MOUNT ABU - A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HILLS

The Vedic seer lying amidst the wooded hills, Mount Abu, perched on the highest peaks of Aravallis, in the state of Rajasthan. Considered to be one of the most popular hill stations in India, this hill town has an interesting legend. According to the Aadarsh Purana, Mount Abu is a place used by Sage Nimmagat for meditation. The existence of a cave, called "Nimmagat," the peaceful abode which received "Nimmagat" (The sacred bell of Lord Shiva) from a chasm.

During being a picturesque summer resort, Mount Abu is a popular pilgrimage center, dotted with temples and shrines. A temple-cum-hill station visit makes one realize that Mount Abu is a "San designed by God!"

The God. It is believed, day out at the lake at Mount Abu, using their nets, to tame its name, Nakt Lake. Dedicated to the Jain Saints at Tirathgarh, the Djinsh Temple of Mount Abu is a religious sanctuary where the beauty of the soaring mountains blends into a feeling of tranquillity. The surfaces of the walls, arches and brackets and pillars are scored to create a lace-like effect yet none pillars are also, such was the vision of the sculptors who worked on them.

In the year 1522, Col. Todd, while passing through Mount Abu visited Djinsh in Col. Todd's words, "The sacred spot is a concentration of temples. Djinsh is a combination of Dewanaka - The place or region of spectacles - a temple apally applied to the site of this numerous groups, from which I select two of the most remanent temples of Tirathgarh and Nathdwara.

The shrine sacred to Nathdwara is the most sacred of all the temples of India, and there is not an idol besides the Tig that can approach it. The temple is incommensurate to the endearing beauties of this profound monument!"

About a mile from Djinsh and more than half way up a lofty path, appears the range of a deep cliff in the rock temples of the kingly Goddess of Abu - Ambika Mata.

Adishaghat, the majestic fort, built by Rao Kanta Singh of Mewar in the 14th century houses many magnificent temples such as Achaleshwar Mahadev (1142 A.D.) and Shankham Shrinathji (1142 A.D.).

Many ages and years have passed since they reside on Mount Abu, the most famous being Vashdeva. He performed a "Yagya" or magic fire from which were born the Agrapala Chums of Chauhans, Solankis, Farmers and Pathans. A natural spring that flows through a sacred cauldron is held, given the shrine the name of Gopinath "Temple" (Vashdeva's Harvest).

Situated near lakes, the temple of Raghunath is dedicated to Lord Rama and has a beautiful image of deity that was placed here in 14th Century AD.

Known as the saner's paradise, Ochchhali, is the highest peak of the Aravalls rising up to 1775 metres above sea level. The temple, dedicated to Shiva, is a wooden frame, which has Queen Lakshmi inscription dating back to 1141 A.D. The presence of St. Lawrence Church, St. Xavier's Church and a Gurudwara in Mount Abu, makes it a place not only to feel the comprehensiveness of God in all forms of religions.

A visit to Mount Abu is unadulterated a pilgrimage to the "Hills of God."