

Srimathe Ramanujaya Namaha
Sri Rangapriya Divya Padhukabhyam Namaha

Nepal Trip - Post 3 – Anecdotes

Nepalese are warm and friendly. We experienced their hospitality in every encounter. There is extensive use of Sanskrit in their conversation. Many would greet with a gentle smile while others nodded, almost bending halfway as each would say pranam. People thank genuinely with a smile and the word dhanyavadh.

I would like to share a few incidents that touched my heart in this trip.

Jala Narayan Temple – Khatmandu



Picture Courtesy: Youtube Jal Narayan (aka) Budhanilkantha Temple

There is floating reclining statue of Lord Vishnu in Khatmandu. Lord Narayana looks striking and attractive and rests in a small water pond in Khatmandu. It is an open-air temple. Perumal adorning a carved crown looks resplendent lying down on the serpent coils of Adishesha...We can see the face of Lord Narayana from above and below!

Children sitting on the serpent coils were diligently applying ghee to Perumal's well-proportioned body. I was told that they are actually the priests! This is how they do thirumanjanam! I even saw pigeons resting here and there on Perumal's thirumeni and wondered about Perumal's soulabhyam...

Taking pictures is strictly prohibited in this place. Someone took a picture and a child priest immediately came running and made sure that the picture was deleted in the cellphone! I really wanted a picture. So, I went to the child and said "how can I get a picture of your beautiful Narayana?" Then the child looked at me keenly, pulled a picture from a calendar and said "this is for you" with a sweet smile.

Devghat- Bharathpur



Picture Courtesy: www.himkalaadventure.com/dev-ghat-pilgrimage-tour

Early evening, we went to Devghat in Bharathpur. Dev ghat is a confluence of rivers Trishuli and Gandaki. The river runs amidst lush green trees.

Sage Vasishta had his ashram here. Lord Rama and his brothers had their Gurukula in this serene place.

There were a few inflatable boats docked by the side of the river. A couple of young kids came running to us saying “we will give you the best boat ride ever, we will take you through the rapids, this is a lot of fun, please come...”

We wore our life jackets and sat on the boats with apprehension...The kids rowed the boats with ease and dexterity and explained “this river is so divine that all the Devas come here...pithrus come here too...they take bath here and pray to Lord Narayana...”

As the children took us through the rapids, the boat swayed and rocked and water splashed all over us...a fun way to receive blessings of the holy waters...

As we got off the boat, I heartily blessed these children...

Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha Divya Dham – Bharathpur



Right in front of the river Narayani, there is beautiful temple called Sri Lakshmi Nrusimha Divya Dham. The river Gandaki flows all the way from Mukthinath. It gets the name Narayani since Gajendra moksham occurred here. I had an indelible experience in this place.

Mathaji (the person who takes care of the temple) welcomed us with a sweet smile saying “Bhagavan’s bandhus please come...please come...She offered us sumptuous lunch in the temple premises and spoke about Perumal’s kalyana gunas in common parlance! For instance, I asked her till what time is the temple open and she responded “Lakshmi Nrusimha is bhaktha paradheena...he will wait for you...”

Late night she called me and said, come child let us talk...

Mathaji: Where do you live?

Hema: America

Mathaji: That is like Indra loka. What you get there is suvidha. Come and stay in a punya kshethra if you want anubhav. Come and stay with me. Take bath in Narayani every day. Gandaki from Mukthinath flows here as Narayani. It is full of saligramams. Offer your prayers to Lakshmi Nrusimha. Have his prasadhams every day. Then experience your anubhavams...

Calm and resolute, she demonstrated her love to Lord Narayana and bandhus of Lord Narayana. I Aptly called Mathaji, she is like a mother to everyone...

Ram Mandir – Janakpur



Picture Courtesy: www.holidify.com/places/janakpur/ram-mandir-sightseeing

There is an old temple for Rama built in Pagoda style in the city of Janakpur.

There was divine ambience in this modest temple. As I entered the premises, I saw the purohit getting the lamp ready with many long wicks for maha mangala arathi. They closed the door for darshan, and started playing the gong in a low tone...as if to wake up little Rama...Slowly more people came in and picked up various percussion instruments from the basket and started playing the beats with full energy. It was very nice to see the youth soulfully offering their

prayers to Rama...The beats picked up and the atmosphere was charged with powerful sounds of Rama nama...The arathi was in progress behind the curtains...Finally when the crescendo was reached, they drew the curtains and offered darshan of Lord Rama....

Janaki Mandir – Janakpur



Picture Courtesy: <https://www.gosahin.com/places-to-visit/janaki-mandir-nepal/>

There is a grand temple called Janaki Mandir built with marble and white stones for mother Seetha. It is a beautiful palace built in Rajput style with domes, towers, turrets and lattice windows. Pleasing paintings and engravings throughout the premises add grace and beauty to the palace-temple. This is the place where mother Seetha was found and raised.

They also have a museum with paintings and an animated doll exhibit depicting the life history of Seetha. Janaka finding Seetha in the ground, Janaka fondly carrying Seetha, Sunaina rocking Seetha, Sunaina making Seetha sleep by her side and Seetha getting married to Rama are displayed in an adorable manner. It was nice to see our universal mother Seetha as a child...

Thank you Nepal for these unforgettable moments!

Seeking blessings

Adiyen

Hema Srinath