

Aghora: The Unflinching Soul

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ABSTRACT

Since we don't know how many ages, but certain Aghors. Their cultures and their beliefs. Without any hesitation people just act the way they want and calls them bizarre. But since one have zero knowledge about their cultures how can you call them bizarre. This is a very difficult path for a normal human being, living in filth is not easy for anyone. But why they chose certain paths? Because nothing is good or bad for them, their only aim is to achieve ultimate, to meet their idol Shiva. How Shiva is related to Aghors is whole lot of different topic and have mainly focused on Lord Shiva, his different forms and powers. He was not born so he cannot die hence he is eternal. He is the creator and destroyer if the universe and through that chapter one may know how. I am not an ardent follower of lord Shiva, but since childhood I have heard so many things and so many stories about Shiva and now while researching on him, got to know so many hidden interesting facts as well. Aghors mainly wants to live always from civilization, a peaceful place where they can meditate or sit in silence to do their sadhana. Their sadhana ask them to sit on a dead body, eat human flesh, not possible for a normal human being, but they do because nothing is good or bad. Everything is pure for them, because that connects them to their idol. They want to meet them and for that they even live in harsh conditions, on reason being to wash their minds, free themselves from any kind of human relation.

Keywords: Aghors, Solitude, Adideva, Ultimate peace.

INTRODUCTION

One who walks with Mahadev will Always reach their destination. India is a country where many religions merge into one another, and are respected by every citizen of the country. Every religion has its own practices, beliefs, dities and dictates. One such community, who are feared and simultaneously revered cults are the Aghors. If we go deep in their culture. They in itself are like an untold story. Worshippers and ardent follower of lord Shiva and his female counterparts, the Goddess Kali. They follow the path of Shivism; they want to amalgamate with lord Shiva. They follow bizarre lifestyle, which has led to certain kinds of rumours picturing them as aggressive humans, leaving the general population more fearful. My dissertation would be covering the life and traditions followed by Aghors. Majorly depicting the facts why they are not merely considered as a part of our society, or why it is not relevant in our society. Various viewpoints and the direct communication of famous writers like Dr Robert Svoboda and his trilogy on aghors. Unfolding

some facts told by his guru aghori Vimlanada. There are various questions that arise in our mind when we read word Aghor.

Aghoris is our culture's basically in Hindu Culture has never been accepted with open hands. Either they try to run away from them or we just disrespect them. We judge them by their appearance or by the type of beliefs or worship or culture they follow. We get scared when we see them but none of us ever tried to go and talk to them or has ever tried to search what their culture are all about, why they are dressed up like this, with these long unwashed tangled hairs wrapped in a half bun, generally naked, worshipping in between the Ceremitorial ground that too in mid night. No! We never asked them instead we had judged them standing far away from them. People who mostly show interests in them are mostly foreigners who generally gets fascinated by these people and want to know deep about their culture and so. These were the questions what that writer was actually giving. This is a vast topic but once you dig in there's no coming back. While I was searching on them I was looking this as my dissertation but the moment I started reading about them, there were many pages for me that felt like never got a chance to tell the truth. Even though many Indian writers and even foreign writers have written so much about them. In one such interview I came across this writer name Dr Robert Svoboda, who was the first Westerner to graduate in Ayurveda in India and got a chance to practice that here itself. He wrote three trilogy on Agoras, the whole concept in that book was actually told by his guru Aghori Vimlananda. He had given each and every single detail, that we are unaware in those books.

I say if you want to anything related Aghors read them, they are full of real facts and evidences that one need to belief, because today's culture is if you don't have any proof, that thing is invalid, they need proper proofs for every single detail. This is the proof why Aghors are like this. Why they worship Shiva? Who is Shiva? How he was born? Is he real? Why Aghors sit in cremetorial ground for their sadhana? Why do they eat human flesh or why the drink? Why are they always naked with those tangled hair wrapped in bun?

Why people consider these practices as bizarre? Well honestly if I say, according to Sadhguru if we know nothing about something, if you have no evidence why do they do so Than simply you can't call it bizarre. Calling them bizarre is like insulting them, their beliefs, simply because we are unaware of their facts does not give us any right to give our opinions on anything. Agoras are sadhu only but the way of worshipping their idol Lord Shiva is quiet different. Well if you read about Lord Shiva, he himself was an Agora only, they just follow that path with hurdles that an easy person will not choose. But they choose, because their Sadhana tells them to follow such paths.

SHIVA: The Creator Ultimate Solitude for Agora

As a child I always worshipped lord Shiva and heard many people calling him 'Devo ke Dev Mahadev', one who is the greatest or the great god. Shiva' the auspicious one' or Shiva' the destroyer'. He is one of the most common figures in Hindu mythology. Takes on many forms in Hindu scripture and is said to have 108 names. There no proper history how lord Shiva was born. He is the supreme power and nothing comes beyond him. People believe in him and call him Shiv-SAMBHU. As he is not born, we call him Adi-Dev, referring him as the oldest god in Hindu mythology.

Body is something we know from life, the moment you shed it, that what it becomes the intense moment of one's life.

The term aghori firsts appear in Atharav Veda dedicated to lord Shiva. Aghori Shiva faces south exhibiting destructive and regenerative aspect of Shiva. Agora believes that as a human we are living as 'shava' (dead body) of emotions and feelings, to overcome that feeling one should become 'Shiva'. For them Shiva is the essence of everything around the world.

They are the work shippers of lord Shiva and are said to be the living symbols of Shiva on earth in Hindu culture. Their believe in Shiva is so strong that according to them all things have Shiva in it and there is nothing to worry or fear about, everything is pure. They see Shiva in all animateandinanimate. Aghoris are nestled in Varanasi, home of lord Shiva. According to Hindu cosmology,

Varanasi (Banaras) was said to be created by lord Shiva himself, making it a religious hub for Hindus and attractive tourist spot from all over the world.

Holy city of Shiva is said to be 3000 *f* old, portraying as the oldest city. In Hinduism Shiva is the supreme god, the destroyer, creator, preserver, concealer, reaveler of human kinds.

The city Varanasi has also been considered as the purest and holiest city and has always attracted not only the citizens but the tourists from all over the world. Since my childhood I have been told that if you bathe in Ganga, you purify your soul by washing off all the bad deeds one has done in their life. To attain prosperity and a better standard of living for their families inthislifeandnext. Where there is Shiva, there are agora's. They worship Shiva in his most fierce form Bhairava. He is regarded as the death conqueror in Hindu culture. There are many sayings about the origin of Kal Bhairava. But mostly it is traced to be a conversation between Lord VishnuandLordBrahma. A tale in Shiv Purana talks about his origin. Once all these four gods got into a debate. Lord Vishnu asked Lord Brahman who is the ultimate creator of the universe? Brahman got a little egoist on this question, as he was celebrated as the creator.

Though he is called the creator but within Trimurti, the triple deity supreme divinity, lord Shiva, lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma himself. As he had five heads like lord Shiva, he thought he is as powerful as Lord Shiva, and asked Lord Vishnu to worship. Lord Shiva was already ignoring the deeds

Lord Brahma has been doing for long, like forging his work on lord Shiva and interfering in lord Shiva's daily duties, but after what he said to lord Vishnu made Shiva angry and he chopped of his nail of small finger and threw it. That why Kal Bhairava is always shown carrying skull in his hands. However after that he felt guilty and had to roam around the world as a beggar for 12 years, carrying head of brahma as a begging bowl. Only after reaching Varanasi his sins were cleansed.

.He is believed to be the ultimate godhead, combining all these forces. Like Kal Bhairava Aghoris also walk around with a skull like figure in their hand. As the followers of Shiva, they see him in

everything, but covere astamahapasa,"eight great nooses or bonds", including, fear, obsession, greed, sensual pleasure and hatred. Their whole practices for several years are all about removing these bonds from their life.

For a normal human being, it is not easy to do sadhana in samsan or cremation ground, but they do so to remove fear from their mind, fear is like an illusion, it plays with our mind the more you run away from it, the more it will haunt you. Making sexual relation or practicing certain rides with the bodies present there controls attempts to release one from sexual desires, walking around naked makes them destroy shame. Generally aghoris base their believes on two principles, first that Shiva is perfect (having omnipresent and omnipotence) and second that he is responsible for everything. Like we believe in karma, whatever you do to others will come back to you in the same form no matter what. We believe our deeds are responsible for everything that occurs, all causes and effects.

His agora trilogy's first book," The Left Hand of God", had been divided into subchapters, giving descriptions about everything relating aghors. In one of his chapters, named Shiva, divided into sub chapters. It's a beautiful description of Shiva he encountered with him, while he was on his journey towards agora.

Manikarnika Ghat in Banaras is called the Mahasamshan, not even a second pass their Idleness, and there you can see at least one body burning all times, around the clock. No one knows for how long this has been going for. Banaras is called a very pious place, people from round the corner, comes to Banaras so that they can die on that pious land and burnt on Manikarnika Ghat. He says he used to sit there for all day and night, and cook rice for him every day in new skull, without even taking out the bits if brain. If I ever come in front of you, you have to die, there is no escape. No one can see me when they are alive, they can only see me when they are in the moment of death. But agora Vimalanana being an ardent and curious follower of Shiva said, he do not care what happens if he sees him, eventually he had to die someday, than why not now. He want to see him and so he can die too. Again he heard the same voice, telling him, to stop whatever he is doing otherwise he will end up dying, but again he explained, life means nothing to him, he is swaiting for his lord. It was like a test he was taking of his student, and he successfully passed that and Shiva got

pleased with his sadhana, and told him, 'that he knows his student want to see him, but he will not be able to endure him seeing him and will be able to live. He will come stand infront of him and will always have his back. After that aghori Vimlananada never got scared of death, as the destroyer of universe had his back for the rest of his live till he is alive. He then started talking about Lord Shiva, and eventually started calling him Mahakala. Or you can say his personality is beyond all that, he is like a form, which means he exists within nature, created from Adya. Mahakala has no limitations; atleast has long as we know in this universe. One can say Shiva has a form of figure but Mahakal is utterly formless, which means he is like water, can take any form at will. He is the god of time, he is time. How can he be subjects to it, as time only exists for immortals and he is immortal because he is free from any taint of Maya. He is the only one present in the universe who can never ever fall in the trap of Maya.

Even Shiva, the different form of wit different manifestations fall once or twice in the trap of Maya. No one can persuade him. If he comes for you, no matter how much you beg, even for ten seconds, only answer you will get from him is No.

Even lord Krishna could not induce death to wait for a moment then how we will be able to it? We are just normal human beings.

But we can still questions that why it is so? Right, Because Mahakala is the pivot on which the whole universe turns.

Shiva is eternal and he is almost never touched by Maya. He is the creator of Maya, allows her to play as she wishes. He can never die because all the other gods even the universe is working on his jurisdiction. Without him they can't survive, or work. And if he were to die so how can he take them when their time ceases to exists? He is given the authority to take life, only him. He is the creator of life and death; even without this authority he cannot do anything. For example you see, a police officer can arrest anybody with the powers he have, but if you consider it properly he is not having any powers, his uniform and his badges had those powers to do anything. Without them he is also like an ordinary person like us. Like this only Shiva has right to kill.

Since childhood till now we have only heard one thing whenever somebody's die, one who has come has to go. But one who is not even born can they die? NO

Like Shiva he is not born so how can he die, because everything that is born has to die someday.

Like us, death doesn't treat people differently. It treats all beings alike. This is the reason why we call him, Swayambhu or self-existent, not subject to born or die. Shiva is known for his Tandav Natriya.

We have seen icon of Shiva as Nataraja, lord of dance, surrounded with the flames of dissolution as his dance creates, destroys, innumerable universe simultaneously according to the rhythm of his two headed drum. He is the source of that sound. You can call him a pure rhythm. Shiva is absolute. Any form we worship of him is only a form; our worship is absoluteness behind it.

He then terms, Shiva linga, the most common image or the statue we have been worshipping in India for past God knows how many years. But we never questioned, what is the reality behind it? It is the absolute firmness, stability in it. But what if Mount Kailas is why the only place where he resides? Because it is intensely cold and where there's no heat no metal turmoil. We can say heat is the turmoil, which arises from desires. Lord Shiva has already gone beyond these desires, but that is not easy. Can we imagine our life without memory?

No, because life is memory, we are living because we have memory. Memory can be sweet, it can be bitter too but still it's a memory. Till the time we knew our place we belong to, our family, friends, relatives, we are living, the time you forget even a single aspect, you are blank, and you are dead person who is living. Nothing else.

When you forget, when your karma dept. has been paid, and that bucket of Karma is empty, and then you can't identify yourself with anything. Without memory there's no life. In Sanskrit, we call memory and the god of lust with the same word, Smara. Desire is the cause of karma, and when the desire is destroyed, our memory too will go and you will be free.

This is the reason we call Shiva as Smarhara, the destroyer of lust and memory as well. Till now the description of Mahakala has been terrifying enough, but his sight is not terrible, it is wonderful. But our ego sees him as terrible, because he is going to come and rip her away from all sorts of attachments and some attachments goes very deep, we know it is very hard to let go us away from our desires. Once you let go something, then you realize the truth. The same thing goes with our ego, when she is free, She realises who she is and who Mahakala is once she is free. The greatest achievement of a lifetime is to remain alert at all times. People always think that death is something to be feared, but this is not true; the most terrifying thing is birth. You forget your past or what has happened in your past when you are born, and you go out and ruin yourself. However, death frees the soul from its physical shackles. When Lord Shiva arrives to take someone, he is very kind and gentle, especially to the kind and harmless, as well as children. How can someone despise children? He will go out of his way to ensure that child is comfortable.

How can someone actually hate children? He will go out of his way to make that child comfortable so that the child does not fear anything, and just so that he can be free of any sufferings But why does he care so much about children? Because they are gentle, kind, and most importantly, innocent. Children remind him of Gopala, Vishnu as a child. Lord Shiva cannot do anything without Lord Vishnu, and Lord Vishnu cannot do anything without Lord Shiva; preservation and destruction are inextricably linked.

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