

Repainting the vimānas (tower) at the Anaikatti temples

The vimānams of the Medhādakṣiṇāmūrti temple and Subramaṇya temple at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti have been found to have some water leaks and hence we have decided to repaint them.

There is an interesting process to be undertaken (bālasthāpana), according to the āgama sāstra, before the work can be commenced. As the process is as beautiful as it is also loaded with philosophical significance for students of Vedanta, we wanted to share it with all of you. The whole process is just to be able to climb onto the vimāna and work on it as we are not supposed to climb the sanctified vimāna.

The sthūla liṅga (indication) namely vimāna is first invoked on a pipal wooden plank. This is done by reflecting the vimāna to the kalaśa by using a mirror. A mirror is used, as the vimāna cannot be reached physically due to its location.

The vimāna is classified into 3 parts. It is believed that there are totally 64 kalās in all the three. These 64 are taken out from the vimāna by means of nāḍi sandhāna (through a string). The chit amśa (consciousness principle) and jaḍa amśa (māyā) were invoked in the kalaśa (sacred water pot) by using a mirror (to reflect the image of the vimāna) and a connecting thread made up of darbha grass. The wooden plank was worshipped, homa performed and the water from the kalaśa sprinkled. Then the chit amśa was united with the Dakṣiṇāmūrti bimba and jaḍa amśa is kept in the Pipal wooden plank.



This wooden plank is now inside the garbha griha. Daily pūja will be performed as usual with the wooden plank placed nearby.

The same process was undertaken at the Subramaṇya temple also.

The above process will be reversed on April 9, 2009 and the chit/jaḍa amśas will be reunited with the vimāna to signify the completion of the work. On that day, a mini kumbhābhisekam will be performed.

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