



Miracle of Devotion !

Er. Raghunath Patra

Balaram Das was fond of Madhabi
for her ardent love to him
visits her daily without breach
for his heart's content to brim. (1)

Madhabi's love inspired lot
He became a poet on Lord,
a candid devotee of Jagannath
with a lucid heart, no fraud. (2)

His poetic talent made him great
jealous Pandits bear not it
conspired to punish someway rather
incited Sevakas on car to beat. (3)

As every year in the Car Festival
On Nandighosh, he clambered on
rivals waiting eagerly on car
recklessly beat, no canon. (4)

Came to Sea-shore crying a lot
erected cars of sand on beach
prayed his favourite gods to sit
pulled cars in love without flinch. (5)

Lo ! Sand cars moved on beach
Balaram chanted glory of Lord
cars at lion's gate did not move !
the festival became a fraud. (6)

Men and elephants toiled a lot
All their efforts went in vain
King could hear crime of Sevakas
went to meet god-in-man. (7)

Majesty amazed to behold at site
sand-cars of devotee move on shore
Balaram chants with bonafide love
tears roll with heartfelt lore. (8)

Oh my Lord ! my bosom, soul
oh my opulence, nectar of mine
How could bear Sevaka's offence
portrayed my conduct worst, not fine. (9)



If I possess devotion without flinch
If I love from core of heart
your car can't move an inch
you will keep my word's and trust. (10)

The Ruler requested with folded hands
"come oh Balaram ! Devotee of Lord
Day elapsed, but cars not move
pilgrims ail, suffer on road. (11)

I beg apology for Sevaka's offence
please come along, sit on car"
Balaram realised grace of Lord
the devotees assembled, all suffer. (12)

He accompanied with immense joy
sat on the Car of Lord Jagannath
Car of Balabhadra started moving
followed by Subhadra's proving worth. (13)

Balaram's joy knew no bound
The king admired devotee's power
God bothers not for outward passion
gives priority to heart proper. (14)

All speak of "their conduct good"
conduct consists of qualities many
who is honest without vice
during my life, find not any. (15)

Millions there with good conduct
why the cars could not trod
A seive censures a needle ever
"you possess a hole", such is world ! (16)

Coal gives diamond, muds give lotus
ennoble life with devotion fine
pray for autumn-full moon all
muds will settle, lotus shine. (17)

When devotion flares, vices vanish
flash of paramount dazzles heart
for mischievous comments bother not
pray oh poet ! Jagannath aloft. (18)