

# Dwadash Aditya Yatra

- **1) Lolarkaditya**
- **2) Uttararkaditya**
- **3) Saambaditya**
- **4) Draupadaditya**
- **5) Mayukhaditya**
- **6) Khakholakaditya**
- **7) Arunaditya**
- **8) Vriddhaditya**
- **9) Keshavaditya**
- **10) Vimaladitya**
- **11) Gangaditya**
- **12) Yamaditya**

## 1) Lolarkaditya Temple

Lolark Aditya is situated on Lolark Kund near Asi Ganga Sangam in Varanasi. Lolark Kund has been given great importance in Kashi. Lolark Aditya have been categorized as one of the most beautiful locations of Varanasi and it is believed that they take care of the welfare of natives of Kashi. Being on Asi Sangam where the water of Lolark Kund meets with the water of River Ganges and then reaches to other pilgrimages in Varanasi, it has been considered as one of the prominent pilgrimage in Varanasi.

It is believed that if someone go for annual visit to Lolark on Sunday of Agahan month then he can get rid off all his sins. The devotee who takes a dip at Asi Sangam, and offers Shradh of their forefathers, he is freed from Pitra-Rin. On Shukla Saptami of January-February, if a person takes holy dip in the confluence of River Ganges and Asi, in the Lolark Kund, he is freed from all his sins of his seven births.

## **2) Uttararkaditya Temple**

According to Kashi Khand, Suryadev is established as Uttarark Aditya at Ark Kund in the north of Kashi. Presently, this Kund is known as Bakaria Kund. Based on a story mentioned in Kashi Khand, once a Brahmin girl named Sulakshna was engrossed in a rigorous penance of Uttarark Aditya form of Surya Dev after she lost her parents. Seeing Sulakshna engrossed in penance, Maa Parvati got pleased with her and asked her to seek a boon. Hearing this Sulakshna saw goat who accompanied her with patience during her entire penance. So, she requested Goddess Parvati to bless that goat with the boon in place of her. Seeing the altruistic nature of Sulakshna, Goddess Parvati was highly impressed and gave her a boon that she will be her companion (Sakhi) for lifetime. She also gave a boon to the goat that she will become the daughter of Kashiraj in her next life. Since then, Suryadev is established there as Uttarark Aditya. As per beliefs, he resolves all the problems of his devotees, add supreme joy and always act as a saviour of Kashi. Any devotee who worships Uttarark Aditya, she/he is freed from all kinds of fears and inequality.

## **3) Saambaditya Temple**

According to a story mentioned in Kashi Khand, once Devarshi Narad visited Dwarkapuri to meet all the sons of Lord Krishna. On his arrival, all the sons of Lord Krishna honoured Narad Muni. But, Saamb who was egoistic about his looks, did not respected Narad Muni and ridiculed him. Narad Muni told Lord Krishna regarding this behaviour shown by Saamb. Along with this, Narad Muni made Lord Krishna conscious regarding good looks of Saamb by telling him that by his good looks, Saamb can impress the ladies residing in palace and surroundings.

After departure of Narad Muni, Lord Krishna kept a deep day-night observation over Saamb but no faults could be revealed. Later, when Narad Muni again visited Dwarikapuri, he called Saamb, who was playing outside and asked him to aware Lord Krishna. Saamb knew that his father was sitting secluded with all the women, so he got confused whether he should go there or not. But at the same time, he also could not disobey the sage. So, he went to his father. As soon as Saamb entered in the private suite of Lord Krishna, Narad Muni followed him to the room. Presence of both Narad and Saamb made all the women embarrassed alongwith Lord Krishna. Narad Muni explained this event to Lord Krishna in wrong way that due to charm of Saamb, all women present there were attracted to him. Hearing this, Lord Krishna became angry and cursed Saamb with leprosy. But when he came to know that Saamb was innocent, he suggested him to proceed to Kashi and perform penance while establishing an idol of Suryadev to get rid of the curse. Accordingly, Saamb proceeded to Kashi, made a Kund there and started penancing Suryadev and got rid of Leprosy. Since then, Suryadev is residing here as Saamb Aditya. As per the beliefs, worshipping Saamb Aditya on Sundays is a key to get relief from all kinds of incurable diseases.

## **4) Draupadaditya Temple**

According to a story described in Kashi Khand when the Pandavas faced difficulties owing to the rivalry with their siblings and became forest dwellers, then their wife reached Kashi and started performing penance and prayed Suryadev. Suryadev got pleased by prolonged penance of Draupdi and handed over a bowl to her with a boon that until Draupdi wouldn't take meals from that bowl; it can satisfy the hunger of innumerable people. Since then, Suryadev is residing here in form of Draupad Aditya. As per the beliefs, the devotees who worship Draupad Aditya located at the southern side of Vishweshwar, never have to face hurdle related to hunger and they never have to face the grief of separation from their loved ones.

## **5)Mayukhaditya Temple**

Based on a story described in Kashi Khand, in ancient times Suryadev established a Mahashivlinga namely Gabhasteeshwar along with idol of Bhagwati Mangla Gauri at Trailokya Vishrut Panchnad teerth and started worshipping them. After 1 lakh years of his tough penance, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati appeared in front of him . By his rigorous penance, Suryadev became too hot due to which entire universe started trembling as extreme level of heat was generated from Suryadev that affected various organisms. Lord Shiva pleased with his penance asked him to seek a boon. Then Suryadev started praising Lord Shiva and his better half Goddess Gauri . Lord Shiva and Goddess Gauri blessed Suryadev with various boons and since then Suryadev is established here and is popularly known as Mayukh Aditya. As per beliefs, devotees are freed from all sorts of diseases if they worship Mayukh Aditya and if they worship on Sundays, they does not have to face poverty in their lives.

## **6) Khakholakaditya Temple**

Based on a story described in Kashi Khand, in ancient times, Dakshprajapati had two daughters namely Kadru and Vinta who were married to the son of Marichi Prajapati Kashyap. Once while playing they started conversing. Kadru asked Vinta that a horse who is part of the chariot of Suryadev is white or spotted? Kadru also put a bet that the loser will have to become the slave of the winner. Thus, Kadru said spotted and Vinta said white. Later Kadru ordered her snake sons to go to Uchhaishrava (the horse) and cover its tail while spitting poison so that the colour of the horse will appear spotted. Sons obeyed their mother. Thus, both Kadru and Vinta saw the Uchhaishrava as spotted while passing through the sky. As per the bet, Kadru won and Vinta has to become her slave. From that time onwards Vinta served Kadru and her sons which made her feel depressed all the time.

Garuda, the son of Vinta by seeing her mother sad asked her the reason. Then, he came to know that as Vinta is a slave of Kadru that is why she remains upset all the time. He told her mother to ask from Kadru's son that at what cost, they will make her free from slavery. Vinta did so. Kadru's snake sons replied that in the exchange of Nectar, they will free Vinta from slavery. So, Garuda went to heaven to approach gods for Nectar to get her mother free from slavery. Garuda displayed wisdom there and succeeded to get the Nectar. When Lord Vishnu came to know about this, he had a huge war with Garuda. During battle, Lord Vishnu saw the valor of Garuda and asked him to seek a boon. In turn, Garuda asked Lord Vishnu to seek a boon. In reply Lord Vishnu asked for two boons from Garuda. First one was that Garuda should only show the nectar to snakes

and make his mother free from slavery and ensure that snakes should not taste the nectar. Second one was that Garuda should return the nectar to gods safely after freeing her mother from slavery. Garuda reached to snakes, handed over the nectar to them and made her mother free from their slavery as mutually agreed earlier. Later when snakes tried to taste the nectar, Garuda told them that if anyone will touch the nectar without having a bath, it will be lost.

When snakes went for bath, Lord Vishnu took the nectar pot and left. When snakes returned they didn't found the nectar there. Seeing this, with the wish to just taste a drop of the nectar snakes started licking *Kushes*, on which nectar pot was kept. In this process, they couldn't get nectar but their tongues slitted into pieces.

When Vinta got freedom from slavery then she moved to Kashi for atonement of the sins that made her slave. She made an idol of Khakholak Aditya and was engrossed in a rigorous penance. Suryadev being pleased by her penance established himself there as a boon to her and became popular as Khakholak Aditya. As per beliefs, Khakholak Aditya removes the hurdles from the lives of his devotees. Those who worship Khakholak Aditya get rid of all kinds of sins.

## **7)Arunaditya Temple**

According to a legend described in Kashi Khand, Sage Kashyap had two wives Kadru and Vinta. Kadru gave birth to hundred snake sons and Vinta gave birth to three sons namely Ulook, Arun and Garuda. Other birds removed Ulook from the designation of Pakshiraj by stated him as "*Nirgun*". This depressed Vinta . So, when she conceived for the second time, she attempted to break the shell of the egg in the premature level only with the wish to see her child. After breaking the premature shell, Arun took birth from it. Arun was perverted being prematurely born. His body above the thighs was fully developed but lower portion was not properly developed. Just after his birth as a prematurely delivered baby, Arun cursed his mother that one day she will become a slave of her sister Kadru. When Vinta requested for the freedom from the curse, Arun told his mother that if she will let her another egg develop properly then she will give birth to a son who will make her free from slavery. With these words, Arun flew to Kashi, established an idol of Lord Surya there and started performing penance. As a result, Suryadev manifested, blessed him with a number of boons and established himself there in form of Arun Aditya.

## **8) Vriddhaditya Temple**

Based on a legend described in Kashi Khand, in ancient times a Brahmin named "Vriddharit" lived in Varanasi. Once he established an idol of Suryadev at southern side of Vishalakshi Devi and started performing a severe penance devotionally. Being pleased with his prayers Suryadev manifested before him and gave him a boon of *Soundaryapunj Taran* ( youth)as wished by the Brahmin and established himself there. Since then he is popularly known as Vriddh Aditya here. As per beliefs, by worshipping Vriddh Aditya, devotees can attain *siddhi* and get relieved from all sorts of diseases.

## **9)Keshavaditya Temple**

According to a story mentioned in Kashi Khand, once Suryadev was roaming in the sky, he saw Lord Vishnu worshipping. In a curiosity to know that universally worshipped Lord Vishnu is worshipping whom, Suryadev went closer to him. On asking, Adikeshav told Suryadev that in Varanasi, Lord Shiva is the only deity to be worshipped and Shri Keshav has also got his splendor from Lord Shiva only. By worshipping Lord Shiva, sins of hundreds of births can be washed away. On hearing this from Shri Keshav, Suryadev started performing penance by worshipping *Shivalinga* by assuming Adikeshav as his Guru. Since then, Lord Aditya is established here and popularly known by the name of Keshav Aditya. It is believed that by worshipping Keshav Aditya, devotees can get rid of all their sins.

## **10) Vimaladitya Temple**

According to a legend mentioned in Kashi Khand, in ancient times a Kshatriya named Vimal who was a resident of hilly area, suffered leprosy owing to the bad luck earned by him in his ancestral birth. So, he left his home, family, wealth etc. and moved to Kashi and started performing a penance worshipping Suryadev. He used various flowers daily to worship Suryadev. As a result, Suryadev being pleased with his prayers blessed Vimal and his leprosy was cured. After giving boon to Vimal, Suryadev established himself there and got renowned as Vimal Aditya.

## **11) Gangaditya Temple**

According to a story mentioned in Kashi Khand, when holy Ganga arrived in Varanasi, Suryadev reached there to praise Ganga. It is believed that since that day, he is established there and still praising Ganga. He is popularly known as Ganga Aditya here. According to beliefs, merely by darshan of Ganga Aditya, devotees can get rid of all their sins and diseases.

In ancient times, idol of Ganga Aditya was established at south of Agastya Kund along with idols of Ganga Keshav and Gangaji. But presently these three idols are established at Lalita Ghat.

## **12 )Yamaditya Temple**

According to a story described in Kashi Khand, in ancient times Yamraj established Yameshwar “Shivlinga” and an idol of Suryadev namely “Yama Aditya” at Yamghat and started worshipping it. As per beliefs, if devotees worship Yama Aditya after having a dip in Yamteerth, they don't have to face the Yam (death). Simultaneously, if a devotee performs Pind daan in Yamteerth on Tuesday and on Bharni Nakshatrayukta Chaturdashi, she/he can be freed from Pitra Rin.