

Sri Jagannath - The Nisreyasoday

Sibasundar Pattanaik

Sri Jagannath is the Supreme God of the universe. The Universe is created by Him. He has produced Brahma from His Navikamal. At His direction Brahma produced all Jibas (creatures) and Jadas (matters). All Abatars (incarnations) of God originate from Him. These incarnations or Abatars are Rama, Nrusingha, Baman etc. The sage Vyasa in his Srimad Bhagabatam has described twenty four Abatars. He has also admitted that there may be numerous Abatars as Sri Jagannath or Bhagaban desires. It is also well known that in Dwapar Juga of thirteenth Manu, the Supreme God descended upon the Earth as Sri Krishna or Basudev. This incarnation of God is known as "Abatari" (i.e. where supreme god descends in His original form). In all other cases it is known as "Abatar". There is very thin difference between "Abatari" and "Abtar". Whether Supreme God descends on the Earth as "Abtar" or "Abtari" His originality is not lost. We would find this proposition from

"Brahma Sanhita" where an example is also given as several earthen lamps (Dipas) are lighted from one earthen lamp and the original earthen lamp illuminates as good as other thousands of earthen lamps lighted from it.



The place of Abode of Sri Jagannath is at Puri over a sacred Hill known as "Nilachala", Nilagiri or "Srimandir" etc. It is the "Martya Baikuntha" or Abode of Lord Bisnu on the Earth or "Golakha Dham". Eminent scholars had/have asserted that this Abode of Nilachala Dham is the

original Golakha Dham.

When this Abode at Puri, the seat of Sri Jagannath is the Martya Baikuntha or Golakha Dham the Abtars like Kashhap, Rama, Baman, Baraha etc. originate from here and descend upon different places to have His Leelas and ultimately return back to Nilachala Dham.

The Oriya Bhaktakabi Dinakrushna Das said in "Rasakallo" -

*"Kamala - Netra Kamala Prana Nayaka,
Kala Parbatara Lila Kar Aneka.*

*Kale Ichha Mane Heba Kansa Antaka,
Kariba Uswas Mahibhara Aneka.*

*Kapate Hoiba Nanda Braja Balaka,
Kautuke Bolaiba Pasupalaka.*

*Karie Bichar Kaibalya Dayaka,
Kansa Adi Maribaku Ichhuka.*

*Kachhapa Adi Maschhya Abatarajaka,
Karibaku Jata Jagannath Janaka."*

(Rasakallol - 1/13-17)

(Raga (note) - Sangamati Ahari)

"The beloved of lotus eyed Kamala (Laxmi) who uses to do His "Leelas" over the Nilagiri (the Sacred Hill at Puri) desired in His mind to be the killer of Kansa by which the Earth would be lighter for the loss of this demon. He wanted to be incarnated in disguise as a child of Nanda belonging to Braja in which he would be jokingly known as a cowherd. Lord, the giver of Nectar or eternal peace who desired to kill Kansa decided this. Sri Jagannath is the father of all incarnations like Kachhap (Turtle) and Machha (Fish) etc.

There are numerous narations in "Purans". Scriptures describing that Puri Dhama or Nilachala Dham or Nilagiri is the original Golakha Dham and Sri Jagannath incarnates into different Abatars and have His 'Leela' and returns back to His abode at this place and Sri Jagannath is the Bisnu or Bhagaban.

Veda also prescribes that Sri Jagannath is Bhagaban. There can not be any doubt about it.

What is the defination of Bhagaban ? Bhagaban possesses six good qualities ("Sadhhaisarya's") which are unlimited and

highest or best in nature. Those are defined by the sage Parasara, the Father of sage Vyasa such as -

*"Aischaryasya Samagrasya Birjyasya Jasasya Sriya'
Gyan Bairagyayescheiba Sanman Bhaga Itingana"*

(Supreme elequence, Supreme Powerful, Supreme Virtue, Supreme Wealth, Supreme knowledge and Supreme relinquishment are six Inganas or qualities or Bhagas. One who possesses these qualities is Bhagaban.)

Only Supreme God possesses these six qualities. No other person or demigod equals with Bhagaban or Sri Jagannath.

There are three Gunas or qualities such as satwa, raja and tama; satwa is pure and heavenly quality. Raja is mixed with worldly senses and tama is destructive inhuman quality.

Sri Jagannath adopts heavenly or satwa quality or virtue. Sri Jagannath takes incarnation or Abatar or Abatari by adopting satwa quality or virtue.

Sati, the consort of Siva accused Her husband when She heard that her husband had dis-respected Her father Dakhya Prajapati for which he had not invited Siva and Sati, Siva refuted it and uttered the following as narrated in Srimad Bhagabatam :-

*"Satwam bisuddham Basudev Shabdditam,
Jadeeyate tatra Pumanapabrutah,
Satwescha tasmin Bhagaban Basudev
Hyadhakhyaje me manasa bidheeyate"*

(Bhagabatam - 4/3/23).

(Basudev is embodiment of Pure Virtues (Satwa). The person, whom prakriti or Maya (worldly attachment or universe) has not created, has adopted Basudev to come to the world, or took his incarnation as his son is Bhagaban Basudev. I always pay my reverence

in mind to the said Adhokhyaja (one to whom worldly qualities do not touch).

This sloka throws the righteous virtues of Bhagaban Sri Jagannath that He adopts a parent, who is full of Pure and righteous virtues for His incarnations. This Sloka also indicates that Prakriti does not touch Sri Jagannath. It is also revealed that Sri Jagannath is Adhokhyaja, i.e. one who is unattached to Gunas or senses - devoid of senses.

We also know that Sri Jagannath is "Risikesh" (Master of senses or embodiment of senses or full of qualities.)

That Sri Jagannath is Adhokhyaja or devoid of senses and He is also Risikesh or embodiment of senses. These words about Sri Jagannath appear contradictory but Lord Sri Jagannath is not contradictory. Whatever names Sri Jagannath is otherwise known or whatever names He holds these words can not be without any truth in it. Any individual may be known as Padmalochan having been blind from his childhood. But God's name of Padmalochan has some justification for it.

In this treaty the writer attempts to make a solution of these conflicting names which our Lord holds.

Kind attention may be drawn to "Srimad Bhagabatam", written by the sage, Vyasa :-

*"Narayane Bhagabati tadidam Biswamahitam.
Gruhitamayerugunah Sargadabagunah Swatah.*

(Bhagabatam 2/6/30)
Brahmaji to Naradaji)

(The entire universe exists within Bhagaban Narayan or Sri Jagannath, who is devoid of natural senses, yet He has adopted natural senses of Maya at the begining of creation of universe.)"

*"Tasyapi drasturishasya Kutasthaswakhilatmanah
Srujyam Srujami Srustou hamikhyaye ibabhichoditah
Satwam rajastam iti nirgunasya gunastrayah,
Sthitisarganirodhesu gruhita mayaya Bibhoh.
Karya Karanka-trurtwe drabyagyankriya Shrayah.
Bandanti nityada Muktam Mayainam Purusam gunah,
Se esa Bhagaboulingei Stribhirebhira-dhokhyajah,
Swalkhitajtir brahman sawensam nama Cheswarah".*

(Bhagabatam - 2/5/18-20)
(Brahmaji to Naradaji)

(He is seer but He is Iswar or Lord. He is without worldly attachment but He is Omnipresent. He has created me (Brahma) and as per His direction I have created this Sruti according to His desire.

God or Sri Jagannath is devoid of natural senses or Mayikagunas. He has adopted mayeekagunas -

Satwa, Raja and Tama gunas meant for *srusti* (creation), *sthiti* (existence) and *pralaya* (destruction).

He also accepts three senses by adopting matter, knowledge and work being Mayatita Nityamukta Purusa (ever free person, untouched by worldly qualities) unite work, reason and duty.

Adhokhyaja who is devoid of senses accepted three senses and covered His Swarup (original form). Therefore the people fail to know Him. He is Lord of entire universe and that of me.

From the aforesaid analysis it can be well known that "gunas" or qualities or senses are of two types : Mayik or Prakrit guna (natural or worldly qualities or senses) and Aprakrit guna (Unnatural or super natural qualities or senses). Even though the worldly senses do not touch Sri Jagannath He adopts the same for creation, existence and destruction of Universe. Sri Jagannath possesses several Nitya

(ever lasting) or Sworup (Original heavenly and super natural) gunas (senses). But of the Gunas of Sri Jagannath, Dharani (the Earth) has classified 40 (forty) heavenly qualities to Dharma in Srimad Bhagabatam at Bhagabatam 1/16/27-30 but Sri Jagannath possesses as (sixty four) Gunas.

Out of these qualities of Sri Jagannath one of the qualities is Daya (Mercy, kindness). Sri Jagannath is known as Dayasagar (Sea of kindness). We all know whatever one asks from Sri Jagannath He offers him or blesses him by fulfilling that desire. It is said of Bandhu Mahanty that Sri Jagannath gave Abhada (cooked food offered to the Lord and after Bhog served to the people) on His Suna Thali (gold utensil where Bhog is offered to Sri Jagannath) to be taken by Bandhu Mahanty and his wife and daughter, when they were hungry. There are several instances as to how Sri Jagannath fulfills the desire of His Bhaktas (devotees), several books have been written on this topic. In this treaty it would throw light to Sri Jagannath's kindness or mercy as written in Srimad Bhagabatam and other books.

As expressed earlier Sri Jagannath was Sri Krishna who was incarnated as Abatari in Dwapar Yuga.

We know that Srimad Bhagabatam tells us that eventhough Sri Krishna did not desire to participate in war at Kurukhetra, Bhisma one of His devotees created a situation by piercing numerous Saras (arrows) upon Arjun, Sri Krishna was forced to raise His Sudarsan Chakra towards Bhisma.

It is also described there that Putana who came to kill Sri Krishna and offered milk applying poison on her breast but Sri Krishna placed her in His heavenly abode and She is recognised as mother or Dhatri (Nurse).

Bhaktakabi Dinakrishna Das described this incident in his book Rasakallol saying that -

*Kalabadane diante stana nei,
Kabala Matrake prana dele piyi,
Kahun kahun nijarupa prakasila,
Kaya bistar kari asuri mala,
Kutartha hoi se Bisnuloka gala,
Kala danda ghatate se na padila.*

*Krupanidhi Jahathare Krupakare,
Kumbhakar kita rupe mari tare.*

*Kanthagata prana hele badaloka,
Ketebele na chhadai nija teka.*

*Katibaku brukhya jeun loka jaye,
Kina kare se tehara Chhai paye,
Kala ati apakar daituni,
Kale upakar tara Jadumani.*

(Rasakollol - 4/26 to 32)

(Page (note) Ahari)

(When demon putana put her breast on the dark face of Sri Krishna, He swallowed her life within no time. She reproduced her own form and She-demon died by expanding her body. She was blessed to go to Bisnu Loka or Nilachala Dham. She was not caught hold of by Jama to be punished. When Krupanidhi (Sri Jagannath the kind) favours anybody with His kindness, He kills and revives his life like the insect Kumbhakar. When a rich person is at the last moment of his death he does not leave his prideness. However if one woodcutter goes to cut the tree he gets the shadow of that tree. She-demon was unkind towards the Lord. But Jadumani Sri Jagannath showed kindness to her. There is also instance of Nala Kubera who were Jamala Arjun (Twin Arjun trees) by curse were released out of curse. There is also description how Kalandi was cured from poison after Kaliyadalan. While describing this fact Sri Sukadeveji has clearly admitted Sri

Jagannath as Garudadwaja or Bhagaban as narrated at Bhagabatam - 10/16/66. There are several other instances of Sri Jagannath's kindness in Dwapar Juga.

In Tretaya Juga when Sri Jagannath took the incarnation of Sri Rama, He had sent Grudhha - Jatayu to Hari Dham for his little service in attempting to save Sita Thakurani from the clutches of Ravana while he was abducting Sita Thakurani.

*"Komala Chitta ati dinadayala,
Karan binu Raghunath Krupajala,
Gidha adhama khaga amisabhogi,
Gatidwihi jo jachak jogi."*

(Rama Charita Manas).

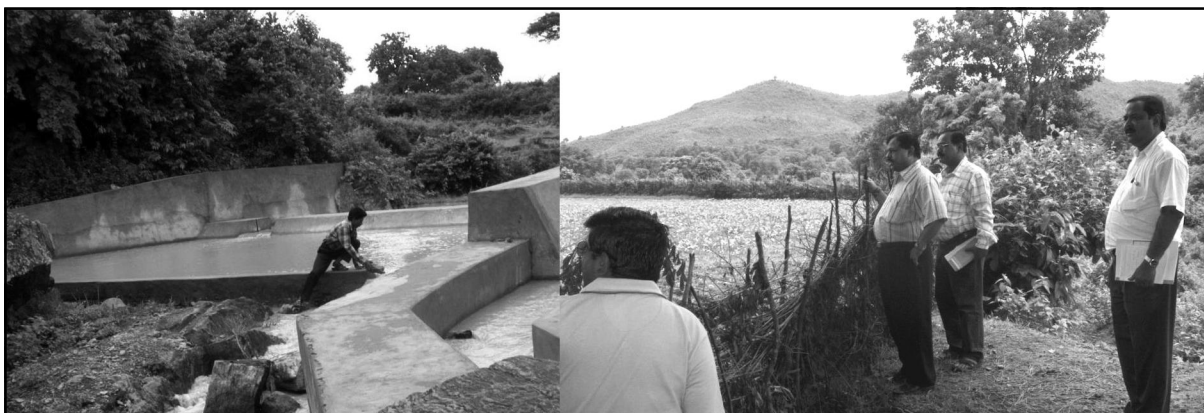
(Raghunath Sri Ram is kind towards poor and down trodden people, Gidha bird-Jatayu was a non-vegetarian. But He gave him a place which is ever desired by Jogis). If we attempt to describe Sri Jagannath's kindness in different Jugas it would be a never ending

process. But we have to stop here with only and absolute conclusion that Sri Jagannath is "Nisreyasodayah" (Bhagabatam-3/25/44), or only Supreme God who gives ultimate and permanent shelter which is man's last destiny or for man's wellbeing or kalyan. Bhagaban profounded in "Srimad Bhagabat Gita" at Gita 8/14 that He is easily accessible or "Sulabha" to that devotee who is constantly chanting His name.

One can achieve this very easily by his/her Bhaktijoga so that he/she can take shelter in His heavenly abode at Nilachala Dham taking nectar and enjoying His "Prema Rasa Madhuri".

"Namah Bhagabate Sri Jagannathaya"

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Shri Digambar Mohanty, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department making field visit in Raikia Block during his review tour to Kandhamal District.