

Vows of Chaitra Sankranti

(As a part of folk festival: practicing ritual and believe)

Chaitra Sankranti is the last day of the Bengali year. On this day of the month of Chaitra, vows are observed for healing, good wishes and increase of agricultural crops, which is known as Chaita sankranti vow. It's basically a feminine vow. Only girls observe this vow.

Community:

Hindu community in Mymensingh region

Region:

Mymensingh

Material of Vows:

Paddy, Durba, Belpata, Flower, Shewra tree, Banana leaf, kolar khul, Chhatu, Raw milk, Atab rice, Bitter spinach (Ghima, Neem, Tit, Jute vegetables, Byte, Karala), Fish (for those who have fishing rules)

Rules of Vows:

- 1 Vows have to be arranged from fasting throughout the day.
- 2 One has to wear clean clothes and cook for vows.
- 3 Alpana has to be given at the door of houses.
- 4 Nimdal, Ghima and Byte tree branches should be tied together in the corner of the house.
- 5 Who have vegetarian vows, fish is forbidden in their vows.

The Method of Vows:

After cooking all the food (payes, rice, sajna dal, tita shak, five types of sweet) it is offered to the shewra tree. Finally, the story of the vow is told. This time everyone gives Uludhwani.

Folk Believe:

All the food in this vow works as medicine.

The names of those from whom the information was obtained are given below:

- 1) The name of the worshiper: Radha Rani karmoker
Age: 50
Gender: Female
Professional category: House wife
- 2) The narrator of the vows: Josna karmoker
Age: 105
Gender: Female
Professional category: House wife
- 3) The name of the worshiper: Uma karmoker
Age: 24
Gender: Female
Professional category: Student
- 4) The name of the worshiper: Moni Roy
Age: 32
Gender: Female
Professional category: House wife

Data collector:

Mow Karmaker

Member of the Aceeph,

Trishal, Mymensingh

Phone no: 01755790376

Email: nilmow09@gmail.com

References

- 1) Shree Parmeshwar Prosonno Ray, Meyeli Brato o Kotha, Bangle Medical Library, kolikata, 1230.
- 2) Ashutosh Majumder, Meyeder Brato-Kotha, Deb Sahitya Kutir, 2008, Kolkata.
- 3) Dr. Agam Prasad, Indian Culture and Art: Continuity and Change, Swati Publications, Delhi, 2013.
- 4) Fieldwork, 13 April 2020, Mymensingh.