

## Ancient Bhopal was Spiritual Centre of World

The “**Jama Masjid**”, situated at the Saraffa Bazaar Chowk, in the heart of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, was a huge **Shiva Mandir** (Shiva Temple) during the reign of the Parmar’s known by the name of “**Sabhaamandal**” (Convention Centre). In all probability, this was the great/famous centre of Sanskrit learning where students from far came to learn.

**According** to the 1941 Census Report – A dam was built and a fort erected during the reign of Walyedhaar (King of Dhaar), which was named Bhojpaal, which with the passage of time, became “**Bhopal**”. Saalbhaali, wife of the grandson of Raajaa Bhoj, Udayaaditya had during 1151 AD and 1184 AD constructed a Shiva Mandir and named it **Sabhaamandal**. The **Sabhaamandal** was also given the status of a **University**, because of which the inscriptions on plinth reads, “The king and queen has placed 500 brahmins at this place for adoration and learning of the 4 Vedas, 6 Shastras and also teach.... with passage of time coming a full circle, the temple became deserted and the centre of the Brahmins was decimated. It was after centuries that **Nawab Qudsiya Begum Marhuma va Magfug** had built the Jaamaa Masjid.

**Mohammed Ameen**, in his text **Begmaat-é-Bhopal**, has written that, “Qudsiya Begum had built two structures in Bhopal, one of which is the Jaamaa Masjid. The inscriptions on red stone plinth stated that the expenditure incurred on its construction is 5 lakh 60 thousand 501 rupees 2 paise and 9 *pai*. This Masjid was started to be built in 1248 Muslim Calendar and was completed in 1273 Muslim Calendar”.<sup>1</sup>

**An** earlier erstwhile ruler of Bhopal, **Sultaan Jahaan Begum** in her book “**Hayaat-é-Qudsi**” has narrated that, “Jaamaa Masjid has been erected on the same site where earlier was a Shiva temple of the Hindus, which was known by the name of **Sabhaamandal**. In this **Sabhaamandal** has been found an inscripted stone plinth, which tells us that, “Wife of grandson of Raja Bhoj, Queen Salbhaali, queen to Udayaditya, then King of Parmars, had a huge temple of Shiva erected and was recognized as the **Sabhaamandal**. This **Sabhaamandal** was near the old fort. The plinth also mentions that works for **Sabhaamandal** was started in 1208 Muslim Calendar, i.e. 1151 AD and was finished in 1184 AD, i.e. 1241 Muslim Calendar, on the third Monday in the month of *Kartik*. Also, the plinth refers to 500 Brahmins that the King and Queen had appointed for performing rituals and other religious duties while another 500 were appointed, to impart knowledge on the 4 vedas, 6 shastras, and 18 Puranas.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Begmaat-e-Bhopal, Mohammed Ameen, Mohtamim Tariq & Editor, Zillul Sultan, Bhopal, pg.44

<sup>2</sup> Hayaat-e-Qudsi, Sultan Jaaan Begum, pp.133 & 135.

**The** King of Parmar was a great devotee and worshipper of Shiva and was a greater adorer of music and literature. Raja Bhoj himself was a great devotee of Shiva and a great scholar of Sanskrit, Astrology, Mathematics, Philosophy, Ayurveda, etc. and was passionate about Architecture, Sculpture and Painting. Before erecting the Shiva Temple (Bhojpur Mandir) on the banks of a huge water body (Bhopal Lake), he built the Bhopal Lake, which traversed the distance between Kamla Park and Bhojpur.

**Still** today, there exists a Jain Mandir towards the north of the Jaamaa Masjid. This was the distance, with the Shiva Mandir as the radius, that there existed an institution like a world renowned University where 500 Brahmins performed rituals and another 500 were delegated for learning and educating on matters pertaining to Vedas, Shastras, Puranas, where along with rituals and worship, education was provided on matters pertaining to Knowledge, Science, Religion, Politics, Arts & Culture, etc.

**When** the Mughal ruler (Shahenshah) Aurangzeb came to attack Bhopal, he was stopped by *Aakaashvaani*<sup>3</sup> while on way through Raisen. In this manner he was stopped enroute Hoshangabad, and was stopped on Indore Road, Berasia Road and Two Road Crossing at Shyampur, as well, he took the mountainous route and on the Plateau of Manuaabhaan he was also stopped by the *Aakaashvaani*. What was the *Aakaashvaani*? “Go back! You will not succeed here.” It was then that he declared Bhopal as a place of veneration of purified souls. It was because of this reason that in Islam, the *Stema* is considered *Sunnat*<sup>4</sup> to visit the *Stema* at Bhopal after Haj. It is our misfortune that we are not aware about the importance that places like Taravali, Kankaali Maataa, Paataal Paani, Salkanpur, Neel Kantheshwar, Bhojpur, Bheembaithka hold with respect to Bhopal. In reality, Bhopal is the heart of India and India is the heart of the world. It is from here that the vibration across the globe is generated and Bhopal is its physical form.

**It** can be said that in the cave in RGPV Campus at Gondarmau, Christ could be assumed to have spent some years in disguise in between his adolescence and age 30. His presence in Kashmir before departing from India is well documented and well known. The rock carvings and paintings that are present suggest similarity to Christian symbols. It was here that the incarnation of *Shesh Naag*<sup>5</sup>, Patanjali meditated and was also born in Gondarmau.

**Whether** it be Geographical, Philosophical or Political – The power point or energy spot, was, is and will be Bhopal. In order to realize that we need to establish a University on the basis of the knowledge of Patanjali and exhibit to the world the path towards Happiness & Peace – Let’s Come Together and Pledge.

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<sup>3</sup> The Universe is filled with information from past and future along with the present, which is stored in the form of waves. There exists a science to gather information in wave form. In common parlance this is designated as Voice of Almighty.

<sup>4</sup> *Sunnat* means for enhancing the effect of performance. Here, it means that coming to Bhopal after Haj enhances their purpose of visiting Haj

<sup>5</sup> *Shesh Naag* is the variety of snake on which Lord Vishnu is at rest.