

Bengalis – Lovers of Life

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It takes water, fertile soil and sunshine to give birth to life.
It takes people who love life to give birth to culture.

Bengal is blessed with an abundance of all three life-giving elements - the mighty river Ganges, mineral rich plains and warmth that has sweetened millions of her children nestled in her lap.

Small wonder that life in Bengal is ruled by a culture that absorbs its qualities from the elements it has been nurtured in - a language as fertile as her soil, an intellect as deep as her river, skills as radiant as her summers.

A Bengali's pride in his sensibilities runs deep. He cannot be faulted. Bengal's capital, Kolkata is where many modern movements in art, science and industry took seed.

Bengal's culture is a rich amalgamation of influences - Buddhist simplicity, Moghal conservatism, British liberalism, Zamindari decadence, rural traditionalism and the 19th century Bengali's own revivalist thinking that fired the mighty Cultural Renaissance, an awakening of modern literary, cultural, and social pursuits, inspiring the rest of India.

Today, a deep sensitivity underlines the Bengali intellect. It is rare to find a Bengali who is not well versed in the Arts or cannot argue on any subject knowledgeably whether he is a doctor or a rickshaw puller. A coastal love of fish and food has integrated into his spirit so that no occasion is complete without a feast. His inherent love of the arts has almost evolved to his birthright.

Once a year, all the talent and traditions that the contemporary Bengali has garnered over the centuries culminates in the celebration of the Durga Puja - the worship of the almighty mother goddess of Indian mythology.

Wherever in the world he may be, his heart is in Bengal during the festival. With limited resources, he sets out to create the life that has defined his being. He worships the fiery deity who fuelled his hopes since birth and gets together with his friends and family to celebrate the joy of life through an impressive display of music, dance, drama and literary activities.

Far from our land of birth, we the Bengalis of Bangkok, congregate to keep our values and cultural heritage alive every year on several occasions. To this effect, we have created our association, Bharati, to welcome new Bengali entrants in the region and inspire our children to carry forward the torch of our heritage.