in the month of February or March, is a unique religious ritual that is varied in the way it is practiced in different parts of the country by Marati Community. Harvesting is a very special form of worship that is celebrated throughout the country irrespective of caste and creed. Holi is a unique religious practice, mainly in Maharashtra, Goa, North India and Karnataka, which is as diverse as elsewhere in the country. A festival that brings mental equality and prosperity among the Marati people of the coast, a festival of consciousness, a burning message for the burning of fleeting bodily desires, a literary fine message with social concerns, and folk art with profound art.

Keywords: Holi Dance, Marati Community, Migration, Festivals and Religious practices.

Introduction:

As ancient as the HoliBhagavataPurana, in that mentions of special occasion of the full moon day. Holifull Moon is a pure, and the memory of 'PolikaDahana' is another notable myth is that the scriptures of Shiva Purana, Vishnu Purana and Kalidasana Kumarasambava, which were the scriptures of Kamadhana, were also mentioned in three planets where this demon were exploiting by his power it was mentioned, in the storey Tharakasura Demon seeks the blessing of Brahma, on the day of Phalguna or full moon daythe deities of heaven who do not tolerate this torture by Tharakasura later they inform to Vishnu to save from him. Vishnu blessed the seven-day-old child Shanmukha to kill Tharakasura, who was born from the confluence of Shiva Parvati. But Shiva was busy doing dark penance and Parvati was also busy. Goddesses inspire Manmatha without having the courage to meditate on Shiva's meditation. Manamatha became ashes when Lord Shiva opened his third eye, causing him to open his eyes to the lust of the moment, to lure his flower arrows to distract Lord Shiva's penance for worldly welfare. In his memory, the festival of Kamadahana became as per Hindu calendar called Phalguna means pure moon. Parvati is pleased to see that she has consoled the angry of Lord Shiva. Holi prevailed against that background. The Holi festival celebrated by the Marathas is also associated with the worship of Adi Shakti.

A Situational Pictures of MaratiNaik'sHoli Dance in Udupi District.





The Marathi's who migrated from Maharashtra have been celebrating their cultural traditions such as GondoluHoli and Balesanthu. The Holi festival is celebrated in Marathi by Udupi district of coastal Karnataka. The KharviMarathi and Kudubi people in rural areas celebrate this Holi festival in a way that is both religious and cultural. This Holi festival is a month long festival. Nowadays it is practiced only in five days, by modernity or by the disinterest of the younger generation. A group of about 20 to 30 households of MarathiNaik's, spread over ten different denominations, is called a 'koodukattu'. The Gurikar's house is called "GavKarChe Gar" which means the house of the head of their community. The house of the Gurus is called 'Hattarakatte' or 'Hattirammanakatte'. An elderly person in the house has the responsibility of standing up for every event at the Holi festival.

All the preparations, rituals and ceremonies of the Holi festival take place at theHattarakattehouse of the head of the community. From the day one of the Holi festival upto five days, all of them are actively participating in the celebration of the festival. On the pre-arranged day of the Holi festival, the men gather together in the leadership of the headman of the community of Gurikara and present the proposals for celebrating the Holi festival. The preparations for the Holi-Fest GumateKunita and Kolata (a form of dance by Marathi Community), take place several days in advance. Practicing by evening every day found during fieldwork.

They give beetle and nut to the barber as a token of gratitude to invite him for a ritual of head shaving. On the day of Holi at morning of the Holi festival, there is a custom of shaving head the troop in the house of the headman. The previous night of Holi together purified headman's house by dung and put a sketch of Rangoli, and the idol Tuljabhavani is decorated with flowers and worshiped with a mirror. At the Holi Festival, participants wear a headscarf, payjamas, and robe with colored shawls and decorate with kanakambaraflower (Jaji flower) and other flowers. In addition to that they tie bells and beating drums while performing they begin to rhythmically in front of the goddess Tulasikatte (a goddess Tulasi) singing with a gouge to the leg. These form of group or costume called as 'Khele' in Marathi.

In the evening, the process of puja it starts with holi dance, the rituals are performed in a very warm way, as the dawn comes, "the raising of the nut". The purified coconut is worshiped by the Aarathi and some prepared food is kept for god and goddess idol. Then the elders and others join together along with headsman keep offered things to keep it on the Tulasikatte for this process is called 'Kayee (Coconut) keeping on the place of prayer. From now on, the festival will be held in the next five days and everyone will be in prayer of Goddess with chastity. Most of the men and women are in the worship of the Goddess. Men should not shave during the next five days. They should not carry anything on head. Don't wear slippers. On the day of the Holi festival, there is a priest holding a

darshan. The goddess of the darshan comes as the masquerade rhythms rhythmically with the loud backing and devastation of the conch, tala, jagate and drum. Everyone stands before God and prays,

"We have delayed and gone out of service. All of us must serve." Devi's side of the protection comes from the goddess of protection for the next five days. The darshan ends as a prasadam distribution to all.

It is the sunrise when the holi dance teams gather with all equipment's needed for the dance and set out on their journey. There is one chief in the squad. Holi flock teams go to every home and shop in the main streets and sing hymns of praise to God. The sense of honour behind the tradition is evident when you reach the hometown and see all the class come out with its fans. Believers believe that if Holiteam comes home and sings, their misfortune will go away.

There are about seventy-five to hundred people, including children and adults, at the Holi festival. All the men of the hunger strike participate in this ritual without going to work during these Holi celebrations. All caste, creed, caste, coconut and beetle and nut keep in a plate to honoured to the Holi team when they visit the house. The housewife washed theirfeet and welcome to their home for Holi dance performance. The Holi team enters cleaned the courtyard of the house and decorated it with Rangoli before visiting. On arrival, they will be served with jaggery and water.

The home head is here to 'breed'. The house lady greets the congregation with a coconut, rice, flower, and beetle nut, in the vessel plate brought these are the thing handed over to the Gurikar later woman of that house spreading rice paddy all around that place permit them to depart from that place is call "TaliKodovodu" means a ritual process of sending them off. It is believed that Prasadam of Sridevi Goddess has a practice of giving sandalwood prasada before exiting the house, thereby relieving evil spirits. The team leader receives the cereal grains and delivers them to the members. Only men are allowed to participate in Holi festival.

Women are not allowed. There is a tradition that men only allowed to participate in Holi dance. Holi troop has started from Hattarakatte till the end of Holi they are not allowed to return their home. There are rules that the men participating in the five-day program of the festival should not eat meat, drink alcohol, and follow Brahmacharya. Performing day and night for five consecutive days, the fair will return to Hattarakatte on the full moon day. The money raised by the squadron buys various kinds of flowers and other objects of worship to God. Dressers come in a variety of colors and the ladies and children join the gathering accompanied by the band finally all of them assemble at headman of their community called Gurikara.

The worship of Sridevi Goddess (idol) takes place. Darshana Pathri is charged with the worship of Sridevi. When the darshana priest is in charge, all the people gather together and say, "We believe you are satisfied and happy with our service and praying to Goddess excuse their mistakes and seeking blessing from Goddess. The darshan priest gives them form of Prasada by giving Hingara (arecanut flowers). Upon completing the darshana, the headman and ten elders worship the opening day and drop the coconut from the place where they kept for offering Goddess. This is called the "Garuda Ilisuva Karykrama".

Then the team members come and take off their clothes and jingle bells wearing to their legs will be removed in front of the Tulasikatte. Similarly, tala (music equipments), jagate, sea cell and drum are placed in front of Sridevi Goddess. All those who attend the Holi festival for five days are all set for a bath. In the wide courtyard, Okuli spills water. It implies a sense of equality and respect among team members.

Afterwards everyone goes to the nearby temple lake for a bath. Meanwhile there are many fun games to play. All gathered around the banks of the lake. After the gurukari worshiped the water and

the fruit was sacrificed, everyone bowled the Gangastana (taking bath) and dived into the water. This is called "Gangasnana". A fire is lit in a vast plain. All stand in line in front of the fire. When the firemen pay homage to the fire and worship the coconuts, everyone rushes to the top of the ten pile of fire. "Kamadahana" refers to jumping into the fire. Armed with a stick, a sword, and aarati, the married women come at the door step and welcoming them inside the home. He bowed to Aarati and entered. The practice of performing the program is still held in the belief that the five-day journey home would be a sight for the wandering men. He then burns incense, clothing and other accessories. Then there is a pure vegetarian dinner at the headman's house. The Holi festival is thus celebrated with great vigour. The tastes of the younger generation are changing in today's modern age. There is a decrease in interest in holiday worship and celebrations. There is a diversity of Holi, and culturally Holi dance and playing drums is very special to create harmony among community and society included the greatest myths are included like Ramayan and Mahabharath stories are depicted in order to spread goodness in literal way.

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