

NEPAL

(Continued)

Two Months in Nepal

January-March 1898

Note book to sojourn

-Sylvain Levi

Yesterday I paid a visit to Harigaon and thence to Deo Patan where I took the stamping of an inscription of Jaya Sthiti Malla near the temple of Vagicvari, in a hithi (one of those hollows in which water flows from pipes). At Pashupati I found two fairly distinguished speakers who related to me with an imperturbable seriousness in the centre of a crowd that had gathered amazed and as seriously as we would state our system of chronology the origin of the temple according to the Nepal mahatmya, the flight of Civa in the form of a gazelle, the vain searches of the gods in short how they found him in the Clesmantaka vana. The temple is situated on the bank of the Bagmati-squeezed in between two plateaus in a picturesque pass and bordered by ghats where the faithful never cease to swarm. The Bhotiyas (Tibetans) and their associates, the monkeys are met with in crowds. As I am not a Hindu

or a Bhotiya or a monkey, I was obliged to view the temple at the usual spot, there rises a giant statue of Nandi entirely gilded as large as the Lion of Belfort. The principal temple of Nepalese style (roofs rising tier upon tier) is surrounded by temples and smaller chapels that cover a space of ground. In front on the left bank of the Bagmati, Jang Bahadur erected ghats crowned by a regular line of chapels without distinctive features, fairly similar to our monuments in the cemetery. A fairly thick wood, the remnants of the Clesmantaka vana surrounds the temples. The fraternal concords of gods is marked by a simple feature. All along the ghats on the right bank an inscription painted in large letters bears : Cri Krsna. In the main, in spite of the popularity of Pashupati the real divinity of India and Nepal, as far as I know is Durga the monstrous and sanguinary goddess. (To be continued)