

MA KHEER BHAWANI TEMPLE IN DELHI A LITTLE LABOUR OF LOVE FOR MA

We belong to the army of the displaced. The world has seen too many of us. Those that are hopelessly clutching to the straws of our fast-receding identity as sons, daughters and proud inheritors of their antiquity. That is, when they are not busy hanging on to their dear lives, trying to keep at bay the recurring aftershocks of displacement and dispossession.

Our name, though, is not important. In us lives a part of you that is constantly assailed by questions of how to reclaim my inner peace and quietude by reclaiming the Sana tan way of life that was mine. And bequeathing it to my progeny for whom the threat of cultural obliteration is as real as that of climate change.

We are what you know in the current stock-in-trade of globospeak as 'migrant' Kashmiris. By definition, we are those who left our homes under conditions of extreme duress, in the hope perhaps, that the dark clouds of extremist madness would lift, sooner rather than later. In other words, we were part of that chronically non-violent, hopelessly peace-loving and utterly unprepared army of an antique and original ethnicity, that felt forced to abandon home and hearth, twenty years to a day. To defy certain outrage and death at the hands of a frenzied, possessed creed that would settle for nothing short of complete capitulation to a new, violent mutant of Islam.

No matter where we live in India and outside, as a community, we live by the hope that one day we have to reclaim the land that rightfully belongs to us. That though the wheels of justice turn ever so slowly, turn they do. So, to all those hapless thousands who crossed the wailing Pir Panjal in the dark winter of 1989 and 1990 and for seasons before and thereafter until the valley was cleansed dry of our presence, we say, for as long as there is hope, there is justice. For Kashmir to survive., the militant obscurantists of

the world have to give way. For, what is kashmiriyat if not our aeons-old ethos and culture.

Meanwhile, it would seem that our state of perpetual limbo has become a defacto state of being. Slowly, yet inexorably, we have been witness to a colossal loss of identity as legitimate children of a pristine land whose antiquity is rivaled only by its virgin, natural splendour. Every day spent in exile, we confront questions of self-esteem and identity and how to preserve these.

After years of waging a grim struggle for survival in Delhi and many other parts of India, one of our illustrious community members has taken a small step towards helping revive our collective interest in some of the more sublime authentic landmarks of culture and religion in Kashmir

To tell you the truth, Shri. Kuldeep Dhar is not the deeply religious soft. Circumstance and incidences do play a part in our lives. In the (month of Sept. of 2008), he took his wife and two children for a "return-to-the-roots" journey of sorts to Kashmir . Accompanying the family on the trip was a holy man - Swamiji as we call him - from the neighbourhood Sai Baba temple where Kuldeep lives in PatPat Ganj. Willy-filly, it turned out to be a pilgrimage of sorts

Although they visited many spiritual landmarks during that trip, it was not until they reached the pristine and balmy precincts of Mata Kheer Ehwani Mandir that Pu.rnmy, Kuldeep's lovely wife,

was overcome with emotions of wistful nostalgia. Misty-eyed, she almost swooned while experiencing the pain of being kept away from what unarguably must be one of the most peace-filled places in that land that abounds in positive energy.

That evening, as Kuldeep told me, he made a solemn promise to my wife that "I will do my best to let her and other fellow community members have a darshan of the Mata in Delhi ". The rest was not so difficult. With a

willing Swamiji at hand, finding a place of residence for Ma Bhawani became easily possible.

Swamiji's generosity provided the initial spur to start giving the idea of the Kheer Bhawani temple in Delhi a practical shape. Without any hesitation, he made the space for our dream temple available inside the Sai Temple in Patpat Ganj that draws thousands of devotees to the lotus feet of Sai Baba on a daily basis. Thanks to Swamiji's support those devotees now can also pay their obeisance at the temple of Ma Bhawani Swamiji's constant advice and blessings have been a source of guidance when we found ourselves bereft and adrift, not knowing where to start.

The fact that the temple got done is a source of unalloyed joy for me. As anyone who has gone about, rather bravely, implementing a project that he knows little about will testify, it is not an easy undertaking. Experience and resources, both human and financial, are never nearly enough and by the time you are in the middle of the project, you are seized with this sinking feeling of being in the middle of the river, not sure if you will ever make it to the other shore.

That explains why when you will come pay a visit to the temple and abode of Kheer Bhawani in Delhi, you will be struck by how much the Dhar family was able to get right even as we started as self-professed novices in the business of making a temple that befits the grandeur of Ma Kheer Bhawani.

It is a labour of love. One that has consumed, as you can well imagine, all the family's personal time and resources over the last two years. The image for the idol is a very Kashmiri replica of Ma Kheer Bhawani - complete in traditional *feran* and finery -- created by noted Kashmiri artist Vir Munshi some years back. The community remains eternally thankful to Vir for allowing to carve a marble idol from his image.

You can take a Kashmiri out of Kashmir, not so Kashmir out the Kashmiri. So, on the eastern fringe of Delhi, across the Yamuna, I have

helped build a modest temple to Ma Kheer Bhawani. The temple was opened for darshan and prayers from May 2009. Come, pay a visit. It might just fill you with some nostalgia. But do not let tears drop. Lets us save them for the re-union with our land, wherever the happens. Hope rests eternal ! There we go.

For any queries you can contact Kuldeep at his email :
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KUMAR TIKKU
Journalist

KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

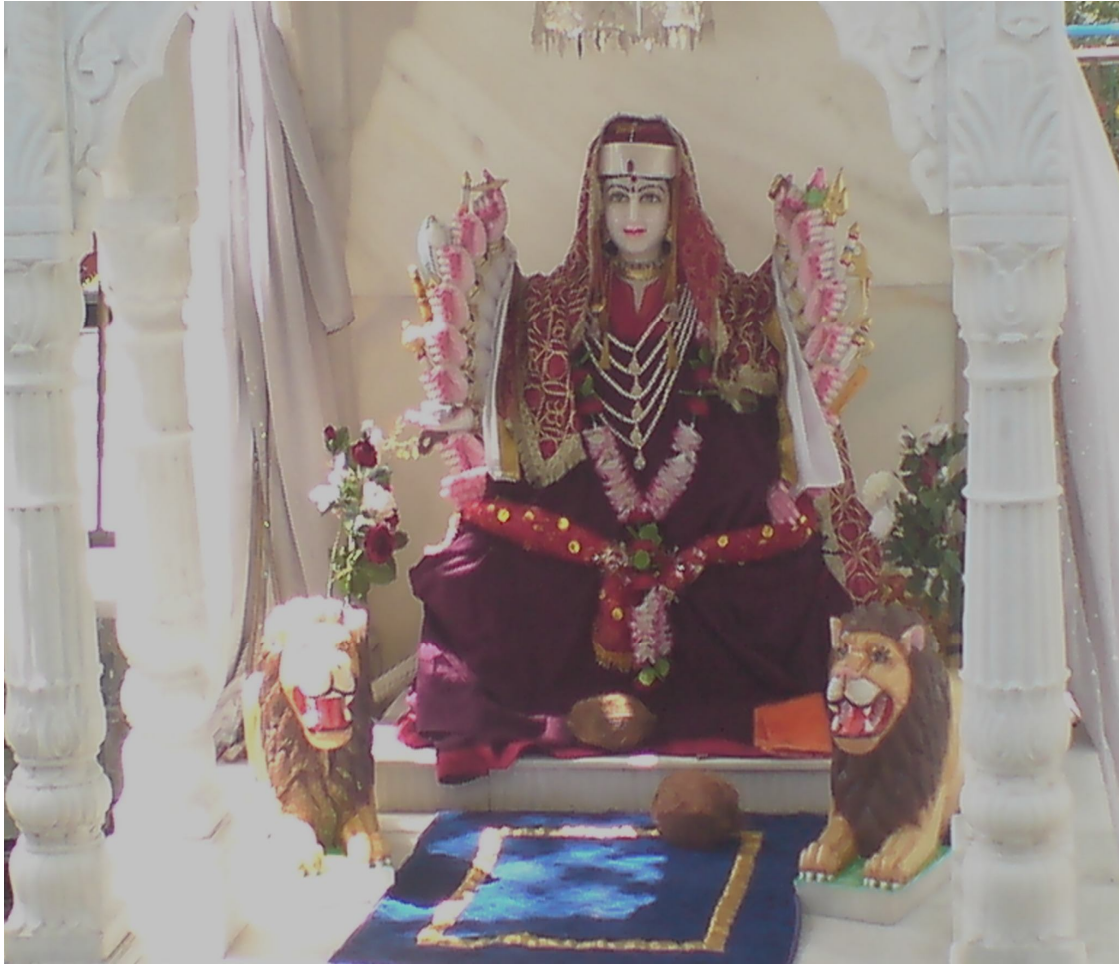
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

REPLICA OF GODDESS IN TRADITIONAL DRESS (FEREN & TARNGA)



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

GLORY BY NIGHT



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

PRISTINE KUND



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.
MILKY KUND (ASHTAMI CELEBRATION)



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

**MAHANT RAM SHARAN GIRI SIDHWHWAR WALE
WITH DR. KARAN SINGH**



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

DR. KARAN SINGH DURING HIS VISIT TO TEMPLE



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.
MAHANT RAM SHARAN GIRI SIDHWHWAR WALE
WITH Dr. KARAN SINGH

(DR. KARAN SINGH OFFERING PRAYERS)



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI
PROF. CHAMAN LAL SAPRU WITH DR. KARAN SINGH
OFFERING THE PRAYERS



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

DR. KARAN SINGH WITH PARTH DHAR & PRIGYA DHAR



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

KULDIP DHAR WITH DR. KARAN SINGH



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

DR. KARAN SINGH WITH PARTH DHAR



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

FELICITATION OF DR. KARAN SINGH



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI
MRS. PAMILA DHAR WITH DR. KARAN SINGH & MAHANT JI
RELEASE OF SOVENIOUR



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI.

RELEASE OF SOVENIOUR



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE

I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI

PROF. CHAMAN LAL SAPRU ADDRESSING THE DEVOTEES



KHIR BHAWANI TEMPLE
I.P. EXTENSION, NEW DELHI

DR. KARAN SINGH WITH MAHESH SHARMA & KULDEEP DHAR



KULDEEP DHAR



Kuldeep dhar was born in 1966 at Srinagar. He was a resident of Sheshyar Habbakadal Srinagar Kashmir. He had his primary & secondary education in Srinagar and went to Panjab University, Chandigarh to pursue M.Sc (Hons) Mathematics. Midway through he was selected for MCA in Birla Institute of Technology in 1988, but could not complete the course due to migration and eventually he took up a Govt. job. He is now currently settled in Delhi (I P Extension) with his Kashmiri wife Pamila Dhar and is blessed with two children Pragya & Parth. His father Dr Pushkar Nath Dhar retired as Jt. Director Animal Husbandry Deptt. in J & K and he spent his last years of life post retirement in Delhi due to migration. He was a spiritual person to the core and had only two passions in life books and religion. He used to do pooja & meditation daily for hours together. His mother Mrs. Krishna Dhar was a house wife and a devotee of Goddess. Both the parents

passed away to heavenly abode due to illness. With the blessings of his Guru Mahant Shri Ram Sharan Giri Ji he embarked on the mission of getting a replica of Mata Kheer Bhawani temple made in Delhi. Guru Ji provided the Space for the temple and without his spiritual & materialistic support Kheer Bhawani Temple would had been a distant dream for us.

We bow to his Holiness Mahant Shir Ram Sharan Giri ji

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