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# THE MOTHER: Observer and Consciousness of Quantum Mechanics THE MOTHER: Shri Maha-kailasa-nilaya "The one who knows this secret place is delivered from samsara"

1 message

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To: "The Mother: Observer and Consciousness of Quantum Mechanics" <the-mother-observer-and-consciousness-of-quantum-mechanics@googlegroups.com>

## YOUR INSTAGRAM PHOTO OF THE DAY



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRENDAN HOFFMAN, @HOFFMANBRENDAN

**Celebrating the trek:** Buddhist pilgrims wearing masks against the sun and dust take selfies at the Drolma La, the highest point—nearly 18,500 feet—of the holy trek around Mount Kailash in western Tibet. Also known as Kangrinboqe, the peak is sacred to four religions. Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bönpo—all make 35-mile pilgrimages on a path around its base, rather than climbing it.

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## The Single-Nail Clogs



A few weeks after Shri Maha-kailasa-nilaya Nirmala Devi [1] had taken Kash to visit Shri Shiva meditating on Mount Kailash, he informed his father about one peculiar fact — that Shri Shiva was seen wearing wooden clogs with a single thick wide-head nail. These single-nailed clogs worn centuries ago are practically non-existent today. Kash has never seen this type of footwear in all his life on Earth, but is absolutely sure that Shri Shiva had them.

Nevertheless, the point to make is that Mount Kailash also exists *within* all beings, a Reality witnessed with clarity beyond all doubts by a child of the Great Adi Shakti. Even the most devoted and powerful satgurus, swamis, acaryas and gurus of various schools, who encourage their followers to shun other paths, are far from reaching the Ultimate Reality where all the Divine Messengers meet and merge into One. ... But why do seemingly intelligent modern humans follow these blind and ignorant gurus who divide the Human Family, and become just as visionless and shallow?...

### “MOUNT KAILAS

With its four facades facing north, east, south, and west, Mount Kailas looks like an enormous diamond. Seventy-five percent as high as Mount Everest, the mountain is one of the tallest peaks in the Himalayas. Nearby is the source of the Indus, Sutlej, and Brahmaputra Rivers. The source of the Ganges is not far away. On its southern face, a vertical gash crosses horizontal layers, creating the image of a swastika. The word comes from svastika, Sanskrit for well-being and good fortune. Buddhists regard the mountain as a mandala — the sacred circle from which the sacred rivers flow like the spokes of the eternal wheel.”

Colin Wilson, *The Atlas of Holy Places & Sacred Sites*

(Colin Wilson, *The Atlas of Holy Places & Sacred Sites*, Penguin Books Ltd., 1996 p. 119.)

“One of the greatest and most austere pilgrimages, Mount Kailas, Himalayan abode of Lord Siva, is sacred to five religions. Pilgrims perform a three-day, 33-mile circumambulation of the peak. At the foot of Kailas lies Lake Manasarovara, symbolizing a quieted mind, free from all thought. Kailas is the Mount Meru of Hindu cosmology, center of the universe. Within 50 miles are the sources of four of India's auspicious rivers.”

Hinduism Today, May 1997

(Himalayan Academy, 1998, [www.hinduismtoday.kauai.hi.us/welcome.html](http://www.hinduismtoday.kauai.hi.us/welcome.html))

“Mount Kailash, or Kangrinpoche, where Shiva and Parvati lie together in bliss and where eternity meshes with time, lies hidden at the western end of the Great Himalaya. All of the pilgrim routes to the “precious jewel of eternal snow” cross at least one pass above 17,000 feet. . . .

Kailash stands alone, behind a sea of mountains where Tibet and India meet, its four faces to the four directions, with a great river flowing from each: the Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, and Karnali, a tributary of the holy Gangga. Here is the abode of Shiva, where the waters of heaven pass through the god's matted hair and become healing springs; the *tirtha*, the place where the waters meet, the focus of all Hindu pilgrimage. Some devotees say the Kailash is the Shivalinga; others that it is Mount Meru, the presence of eternal in time. . . .

Pilgrims take three days to circle Mount Kailash, a walk of just over 30 miles. Every step is rich with prayers and praise of those who have walked the way before, for more years than humankind can recall. . . .

Tibetans make three, five, or thirteen circumambulations of Mount Kailash, or even more. Sometimes they prostrate themselves, rising to walk the length of one prostration only, then once again falling to the ground. To circle the mountain in this way may take up to four weeks of patient and meditative movement. These pilgrims may then turn and return, rapt in their awareness of the eternal. The way has no beginning and no end.”

Jennifer Westwood, *Sacred Journeys*

(Jennifer Westwood, *Sacred Journeys*, Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1997 p.78.)

The disciple leads the prana until Mooladhara.

The air thus inspired awakens the lower Fire which was asleep, meditating on Pranava that is nothing else than Brahman,

And concentrating his thought, he rises the breath until to the lower Fire, until the navel and beyond, within the subtle body.

On the top of the body, over the head there is the lotus with thousand petals, shining like the heavenly Light.

It's that which gives the liberation. Its secret name is Kailash, the mountain where Shiva abides.

The one who knows this secret place is delivered from samsara.

Amritananda Upanishad

### **"Mountains of Mystery**

The Earth's most dramatic features, mountains are to Hindus the abode of Gods, the haunt of holy sages and the supreme pilgrimage destination.

Viewed through the eyes of a Buddhist or Hindu, mountains are mystical realms of Gods, heavens, Spirits and Spiritual masters. *In Sacred Mountains of the World*, a remarkable book by Edwin Bernbaum (University of California Press, 1997), the perspectives of mountains and lore from disparate cultures of the world are explored. Focusing solely on the prominent peaks of the Himalayas, the following article is excerpted from Bernbaum's work.

By Edwin Bernbaum, Berkeley

An enormous range 1,500 miles long, the Himalayas rise in the monsoon-drenched jungles north of Burma to sweep in a great arc of snow and ice northwest along the borders of India and Tibet, through Bhutan, Sikkim and Nepal, up to the dusty glaciers of the Karakoram on the remote desert frontier between Pakistan and China. As the loftiest mountains on Earth, the Himalayas have come to embody the highest ideals and aspirations. The sight of their sublime peaks, soaring high and clean above the dusty, congested plains of India, has for centuries inspired visions of

transcendent splendor and spiritual liberation. Invoking such visions, the *Puranas*, ancient works of Hindu mythology, have this to say of Himachal, or the Himalayas: *In the space of a hundred ages of the Gods, I could not describe to you the glories of Himachal; that Himachal where Siva dwells and where the Ganges falls like the tendril of a lotus from the foot of Vishnu. There are no other mountains like Himachal, for there are found Mount Kailas and Lake Manasarovar. As the dew is dried up by the morning sun, so are the sins of mankind by the sight of Himachal.*

Millions of years ago the summit of Mount Everest, today the world's highest mountain, lay beneath the Tethys, an ancient sea separating Asia from the Indian subcontinent. Through the gradual movement of the Earth's tectonic plates — still ongoing today — the two great land masses collided to fold and thrust up the peaks of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. Fossils formed in sedimentary rocks near the tops of the highest mountains attest to the submarine origins of the range. The fracturing of the Earth's crust also led to injections of magma, forming here and there, as a result of glacial action, magnificent walls and peaks of granite, but no volcanoes. The youngest mountains on Earth, the Himalayas have risen so recently within the last few million years that the watershed lies a hundred miles north of their crest. As a consequence, preexisting rivers have cut through the range, creating the deepest valleys in the world, such as the Kali Gandaki Valley between Annapurna and Dhaulagiri in central Nepal, nearly four miles deep.

**The Himalayas are sacred for followers of five Asian religions — Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and the indigenous Bon tradition of Tibet.** These religions revere the mountains as places of power where many of their most important sages and teachers have attained the heights of spiritual realization. According to Jain mythology, Rishabhanatha, the first of twenty-four saviors of this age, achieved enlightenment on Mount Kailas, the most sacred peak in the Himalayan region. There, in the vicinity of the same mountain, Shenrab, the legendary founder of Bon, is said to have taught and meditated. Sikhs, followers of an Indian religion that developed from the interaction of Islam and Hinduism in the fifteenth century ce, revere Hemkund, a mountain lake near the source of the Ganges, as the place where Guru Gobind Singh, the last of their ten principal teachers, practiced meditation in a previous life. The Himalayas abound with caves and shrines where Buddhist sages, such as the Tibetan yogi Milarepa, have meditated and attained enlightenment.

Hindus, by far the largest group in India with more than 800 million adherents, regard the entire range as the God Himalaya, father of Parvati, the wife of Siva. King of the mountains, Himalaya lives high on a peak with his queen, the Goddess Mena, in a palace ablaze with gold, attended by divine guardians, maidens, scent-eating

creatures and other magical beings. His name, composed of the words *hima* and *alaya*, means in the Sanskrit language of ancient India the "abode of snow." As a reservoir of frozen water, the body and home of the God Himalaya is the divine source of sacred rivers, such as the Ganges and Indus, that sustain life on the hot and dusty plains of northern India. The ancient poets and sages regarded the range as more than a realm of snow; they saw it as an earthly paradise sparkling with streams and forests set beneath beautiful peaks. Above and beyond the earthly paradise of the Himalayas lie the heights of heaven. . . .

**Mount Kailas:** One peak in the Himalayan region stands out above all others as the ultimate sacred mountain for more than half-a-billion people in India, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. Hidden behind the main range of the Himalayas at a high point of the Tibetan Plateau northwest of Nepal, Mount Kailas rises in isolated splendor near the sources of four major rivers of the Indian subcontinent — the Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej and Karnali. Hindus also regard Kailas as the place where the divine form of the Ganges, the holiest river of all, cascades from heaven to first touch the Earth and course invisibly through the locks of Siva's hair before spewing forth from a glacier 140 miles to the west. Not far from the foot of the peak itself, at nearly 15,000 feet above sea level, reflecting the light of its snows, repose the calm blue waters of the most sacred lake of Hindu religion and mythology — holy Lake Manasarovar, "Lake of the Mind." The hardest of Hindu pilgrims aspire to take the long and dangerous journey over high passes to bathe in Manasarovar's icy waters and cleanse their minds of the sins that threaten to condemn them to the suffering of rebirth.

At only 22,028 feet, Kailas is thousands of feet lower than Everest and other Himalayan peaks. Yet its extraordinary setting and appearance more than make up for its modest height. Kailas retains its grandeur when viewed from a distance. More than any other peak in the Himalayas, it opens the mind to the cosmos around it, evoking a sense of infinite space that makes one aware of a vaster universe encompassing the limited world of ordinary experience. It has served as an inspiration for numerous Hindu temples and shrines in the distant plains of India. The sight of the peak has a powerful effect, bringing tears to the eyes of many who behold it, leaving them convinced that they have glimpsed the abode of the Gods beyond the round of life and death. Neither Hindus, Buddhists, nor any Tibetans would ever contemplate trying to climb Kailas.

Hindus view Kailas as the divine dwelling place of God Siva and Goddess Parvati. There, as the Supreme Yogi, naked and smeared with ashes, His matted hair coiled on top of His head, He sits on a tiger skin, steeped in the indescribable bliss of meditation. From His position of aloof splendor on the summit, His third eye blazing

with supernatural power and awareness, the lord of the mountain calmly surveys the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and tragedies, the entire play of illusion that make up life in the world below. The power of His meditation destroys the world of illusions that bind people to the painful cycle of death and rebirth. When He rises to dance, He takes on the functions of Brahma and Vishnu and creates and preserves the universe itself.

The [Buddhist] mandala of Demchog on Kailas presents the universe as a circle of mountains, oceans and continents arrayed around a mythical mountain at the very center. This mountain, called Meru by Hindus and Sumeru by Buddhists, plays a pivotal role in Hinduism and Buddhism as the divine axis of the cosmos. According to Hindu mythology, Brahma, the supreme deity in the form of the creator, lives on its summit, surrounded by lesser deities. Meru and Kailas appear as separate mountains in early texts of Buddhist and Hindu mythology, but later tradition has tended to bring them together and identify them as one and the same. Today many Indians and Tibetans view Kailas as the place where the invisible form of Meru breaks through to appear in the physical plane of existence. A pilgrimage to the mountain, therefore, represents for them a journey to the very center of the universe — the cosmic point where everything begins and ends, the divine source of all that exists and has significance. In circling the peak and paying homage to a vision of Siva or Demchog on its shining summit, they make contact with something deep within themselves that links them to the supreme reality underlying and infusing the cosmos itself. For most Hindus and Buddhists of India and Tibet, the journey to Kailas is, in fact, the ultimate pilgrimage, both in terms of the sanctity of its goal and the difficulty of the way.

**Goddess of Bliss:** In addition to the paradise She shares with Siva on Kailas, Parvati has her abode on a number of other mountains. As Nanda Devi, the "Goddess of Bliss," She dwells in beauty on the lovely peak of that name in the Himalayas northeast of Delhi. The highest mountain in India outside the principality of Sikkim, Nanda Devi soars in alluring curves of rock and ice to culminate in a delicate summit, poised at 25,645 feet above a ring of snow peaks that form a sanctuary protecting the Goddess from all but Her most determined admirers. The only break in their otherwise impregnable wall of rock and snow is the terrifying gorge of the Rishi Ganga, one of the sources of the sacred Ganges, named after seven sages of Hindu mythology who fled the oppression of demons to seek refuge with the Goddess before departing this world to become enshrined as seven stars in the constellation of Ursa Major. Shepherds and porters from nearby villages who venture into the area believe that they can sometimes hear the sounds of these sages — drums beating, the blare of trumpets and the eerie barking of dogs. The few foreign mountaineers who manage to penetrate the gorge, inching their way along the

sides of sheer cliffs that plunge thousands of feet into the river roaring below, find themselves in a paradise of gentle meadows filled with flowers at the foot of the sacred peak, which stands like a temple in the middle of the sanctuary itself.

Nanda Devi lies in Uttarakhand, the principal area of pilgrimage in the Indian Himalayas. This region ranks second only to Kailas and Manasarovar in the degree of its sanctity for Hindus. Closer to the lowlands and much more accessible, it is visited by many more pilgrims, who come by the tens of thousands to bathe at Gomukh, the glacial source of the Ganges, and to worship at Kedarnath and Badrinath, lofty temples of Siva and Vishnu sequestered in narrow valleys beneath the icy thrones of the Gods themselves. The region is also the favorite haunt of holy men and wandering yogis, who come to follow the example of Siva and meditate in the sharp clear air of the heights, within sight of the peaks that lead to heaven and the goal they seek.

As the Goddess who resides on the highest mountain in the region, Nanda Devi has many shrines and temples dedicated to Her. One of the better-known ones is in the hill station of Almora, which affords one of the best views of the peak itself and the mountains that surround it. Although primarily a benevolent deity, Nanda can take on the form of Durga, the wrathful Goddess. The people of the region also view Nanda Devi as a benevolent source of life and renewal. **According to ancient Hindu mythology, a flood once covered the entire world. A sage named Manu was warned of the impending disaster and built a boat in which he survived. Vishnu incarnated himself as a fish and towed the craft to safety on a mountain peak. As the waters receded, Manu together with his family and the remnants of all living creatures went down the slope to repopulate the Earth.** The people of Uttarakhand identify the mountain of the flood as Nanda Devi, and one local group, the Rajis, still regard the peak as the abode of their ancestors. According to one legend, the seven sages accompanied Manu and remained behind to dwell in the company of the Goddess.

**Annapurna and Machapuchare:** Goddess Parvati dwells in yet another form on sacred Annapurna One, named like Nanda Devi for the deity said to reside on its summit. A range of peaks that includes Gangapurna, Machapuchare and Annapurnas One through Four, Annapurna rises in one long sweep above the lush green hills of central Nepal. Seen from the tropical valley of Pokhara in the twilight before dawn, the range's peaks appear to float like bluish-gray icebergs on a sea of liquid shadows. Etched with shadowed flutings, the corrugated face of Annapurna One — the highest summit at 26,545-feet — becomes a golden backdrop to the slender pointed peak of Machapuchare, the "Fish's Tail."

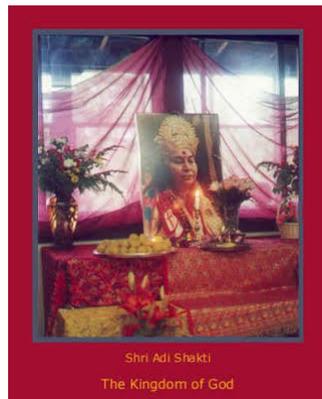
Annapurna means in Sanskrit "She who is filled with food." Unlike Nanda Devi, who can take on the wrathful form of Durga, Annapurna is regarded as a purely benevolent deity. A kindhearted Goddess of plenty, She is the Queen of Banaras, the holy city of the Hindus on the banks of the Ganges south of Nepal. Each year, after the autumn harvest, the people of Banaras celebrate a festival dedicated to Her called Annakuta, the "Food Mountain," in which they fill Her temple with a mountain of food — rice, lentils, and sweets of all kinds to be distributed to those who come to receive Her blessings."

Hinduism Today, February 1999

(Himalayan Academy, 1998, [www.hinduismtoday.kauai.hi.us/welcome.html](http://www.hinduismtoday.kauai.hi.us/welcome.html))

*Shri Adi Shakti: The Kingdom of God*, 1999, p. 173-77

[1] *Shri Maha-kailasa-nilaya* (578th): Residing in the great Kailas — Maha Kailasa means in Sri Chakra, the innermost *Bindu* and in the body the Sahasrara-Padma below the Brahmrandhra.





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