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Panchasakha Baishnava Kabi Sri Jagannath and Dinakrushna Das

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The presiding deity of Nilachal Dham Lord-Jagannath the lord of the universe is the most revered and ancient deity of Hindu Pantheon who has mesmerised and bewildered crores of devotees. He is the identity of Odisha. Lord Jagannath is present in every odia's heart and culture and is manifested in every ritual- while three Dhams in different centres of India represent 3 different sects viz - Badrika – Narayan Vishnu, Dwarika – Krishna, Rameswar – Shiva, the fourth Dham i.e. Nilachal Dham symbolises as the holy place of one and all.

It was considered as the abode of Lord Vishnu from the Prehistoric times and also names as "Martya Baikuntha" so odia poet Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das writes :-

“Jagat Sarase Bharat Kumala

Tamadhye Keshara Punya Nilachal”

Shree Jagannath is the Lord of Universe. Neelachal Dham is not a deity of any particular sect. He is cosmopolitan and embraces spiritual thought of all sects signifying the symbol of unity in diversity, four words in 'Jagannath' represent four deities Ja-is Jagannath. Ga' is Balabhadra, 'Na' is Subhadra and 'Tha' Sudarsana. This thought written by Bipra Dibakar Das.

‘Ja’karascha Jagannath ‘Ga’ karam Baladebakam

Bhadra ‘Na’ karabhabena ‘Tha’ karascha Sudarshanam”

(Jagannath Charitamburta Gita-70/1)

So, Jagannath means the union of all deities which is all pervasive and after described as purusottama. Purushottam kshetra was known as "brahmabana" and the temple located on Nilaparvata Near the southern area of the Mahodadhi (Sea-Shore) And Jagannath Paramabrahma Bishnu.

This is the only reason some saints and holy people desire for the blessings. The procedure of worship of the land is very unique. Any one and everyone is free to pray on this land and there is no discrimination and restriction what so even. This beautiful culture is reflected in various sources of worshipping done is the temple. Only Bhaba & Bhakti associated with God. So many odia saints & Kabi becomes devotee of Lord Jagannath.

In medieval Orissa the Panchasakha Poets or Baishnava Sidha Sadhaka namely Balaram Dasa, Jagannath Dash, Yasovantta Das, Achyutananda Das & Sishu Ananta Das influenced by Lord Jagannath and to gain salvation by worshipping Bishnu. And message to General man' Gyana Mishra Bhakti". The first person was saint Balaram Das.

Balaram Das

Saint Balaram Das also known as Matabalaram Das took birth in 1472 A. D and has specified himself as a poet of lower caste like Sarala Das Even though Jagamohan Ramayan was considered as the most renowned work of Balaram Das, Still he has indicated his thought of devotion with love towards Lord Jagannath in many of his work

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like Bedanta Sara Guptagita, Bata Abakasa, Brahmanda Bhugala, Bedha Parikrama, Birata Gita, Amarakosha, Laxmipurana, Udhava Gita, Baula Adhyaya etc. and many more scriptures. The example of the ultimate dedication and devotion of saint and devotee Balaram Das is his composed literary scripture "Bhabasamudra" grantha. The innocent appeal made by the devotees to the lord as a result of which Lord Jagannath to keep the respect of his devotees, initiated the journey of Rathayatra to give darshan to all his devotees which shows the strong bonding and pure relationship in between the Lord and his Bhaktas. Among all the Panchasakha believer of literature. The odia Laxmipurana that centered around Lord Jagannath. Written by saint Balaram Das was accepted by the odia society as a source of Inspiration till date.

Jagannath Das

Atibadi Jagannath Das was born in 1490, A.D in Kapileswarpur Sasana a small village established in the name of Gajapati Kapilendra Deva. He was a wise and learn person and also a great devotees of Lord Jagannath. Immediately before the arrival of Shree Chaitanya to Srikhetra Jagannath Das translated the Sanskrit 'Bhagabata' into simple odia language and also was associated in Puranacharya near the Bataganesh temple in the temple premises. Jagannath Das was somuch immersed within the identity of Lord Jagannath. Gyana Mishra Bhakti is the main feature of Jagannath Das. According to him Srikrishna and Lord Jagannath are one and identical. Puri Dham as Brundaban. Jagannath Mahaprabhu Influence to Jagannath Das. And he wrote somany book i.e. – Darubrahmagita, Saibagama Bhagabat, Nityaniladree Bilasa, Srinama Chandrika, Anamakundali, Brahmagita, Tulabhina, Padmapada Sudhanidhi, Sunya Bhagabat etc.

Mahapurusha Achyutananda Das

Trutiya Sakha Mahapurusha Achyutananda took birth in 1482 A.D in a small village named as Nemala of Cuttack district. His father Dinabandhu Khuntia was a selfless devotee of Lord Jagannath. He had developed a sense of aversion towards the worldly life in the age of eleven. During that time he came to Srikhetra with his father and met in chaitanya. As per the advise of in chaitanya he took dikshya from guru Nityananda and became a saint. He travelled whole of India and returned to the feet of Lord Jagannath and stayed in Srikshetra forever. Even though Achyutananda was renowned as a poet of odia literature but he was a great saint in nature. He took initiation in Krishnamantra from Nityananda, but for him Lord Jagannath was Krishna and Krishna was Lord Jagannath. He accepted the identity of Lord Jagannath as formless and Sri krishna as tangible and composed a literary scripture named as sunya samhita

Grantha, Best Granth of Achyutananda was Harivansa. It's known as Sata Khandia Harivansa this Granth is based on Krushnacharita. Achyutananda also impliment the name "Patitapabana" as Lord Jagannath i.e.

**Jagannathnkara pade sarbe kale puja
Garuda pithire bije se debadhiraja**

x x x

**Jagannath Prabhunkara padapadma sebi
Ju dina Achyuta Das bolauchi kabi
Jay Jay Jagannath Arata Bhanjan
Patitapabana Swami Sri Madhusudana.**

Somany books writted by Achyutananda about jagannath culture i.e. Sunyasamhita, Chausathi tika, Mahatnitya Rahasa, Ranikhani, Gurubhakti Gita, Brahmasankuli, Kaibarta Gita, Kalijuga Gita, Anakara Brahmajantra Nirupana, Radharasa, Asta gujari, Achyutananda Malika and so many Bhajan & Janana for Lord Jagannath.

Bhakta Kavi Jashobanta Das

Bhakta Kabi Jashobanta Das was one of the literary Baishnava Sidha Sadhaka odia kabi saints of the panchasakha tradition. He as born in the 1480 A.D. in a village named Adhangagada in Jagatsinghpur dist. Even today his Sadhanapitha is present in this village. Jashobanta Das was a Extra ordinary saint in Panchasakha. His extraordinary meditation power was spread all over odisha. and during his arrival to Srikhetra Gajapati Prataprudra Deva himself went to Atharanala to welcome the great saint.

Even though saint Jashobanta accepted Sri Chaitanya as his Sakha (friend) but never accepted Lord Jagannath and Srikrishna to be one. As per his point of view Lord Jagannath was the God and Srikrishna was his incarnation. This was clearly narrated in his siba swaradya grantha : i.e.

Jay Jay Jagannath Jagata dharana

Jay Balabhadra Bhadra Jay Sudarshana

Jay utapati sthiti jaha-tharu hoe

Jagnnibasa bolanti sruti jaha-rae.

Again his path and way of life was devoted to Radha-Krishna but he had spread the greatness and glory of Lord Jagannath and Srikshetra there are so many granth wrote by Jashobanta i.e. Premabhaktigita, Srikshetra mahatmya, Atmaparache Gita, Rasa, Malika, and etc.

Sishu Ananta Das

Ananta Das one of the renowned saints of the Panchasakha tradition was born in 1486 A.D. in a small village named Balipatana in Puri district. As the word Sishu was written before his name because he was considered as the member of Sishu religious community. According to a floklora, Ananta Das transformed into a small child while doing meditation and sad on the lap of Goddess Laxmi. Lord Jagannath was pleased and gave his the title of Sishu.

He was very famous saint and perform many impossible acts with the help of his Yoga and Sadhana. He was a worshipper of “Pinda Brahmanda Tatwa” and Sunyabada. Ananta Das accepted Sri Jagannath as Sunyabrahma and represented him as the accomplishment of Pinda Brahmanda Tatwa. Sishu ananta was described Lord Jagannath as Baudha & Kalki in “Hetu udaya Bhagabat” grantha, still he has indicated his thought of devotion with love towards Lord Jagannath many grantha written by him i.e.- Balli Bhagabata, Guptatika, Dhamachatra, Sisumantra vichara, Malika Sahitya, Bhaja janana and etc.

Bhaktakavi dinakrushna Das

Poet Dinakrushna Das was an ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath. He was also devotee poet. His fine enchanting voice also charmed the audience & this is the good quality of Dinakrushna. He became extremely popular among all the people His fame knew no bounds as he was invited to differents places for singing devotional songs.

One day the king of odisha Gajapati Dibyasingha Deva sending messenger to Dinakrushna for invited Raj Prasad. After enchanted devotional song by Dinakrushna the king had an offer in plenty of wealth in exchange of some poetical composition elaborating king’s fame. But Dinakrushna didnt love any interest to any other personality. He humbly told the king to excuse him. he can’t make any poetical composition an the name of any other personality except Lord Jagannath.

The king was very angry and sent the poet to prison. Sri Das deeply prayed Lord Jagannath that without his mercy. He will be hanged definitely. He wondered how he will get such painful punishment when he has surrendered before such powerful God Lord Jagannath. Then Lord Jagannath disappeared from the prison. The king was ordered in the dream to release the devotee with honour without punishing him a bit.

As per the order of Lord Jagannath the king released the poet and took responsibility of the maintenance of the poet throughout the life. Sri das worte somany grantha about Shree Jagannath i.e. Rasakalpla, Artatrana Chautisa, Jagamachana Chhanda, Rasavinoda, Gunasagara, Snanayatra Chautisha in the poetry from alphabetically starting from ‘KA’ to ‘KSHA’ in odia language which is very popular among the odia villagers and even today amongst all the lovers of odia literature and odia language. Jagannath culture and Rathayatra Festival.

Atlst Puri in Odisha is an important place from religious points of universe. Parambrahma Bishnu as a Lord Jagannath. all devotees are samarpit in this place. Shree Jagannath Dhama cannot be compared with any other place of the world. So it is observed that saints and religious preachers of different faiths have accepted Lord Jagannath as the Lord of the universe.

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Summary

This paper I discusses Lord Jagannath as the universal deity of Odisha and the five medieval panchasakha saint-poets who dedicated their lives to his devotion. Lord Jagannath, enshrined at Nilachal Dham in Puri, is regarded as a symbol of unity transcending all seets and castes. The five saints covered are Balaram Das (b-1472) who composed the famous Laxmi Puran and Bhabasamudra, Jagannath Das (b-1490), who translated the sanskrit Bhagabata into odia and saw krishna and jagannath as one, Achyutananda Das (b-1482) who composed the “Sata khandia Harivansa” and identified jagananth as formlees Brahma, Jashobanta Das (b-1480) who upheld jagannath’s supremacy over krishna and worte Premabhakti-gita and Sishu Ananta Das (b-1486) who revered jagannath as Sunyabrahma. The paper concludes with ‘Bhaktakabi Dinakrushna Das’ a devoted poet who refused royal patronenge to compose anything other than praise of Lord Jagannath and was miraculously freed from prison through the Lords divine intervention, going on to write many celebrated odia literary works on jagannath culture.

Keyword

Brahmabana
Bedha Parikrama
Bataganesh Temple
Anamakundali
Talabhina
Sata Khandia
Pinda Brahmanda
Sunyabada
Gajapati Dibyasingha Deva