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## Mahakal Temple as Depicted in Meghasandesham

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### Abstract:

*Kalidasa was a great Indian poet and dramatist in classical Sanskrit literature. His versatility in art and literature gave him a prominent status among other Sanskrit scholars. He was great, using in the simile and charming in Kavyas. Kalidasa, who composed many, works on Sanskrit literature. Meghasandesham is the most specialty in his poems because the depicted cities and their cultural aspects are influenced for human life especially the city of Ujjaini and there where famous temple Mahakala. Ujjayini is located in the banks of River Kshipra currently situated in the state of Madhyapradesh. Ujjayini is one among the seven holy pilgrim place of hindus, Ayodhya, Madhura, Kashi, Kanchi, Avanthikapuri, Dwaravathi are the others.*

*The Meghasandesham is broadly divided into two parts. The first part is called poorvamegha and the second part is also known as Uttaramegha. The eternal beauty of nature was widely discussed in Poorvamegha. In this paper aimed at the specialties of city and its culture aspects in Kalidasa's Meghasandesham.*

**Keywords:** Kalidasa, Meghasandesham, ujjaini, temple, culture

### 1. Introduction

*Kalidasa was a great Indian poet and dramatist in classical Sanskrit literature. His versatility in art and literature gave him a prominent status among other Sanskrit scholars. He was considered as the head of all poets at the present scenario. He was great, using in the simile and charming in Kavyas. Kalidasa, who composed many, works on Sanskrit literature, which is including dramas and others. But the Meghasandesham is the most important one among his all works. Because in Meghasandesham, deeply describing with the simile and can be seen the wonderful and charming lines in each slokas. It is the most specialty in this poem such as the depicted cities and their cultural aspects are influenced for human life especially the city of Ujjaini and there where famous temple Mahakala.*

### 2. Ujjaini-Holy City of Hindus

*Ujjayini is located in the banks of River Kshipra currently situated in the state of Madhyapradesh. The legendry Emperor Chandragupta Maurya (Vikramaditya) once ruled his state as Ujjayini as the capital. Ujjayini is one among the seven holy pilgrim place of Hindus, Ayodhya, Madhura, Kashi, Kanchi, Avanthikapuri, Dwaravathi are the others. Ujjayini got many specialties i.e. its mansions, palaces; scenic beauties are the unique to its specialties. The lady folk's Ujjayini is well known for their beauty and charm. The poet advised to the Megha to visit Ujjayini and stressed the elegance bliss of the city (its scenic beauty, the architectural elegance, mansions, palaces other buildings both small and big) pointed its location on the western part of Nirvindhya and Alaka. With reference to the words of Poet we can infer the uniqueness beauty and bliss of Ujjayini.*

*In poet words ladies of Ujjayini and Rivers are another speciality, while in a conversation with Megha he advised not miss the beauty of ladies, who are born beauties with charming look Poet advised Megha no to miss the river Nirvindhya which originates from Vindhya which is also known as Nevus<sup>1</sup> with high quality water.*

*Kalisindh is another river which is mentioned in Meghasandesham flows in between Ujjayini and Nirvindhya. There are some dispute exists about the identity of Sindhu as Nirvindhya. Commentator like Mallinathan claims that both Nirvindhya and Sindhu are same.<sup>2</sup>*

*Kalidasa advised Megha to visit Ujjayini to see the flowing specialties i.e. Both rivers Kalisindh and Nirvindhya presence made the city Ujjayini more Fabulous. According to Kalidasa Ujjayini is the ideal symbol of heaven because of its calmness and peacefulness. Both of the lifestyle and culture of Ujjayini are too. There are a bunch of old generation who are expert in story telling (mainly the story of King Udayanan) are another peculiarity of Ujjayini.<sup>3</sup>*

*River Kshipra is another factor which influence the beauty of Ujjayini, the breeze which blows from Kshipra is fame for its natural essence and medicinal qualities.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Meghasandesham, purvamegham, Dr vijaykumar M. and Dr. Jayanisha. Kurungodu P.96

<sup>2</sup> Ibid,p.99

<sup>3</sup> Ibid,p102

<sup>4</sup> IBID,P.104

The Nature, beauty and qualities of *Ujjayini* are clearly depicted in *Meghasandesham*. *Ujjayini* is mentioned as the wealthiest city, as there are mentions about the different items like precious stones, gems, and other varieties of commercial commodities even sea shells, all are mentioned in it. Lady who is immersed with ornaments is the collective reference of feminine beauty likewise the street filled with lightning is another actor which enlightens the city of *Ujjayini*. On the other way it shows the wealth and prosperity of *Ujjayini*.<sup>5</sup> We can make sense from the Sanskrit verses that the *Ujjayini* is one among the other seven holy cities. Poet specifically stresses the role of the rivers and its significance that critically plays the role in making the city of *Ujjayini* more beautiful. *Mahakala* temple which is situated in *Ujjayini* is known as the holy site which another added value for city status (Verses from *Skandapurana*).<sup>6</sup>

### 3. The Specialty of the Mahakal Temple

Temples constitute a prime importance in Indian history. Its architecture is the unique blending of different styles and cultural sparks. Indian architecture is the one among the best counted in world because of its beauty, and the ancient scientific sense behind in its construction. With the invasion of *Aryans* brought a lot of contribution among the one is the architecture for E.g.: Somnath Temple Gujarat, Ancient city of Dwaraka, Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur, Kashi, Varanasi. By the invasion of Persian Kings Indian architecture slowly shifted to Greco-Persian style.

*Mahakal* Temple is one of the famous shrines which are in *Ujjayini* located near of Durgasagar Lake. Main deity in this temple is Lord *Āiva*. In the temple there are idols of many gods among them i.e. lord *Mahakaleshwar* (Dakshina Moorthy), Goddess *Parvathy*, *Ganesh*, *Karthikeya*, *Nandikeshwara* the vehicle of lord Shiva is situated in the third floor. Devotees are only allowed to pray to lord *Nageshwara* in *Nagapanchami* days.

### 4. Mahakal Temple in Meghasandesham

The *Meghasandesham* is mainly divided into two parts. The first part is called *poorvamegha* and the second part is also known as *Uttaramegha*. The eternal beauty of nature was widely discussed in *Poorvamegha*. But the second part is very different from 1<sup>st</sup> part. Here is defining the real human life and their feelings.

The description of *Mahakal* temple in *Ujjayini* is in the *Poorvamegha*. In Kalidasa's view, the *Mahakal* temple's beauty describes as follows.

We can see the uniqueness of *Mahakala* Temple in *Kalidasa* writings, mainly its constructions.

*Bhartuhu kandacchavirithi ganaihi sadaram veekshyamana  
Punyam yaayaastribhuvanagurordhaamma chandeeshwarasya  
Dhootodhyaanam kuvalayarajogandhibhiringandhavatya  
Stoyakreedaniratayuvatisnaanatiktairmarudbhithi<sup>7</sup>*

Drum beats are a speciality in *Mahakala* temple in Prayer times, this is a unique type of prayer is only seen in *Mahakala temple*. Drum beats blends with thunder are favourite one for Lord Shiva. This one we can't see in other places. Poet advised *Megha* to be the part of prayer and gain the bliss.

*Apnyasmine jaladhara mahaakaalamaasaadya kaale  
Sthaatavyam te nayanvīāyam yaavadatyeti bhaanu  
Kurvan sandhyaabalipatahatam shoolinaha shlaaghaneeya  
Mamandraanam phalamavikalam lapsyase garjitaanaam,<sup>8</sup>*

According to *Kalidasa* the ultimate aim of any living creature is *Upahara* to Lord Shiva. Dance by *Devadasis* are the another speciality in *Mahakala* temple during the *Pooja* time. This is a clear indication of the golden status of *Devadasi* in *Kalidasa*'s era. Oh My dear *Megha*, your presence in time of *pĕja* is bless and abloom for the *devadasis* who are tired with the dance.

*Paadanyaasaihi kvanitharashanaastatra leelaavadhootaihi  
Ratnacchaayaakhacitavalibhishcaamaraihi klanthahastaaha*

*Veshyaastvatto nakhapadasughaan praapyavarshaagrabindoo-naamokshyanthe tvayi madhukarashreni deerghaan kataakshaan<sup>9</sup>*  
There is a wide belief that Lord *Shiva* performs the dance in the last phase of *Pooja*. Oh My dear *Megha*, you must stand as the reflection of Lord *shiva* who defeated and killed *Gajasura*, dance with the blood worn skin of *Gajasura*. By the time goddess *Paarvathi* look you without fear.

*Pashcaaducchairbhujataruvanam mandalenaabhileenaha  
Saandhyam tejaha prativajapaapushparaktam dadhaana  
Nriyaarabhe hara pashupateraardranaagaajinechaam  
Saanthodvegastimitanayanam drishtbhaktirbhaavanyaa<sup>10</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> Ibid,106

<sup>6</sup> Ibid,p110

<sup>7</sup> Meghadutam, brahmasankarasastri, p 43

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 44

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 45-46

<sup>10</sup> Ibid p. 47

### 5. Conclusion

After the Vedic period, temples were the main centres of culture, art, literature etc. Most of Kalidas work is also composite of art, culture, music and other ecumenical activities. *Mahakal temple* in *Meghasandesham* is a classic example of Divinity and *Bhakti*. The narration of temples beauty and the construction clearly gives the audience a feel of blessings while go through it.

We can see the description of *Mahakala* temple in both *Raghuvamsha* and *Kumaarasambhava*. *Kalidasa* clearly depicted the cultural richness of *Ujjayini* through the *Mahakala* temple. Dances by *Devadasis* and drum beats are its unique vividness. The architectural uniqueness of both *Mahakala* Temple and *Ujjaini* reflects quality and status of architectural splash of ancient India. The statue of lord *Shiva* is mentioned in poets most works i.e. most of *Ujjaini* people are devotees of Lord *Shiva*.

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