



REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.2331(UIF)

VOLUME - 7 | ISSUE - 4 | JANUARY - 2018



IMAGES OF LORD JHULELAL

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ABSTRACT :

Lord Jhulelal is the principal deity of Sindhi community. He is described as 'Ishta Dev' of Sindhis. He is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Varuna, a powerful God in Vedic period. Sindhi community has a great faith in Lord Jhulelal and they believed he took 'Avatar' in human form. He was born around 950 A.D. in a small town Nasarpur in Sindh which was a part of undivided India before divided in the name of different religions, caste and creed. The ruler of Sindh by name Mirkshah was once upon a time bent to force people to accept his faith, failing which they would have been required to face persecution.



1947. He was born in a Lohana family and his mother's name was Mata Devaki and father's name was Ratanrai Thakkar.

KEYWORDS : Lord Jhulelal , powerful God , human form.

INTRODUCTION :

Lord Jhulelal gave a message of brotherhood, love and harmony which is so relevant in today's time when the world seems to be

divided in the name of different religions, caste and creed. The ruler of Sindh by name Mirkshah was once upon a time bent to force people to accept his faith, failing which they would have been required to face persecution.

Lord Jhulelal delivered a message of brotherhood and convinced the ruler that there is but only one God, known by different names by different people.

Coming to the Iconography, Lord Jhulelal is seen in different forms. In one form, he is seen in a sitting posture and another he is seen riding a horse. Out of these two, the first one is most popular. In this he is seen sitting on a Pala fish. This fish is fairly large in size and is found in Sindhu river. As such Pala fish is the 'Vahana' (Carrier) of Lord Jhulelal.

On the Pala fish, a lotus flower is seen which also is large in size. Lord Jhulelal is seated on a Lotus flower which is sufficiently large.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

Lord Jhulelal is seen sitting with cross legs and the posture is 'Padmasana'. He has a crown on his head similar to the crown of a King. Sometimes there are two feathers on two sides of the crown. The crown is usually golden in colour, with many gems studded on it and it has an intricate carving on it adding to its beauty. A peacock feather is seen on the crown, like the one found on Lord Krishna's crown.

In the sitting posture little variation is found in images, however it is of a minor nature. The right hand is in the blessing position. A white light is seen emitting from the palm sometimes, whereas sometimes the blessing right hand is seen holding a 'Mala' (Rosary) held by thumb. In some idols, usually found in Jhulelal temples a book is seen in Jhulelal's hand. The left hand simply rests on the left knee. Lord Jhulelal is seen in the picture with a white beard and a white moustache giving him a look of a wise sage or seer.

The clothings:

The clothings are a dhoti and kurta. The colours of both the clothings could be white, or it could be a white dhoti and a colourful kurta. Dhoti is decorated with a golden lining and sleeves of kurta also have a golden lining giving it an elegant look. A 'Dupatta' or 'Upavastra' of red or orange or any other colour is also seen adding to the beauty of the clothing.

He is seen wearing one or two 'Rudraksha' malas around his neck along with a garland of flowers. An umbrella or chatra is seen over his head.

The iconography meaning:

The pala fish is indicative of his origin which is water. Lord Jhulelal being incarnation of Lord Varuna, who is the Lord of water bodies and ocean, it is quite appropriate that Lord Jhulelal is sitting on a fish which can be called as his 'Vahana' or carrier.

In India, every God is seen with his specific Vahana such as Lord Ganesh with a mouse, Lord Vishnu with an Eagle, Lord Mahadeva with a Nandi etc. In the same manner Lord Jhulelal vahana is Pala fish.

The white colour of clothing is representative of the calm nature of the deity, the colourful kurta adds the beauty of the deity, the golden lining is indicative of grandure. The crown on the head is indicative of an authority like a king, the peacock feather adds to the beauty of crown. The chatra over the head of the deity is indicative of his kingly status, the rudraksha malas reflect renunciation from worldly things and inclination towards spiritualism. The rosary indicates faith and devotion and it encourages a devotee to indulge in chanting of God's name. The aura is also seen around the head, showing the supremacy and authority of Lord Jhulelal. The blessing hand is ever ready to bless a true devotee with an assurance to show him the path of spiritualism. The serene face of the deity would give the devotee a feeling of peace and tranquillity.