

# The Glory of Gangadhar Meher

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Having own realistic sense of beauty and beautiful nature the illustrious poet and noble son of soil Gangadhar Meher created profound joy and deep thought in the mind of readers through his lucid and picturesque description throughout the ages. The spirited and strong manifolded style in contemporary literary scenic art of narration deserves a special class in it's rank. Popularly known as Swabhaba Kabi (the poet of nature) Gangadhar Meher's creation contains highly ornamental language composition, simile, and metaphor for which many critics compare him with great poets like Shelly, Byron and Keats. But his style was very very special and needs no comparison. He has written poems termed patriotic, social reformative, lyrics, devotional songs, ethical and elegy. He has composed the formula or methods of agriculture and above all his imagination and description of nature is quite impressive. He was contemporary to Kabibara Radhanatha Ray, the legendary poet of Odia literature. While commenting on Meher's "Indumatee" he has rightly observed that Gangadhar was a poet of extraordinary talent. Pallikabi Nandakishor Bala had high esteem of him while saying that Gangadhar Meher shall remain alive in the mind of readers till the existence of Odia literature.

The first ever critic of Meher Literature Pandit Raghav Mishra has opined that he was an eminent poet of the new poetic era initiated by Radhanath Ray. Dr. Mayadhar Mansing has written in his famous book on history of Odia literature "Admitted by all Gangadhar Meher is one among the rarest personalities and poets in the whole sphere of Odia literature.

Noted writer, and former Governor of Assam, Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik has written that

Gangadhar was not only a great poet, his life and achievement was away from all controversies. Gangadhar was highly inclined towards motherland and mother language. The creativity of Gangadhar is beyond comparison and imagination.

His total poetic creations are Indumatee (1894), Kichakabadha (1903), Kavita Kollola (1912), Utkalalaxmi (1914) Ayodhyadrushya (1914), Tapaswini (1914), Pranayaballari (1915), Arghyathali (1918), Krushaka Sangeeta (1921), Ahalyastaba, Mahima, Bhalari Bhawana, Kumar Janmutsaba, Bhakti Upahara, Padmini and Kavitamala. Besides these collection of poetry he has created some prose literature including his short autobiography.

The period of his creation was very critical and crucial while Odia language was almost struggling for existence. Born in a poor weaver family of Barpali on August 9, 1862 was educated up to class fifth only. But his books are used as text book up to Post Graduate classes. The great poet of Odia literature Gangadhar Meher's life ended on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1924. Application of modern original ideas in literature of medieval era was the speciality of his creativity.

His literary achievement is not confined to the pages of the books but spread among the readers in shape of good fortune. Innately, the entrails of his poems are enriched with innards expression.

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