Cannon Ball Fruit Tree

By : Juggernaut

Naga Lingam flower is sacred to Hindus since it represents Lord Shiva and Naga but standing under the flower tree could be hazardous to body from falling cannon ball size fruits of the tree.

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While walking on the campus to the main library years ago Juggernaut noticed a large tree with several attractive red flowers hanging from the tree trunk. Juggernaut walked up to the tree to look at closely only to identify the flower as â *Naga Lingam flower*â sold near Hindu temples in India.

The flower is intricate and complex, and looks like an orchid. It emits a strong pleasant fragrance. On close examination Juggernaut understood why the flower was named as *Naga Lingam*; it has a large oval shape structure with short stamens at the base of the flower, these short stamens give the appearance of a cluster of â *Lingams,â* a symbol of Lord Shiva. A large snake head shaped structure covers the *Lingams* below as if it is protecting the Lingams. Both snake and Lingam are sacred symbols for Hindus; no wonder these flowers are sold at a premier price at Hindu temples as offering to God.

Eyes closed, standing on carpet of flowers on the ground with no local recognition of its value, Juggernaut thought to himself loud â how much money I could have made selling these flowers at a Hindu temple back home.â only to be awakened by a scream.

â Man, are you crazy standing under Cannon Ball tree? watch your head from falling Cannon Balls,â a passerby student shouted at him.

"I am just day deaming," said Juggernaut opening his eyes to see scores of cannonball size fruits hanging as bunches from top of the tree and on the ground were large size fruits shattered open from the fall emitting foul smell, perhaps to attract animals to eat. Juggernaut quickly ran away from the tree to make sure he wonâ t be the victim of standing under a wrong tree at wrong time. On other hand, if he were to be hit by a falling canon ball fruit, he will be the first Hindu faithful knocked down by a canon ball fruit; perhaps a warning from *Naga Lingam* tree, â Donâ t touch me but you can worship me from a distance.â

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