

2.6 Meru Mountain

The whole wide universe is seen by the Knowledge of Omni-knowledge. There is a *Tirchha Lok* within it. The road leading to it is both long and wide. The height is 1800 *Yojans*, of which 900 *Yojans*. Are on flat land, and other 900 *Yojans* are on height. In this 900 *Yojans* the last 110 *Yojans* contain a *Jyotis Circle*, where the *Jyotishi* Gods abode. The aircrafts of these Gods move round the *Meru* Mountain. This cause Day, Night, Month, *Ayan*, Seasons etc. $2\frac{1}{2}$ *Dwip*. Let us have a look at *Meru* Mountain.

Meru Mountain is located in exact middle of *Jambu Dwip*. Between East and West *Mahavideh* and in north of *Devkuru* and in south of *Uttzrkuru*. *Meru* Mountain is like that pillar, which is wider at base, and gets narrower and narrower as it grows up the height of *Meru* Mountain is one Lakh *Yojans*, of which 1000 *Yojans* are below earth and 99,000 *Yojans* are above level *Meru* Mountain is $10090 \frac{10}{11}$ *Yojans* wide in the root within the earth where as it is 10,000 *Yojans* wide on the earth level. Gradually the width becomes less and less as it grows up, and on the top peak it is 100 *Yojans* wide. Above it is a *Chulika*. Thus the *Meru* Mountain is very wide in its root, gets less wider in the middle and becomes least wide at the top. The shape is similar to the tail of a Cow. The whole mountain is very clean, full of diamonds, lakes and forests.

Meru Mountain is divided into 3 divisions (*Chulika* apart). These are called 3 *Kands* (1) First *Kand* – *Adhyostankand*. (2) *Madhya* (Middle) *Kand*. (3) *Uparitan Kand*. The lowest *Kand* has a height of 1000 *Yojans*, that of Middle *Kand* is 63,000 *Yojans* and that of top *Kand* is 36,000 *Yojans*.

There are 4 forests on Mountain *Meru*.

(1) *Bhadrasha Van* :- It is located at the foot hill of the mountain, on flat land. It is surrounding the Mountain *Meru* on all 4 sides. Its North and south width is 250 *Yojans* and its east-west width is 22,000 *Yojans*. The whole forest is divided into 8 section with 4 tree-shape mountains viz. *Saumanas*, *Vidyut*, *Prabh*, *Gandhmadan* and *Malyavan* and 2 rivers viz. *Sita* and *Sitoda*.

(2) *Nandan Van* :- It is 500 *Yojans* higher than the *Bhadrashal Van* and 62,500 *Yojans* below the *Somansvan*. Its area is 500 *Yojans*. In exact middle of it, is *Abhyantar Meru* and 50 *Yojans* far, are 8 *Kut* of *Deeshakumaris*. On it are 8 Palaces of 8 *Deeshakumaris* of *Urdhva Loks*. There is a *Kut* 500 *Yojans* above it. There is a palace of the Goddess on it. Thus the Goddess stays 1000 *Yojans* above the flat earth. 900 *Yojans* of it belong to *Tirchha Lok*. The above 100 *Yojans* belong to *Urdhva Lok*. (Upper *Lok*). So the Goddess belongs to Upper *Lok*.

Besides, in *Nandanvan*, there are 4 temples (*Chaitra*) on 4 sides of it. In other directions are two palaces of *Ishanendra*. All these temples and palaces are in all 4 forests.

(3) *Somvan* :- *Somvan* is situated above 62,500 *Yojans* from *Nandanvan*. This is another series of *Meru* Mountain. This is 500 *Yojans* wide.

(4) *Pandagvan*:- *Pandagvan* is 3600 *Yojans* above *Somvan*. It is circularly 494 *Yojans* wide. The area of peak and *Meru* mountain is 1000 *Yojans* are deducted from 1000; the remaining 988 *Yojans* is divided into two 494 *Yojans* in east and 494 *Yojans* in west. Thus the *Pandagvan* is 494 *Yojans* on any side from the root of *Meru Chulika*. It is circularly 494 wide, if *Meru Chulika* is in the centre.

There are 4 rocks for celebration of Birth celebration of Lord *Tirthankaras* in *Pandagvan* is east; Red- Coloured, *Raktakambla* in west; very very white coloured (*Ati Pandukambla*) in south; and very very Red Coloured *Ati Raktakamblain* North.

All these 4 rocks are used for celebrating the birth celebration of lord *Tirthankaras*. The south direction Rock is used for the birth celebration of *Tirthankaras* born in *Bharat Kshetra* . The north direction Rock is used for birth celebration of *Tirthankaras* born in *Airvat Kshetra*. The east direction Rock is used for birth celebration of *Tirthankaras* born in 8 *Vijayas* of north bank of *Sita Maha* River of east *Mahavideh Kshetra*. On the west Rock there are two royal chairs. On the royal chair situated in north direction, the birth celebration is done for the *Tirthankaras* born in 8 *Vijayas* on north bank of the river *Sitoda* of west *Mahavideh* and on the royal chair in south direction, the birth celebration is done for the *Tirthankaras* born in 8 *Vijayas* of south bank of river *Sitoda*.

In *Jambu Dwip*, over a period of time, not more than 2 or 4 *Tirthankaras* are born. In *Bharat* and *Airvat Kshetra*, when one *Tirthankara* is born the birth celebration is done for 2 *Tirthankaras* at a time, and when 4 *Tirthankaras* are born in *Mahavideh Kshetra*, the birth celebration of 4 *Tirthankaras* is celebrated. When the *Tirthankara* is born in *Mahavideh*. There is no birth of *Tirthankara* in *Bharat*, *Airvat* and Vice-versa. This is so, because, the *Jineshwar* is always born at mid-night, and there cannot be mid-night in both *Bharat-Airvat* and *Mahavideh* Simultaneously. Thus, because of *Tirthankaras* do not take place simultaneously in there *Kshetra*.

Note on *Chulika* :- in 4th forest of *Meru* Mountain , i.e. in *Pandagvan*, there is a diamond-decorated *Chulika*. This has height of 40 *Yojans* with a width of 12 *Yojans* at a base; 5 *Yojans* in the middle, and 4 *Yojans* at the top, *Chulika* is a small hill like a peak. Around *Meru* Mountain, the *Jyotish* circle, that is, the air crafts of *Jyotishi Dev* (Gods) move round it.