

BLUE HILL BOOK REVIEW



*“Pranipatya Jagannatham,
Sarva jina Vararchitam.
Sarva Buddhamayam Siddhi,
Vyapino Gaganopamam ”*



The book BLUE HILL written by **Dr. Subas Pani** & Published by Rupa & Co, New Delhi in 2004 is a unique Publication for its theme, rendering and the Universal deity **Lord Jagannath**. The subject matter revolves round the eclectic & syncretic culture of Jagannath Triad.

The origin and evolution of Jagannath Consciousness in Puri is shrouded in mystery. Many scholars trace back the beginning of this religion to Vedic period. The antiquity of Puri as a centre of pilgrimage goes to 6th century B.C. to the days of Buddha as evident from Buddhist literature and Archeological reference. A **Danta Dhatu** of Lord Buddha was brought by one **Thera Khema** from Kusinara to Puri for worship from the funeral pyre of Buddha. Since then Puri was known as **Dantapuri** and was famous as a maritime trading metropolis. From that time onwards there was unprecedented acculturation and most of the known cults and creeds of Orissa & India mingled with the Jagannath Triad making the deity Lord of the Universe and rightly Dr. Pani has delved deep into the matter in his book.

In fact Lord Jagannath epitomizes Buddhism, Jainism, Vaisnavism, Saivism, Shaktism and aboriginal Tribalism. Many Hymns of different sections grew up in volumes in oral & written traditions for the prayer and pacification of the all pervasive God since remote antiquity, which are still in continuity.

The prayer of Vajrajani Buddhist Siddha Indrabhuti *Pranipatya Jagannatham, Sarva jina Vararchitam. Sarva Budhamayam Siddhi, Vyapino Gaganopamam* which is the invocatory verse of his famous book **Gyana Siddhi** ascribable to 8th Century is known to be the first historical written version of hymns to Jagannath and the prayer offerings of **Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi** of Neo Buddhism (**Mahima Dharma**) be regarded as the latest one of the Neo Orissan classic poetic diction.

The Book is written in lucid style with an appropriate introduction touching almost every aspect of the **Dark Darling Lord Jagannath**, His abode, the palatial temple, His fairs and festivals, rites and rituals, *Khetras, Trithas* and *Veshas* and so on. Similarly the English rendering of the hymns of Adi Sankaracharya, Jayadeva, Sarala Dasa, Balarama Dasa and Jagannatha Dasa are exuberant. The composition of Salabega, Upendra Bhanja, Chandan Hajuri and Raghu Natha etc. have found fuller efflorescence in the artistic pen of the author. The exhaustive glossary of Oriya words have made the English translation popular and Global. The select Bibliography appended to the book has opened new avenues for further research. Above all, the true devotional approach has turned the translation into a **time honoured book**.

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