

MAATIR PROTIMA- HANDS THAT MAKE IDOLS OF CLAY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

The hand of a sculptor working on the face of a clay model of Goddess Kali.

MAIN TITLE: MAATIR PROTIMA

Hands that make idols of clay

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Two sculptors are seen applying clay on the clay models of idols of Saraswati.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Every year during festivals like Diwali and Durga Puja, the sculptors get busy making various idols of gods and goddesses. The idols made of clay come in different sizes. Some are meant for homes, some for temples while others are made specifically for the festivals.

Photos of Goddess Kali, Saraswati and Durga are seen.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Clay model of Saraswati is seen. A sculptor is giving shape to the face of an idol of Shiva using chisel.

EXT. LAKE SIDE - DAY

A lake is seen surrounded by trees on the side.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

A sculptor is mixing the clay with his feet.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Maatir protima- idols of clay give the sculptors round-the-year work.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They collect the maati, that  
is the clay from the river banks.  
It is first softened by mixing with  
feet. Then it is filtered and mixed  
with water for further use.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

A sculptor is mixing the filtered clay with both his hands.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

A sculptor is applying clay on the hand of idol of Shiva.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It is mixed well in this way with  
both the hands. There is no need to  
dry the clay before use. From here,  
it is directly applied on the  
models of the idols that are  
prepared with hay.

INT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Tupai Haldar, a sculptor, is applying clay on a hay model of  
Saraswati and answering questions of the interviewer.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Are youngsters interested in this  
work of idol making?

TUPAI HALDAR

Yes, those who want to learn this,  
they do this work. Many youngsters  
make clay idols. There is a  
different value attached to this  
work. Many won't understand, they  
think it's dirty work. But it is  
the work of hands, it is good work.

INT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Several hay models of Saraswati can be seen kept inside the  
workshop.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

A sculptor is seen applying clay on the wheel of a chariot.

Photos of artisans making and adorning the jewellery of the idols.

Photos of Saraswati and Durga idols after they are painted and adorned with jewellery.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The protimas, that are the idols, are designed by the sculptors themselves. Then they prepare the hay models. After that, the clay is applied. After applying several layers of clay, the idols are left to dry. Then they are painted and adorned with ornaments and bright coloured clothes. The clay idols take five to ten days of time to complete depending on their size.

EXT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Sculptors are seen filtering the clay, applying and brushing the clay on hay model of Kali idol and mixing the clay for final use.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Youngsters are also interested in doing this work. Of course, there is more work during festivals but the young generation wants to keep doing this work.

INT. SCULPTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Tupai Haldar is applying clay on the hay model of Saraswati idol and answering questions to the interviewer.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Are you happy doing this work?

TUPAI HALDAR

Yes, happy to do this work. I want to learn more.

SCULPTOR

This work is like addiction. Don't want to do other work.

Photos of idols of Kali being immersed in ponds.

EXT. BANK OF A POND - DAY

People are immersing an idol of Goddess Kali in the pond.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The protimas are later immersed in  
water bodies. The maati goes back  
to where it came from.

FADE OUT.

END CREDIT

A film by Amrita Kundu