



Lord Brahma is one and unique. According to 'Purusasukta' in the 'Veda', *Ajayamano bibidha bijayate*, means who has no birth, he is self expressed in expressible appearances. In another concept, *Saharsa Sirsa purusah*, *Sahasra Kshaya Saharsapat*, really means he is uncommon, unidentified, unchallengeable, extra ordinary and at last out of expression and emotional outburst.

From the time immemorial in the annals of Jajurveda, Rigveda and Brahmbaibarta Puran, he is Darubrahma in Kapilsamhita and Srimad Bhagabatam, he is Purusottama, in Skanda Puran, he is called Darubrahma, the giver

In all the ages this place is internationally known as Neelachal, Neelagiri, Neelakandara, Neela Saila, Sankhakshetra, Brahmakshetra, Bhaumakshetra, Dasavatara Kshetra, Annakshetra, Moksha Kshetra, Uchhista Kshetra, Jabanika Kshetra, Sri Kshetra Purusottam at last. There is a famous *sloka* in Sanskrit as it says 'Kshetranam Sarvakshetranam Raja Sri Purusottama Devanam Sarva Devanam Raja Sri Purusottama.

Lord of the universe Jagannath, who is globally known as Purusottam and his place is aesthetically known as Purusottam Kshetra. The temple of Lord Jagannath is an artistic wonder

## Concept of Myths, Relatives, Mysteries and Miracles in the Cult of Lord Jagannath

*Debadutta Rath*

of Salvation, in *yogic sutram* he is Omkar Pranab, in Buddhist *tantra* he is Lord Buddha, in the Valmiki Ramayan, he is Kuladevata of Surya dynasty in Uddi Satantra and Devi Bhagabatam, he is also Vairaba, in Jagannath Charitamrutam he is dual mixture of Radha and Krushna and Adi Niranjana.

The daily rites and rituals of Lord Jagannath celebrated inside the temple from dawn to dusk, morning to late night like a human being is known as Sodasopachara Puja (Sixteen forms of worship), which is widely popular among the devotees, saints, seers and the public. All these holy performances take place as per guidelines of Bamadevasamhita and Neeladrimahodaya.

and architectural excellence as well as finest specimen of Odishan stylistic endeavour which is superbly constructed of Sribatsha Khandsala stone. The temple of Lord Jagannath has always remained quite mysterious Jagannath literally means the Lord of the Universe and is the deity worshipped in the regional traditions.

Jagannath is widely and miraculously considered a form of Lord Vishnu. He is an integral part of triad alongwith his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra. He is far above all the sectarian feelings. The term God is defined like this : G for Generation, O for Observation and D for Destruction - Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswar. In Buddhist concept he is



conceptually known as Triratna, Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. He is representative God of every religion in the World. To some Vaishnava Hindus Jagannath is an abstract representation of Krishna, to some Shiva and Sakta, he is Bhairava, to some Buddhist, he is symbolism for Buddha. To some Jains his name and his festival rituals are derived from Jeenanath of Jainism and surprisingly we can feel Kaivalya the holy offering of the Lord Mahaprasad is derived from the term Kebali, the Jain concept. One of the best kept surviving illustrious specimen of 12<sup>th</sup> century artistic jugglery sculptural wonder and architectural superb excellence portrayed in the temple of Lord Jagannath.

Let us think about that stupendous, superb, gigantic great monolithic lap, black in colour named as Arunastambha stands in front of Lions Gate. On the top seated is Lord Aruna in folded hand towards the Almighty. This pillar's height is 33 ft 8 inch having sixteen sides as Sola Parsva. In first phase 4 Barga Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase 4 castes – Brahmin, Vaisya, Kshatriya and Sudra, 3<sup>rd</sup> phase – 4 stages – Childhood, Youth, Oldage, Vanaprastha, 4<sup>th</sup> phase – 4 Vedas, Rig, Jajur, Sama and Atharva.

The Ratnasimhasan of Jagannath stands in a straight-line which is quite parallel with the top height of Arunastambha. This is regarded as an outstanding engineering marvels of the artistes who have erected this stupendous standing and magnificent unique colossal structure in front of Lord Sun God in Konark during the reign of King Langula Narasingha Dev of Ganga dynasty. In later part after the main structure of the temple got dilapidated during the rule of Marathas, that pillar was carried to Puri and installed in front of the Jagannath temple.

The cult of Jagannath is an assimilation of multi religious thought and activities. Thus teaches

co-existence among all sects. Those who have conglomerated in him. Lord Jagannath is *tantric* deity. There is a famous Sloka 'Vimala Bhairavi yatra Jagannathastu Bhairava where Bimala the mother Goddess is the *tantric* deity. Lord Jagannath is *tantric* God.

Let us know about the mystery of 22 steps (Baisipahacha), regarding this there are popular opinions of different scholars. There are Saptaloka – Bhuba, Bhu, Swaha, Maha, Jana, Tapa, Satya and also Atala, Sutala, Bitala, Talatala, Rasatala, Mahitala and Patala. There are also Astabaikuntha as Kaivalya Baikuntha, Garvodayakami Baikuntha, Kailash Baikuntha, Sri Baikuntha, Viswadesa Baikuntha, Sesa Gayatri Baikuntha, Karananaba Baikuntha. Another scholastic opinion speaks like Sri Krushna Govinda hare murare he nath Narayan Basudev – consists of 22 alphabets symbolise 22 steps. Some of the scholars in their opinion express 22 steps are the moral expression of Pancharasa, Astasatwikbhava, Tribija, Trishakti and Triguna.

As a whole before going to witness Lord Jagannath the devotee has to forget 10 *indriyas*, *panchmana* and *saptabikara* (evil forces). The presiding deities of 22 flight of steps are Maya, Chetana, Buddhi, Nidra, Kshudha, Chhaya, Trushna, Kshayantri, Jati, Laza, Santi, Sradha, Kanti, Bruti, Smruti, Daya, Tusti, Bikri, Matru, Bhranti and Prajna. This Vaisipahacha is the place of salvation in Hindu pantheon. The great celestial devout poet Balarama Das has highly elucidated on this Vaisipahacha in his poetic contribution Guptagita.

Above all every aspect of the cult of Lord Jagannath is shrouded in mystery and has left fabulous materials of history for human society.

---

Debadutta Rath, Odisha Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar - 751014.