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BADAJAGANNATHA TEMPLE OF BARIPADA : AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

Dr. Arabinda Bose

Baripada, the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj is situated on the bank of Budhabalanga at $20^{\circ}51'$ latitude and $87^{\circ}27'$ longitude.¹ The Bhanja rulers shifted from Haripur to Baripada in 18th Century A.D. But the construction of BadaJagannatha temple at Baripada in 1575 A.D. by the BaidyanathaBhanja proves that the Bhanja rulers already established their strong hold at Bauripada before the eighteenth century A.D. This place has been mentioned by Maya Rannel as early as in 1779 A.D. as Barpuddah. Some archeologist believe that the name Baripada owes its origin to the fact that the Bathuri tribe were the original inhabitants of this place. They think that the name Baripada is the corrupted version of the original name of Baripada.

The BadaJagannatha temple of Baripada built by the king VaidyanathaBhanja in 1497 *Saka* era corresponding to year 1575 A.D.² The architecture style of this temple is very similar with KakharuaBaidyanath temple of Manatri. The main Jagannatha temple of Baripada is popularly known as the BadaJagannatha temple. An inscription (Fig 1) on its boundary wall clearly offers the date and the name of the builder. The inscription written in three different scripts like Bengali, Devanagari and in Odia, which clearly offers the date and the name of the builder. The temple was built by King BaidyanathaBhanja in 1574 A.D.³ This inscription states that this shrine was built in the *Saka* year *Muni*(7) *Randhra*(9) *Abdhi*(4) and *Subhransu*(1) or 1497 corresponding to 1575 A.D.⁴

The *Vimana*, *Jagamohana* and *natamandapa* are all located within a massive compound the floor of which is paved with dressed stone slabs. The entire monument is covered with lime plaster. The right hand of the entrance bears the image of a risi locally worshiped as Markandeyarisi. The image is made up of block chlorite having beared face and some attendants also noticed on the pedestal. The temple was built in *Kalingan* style of architecture. The temple consisted of *Vimana*, *Jagamohana*, *natamandapa*. The exterior of the temple wall is plain and devoid of any carvings. The *rahapaga* contains the images of Narasimha, Trivikrama and Varaha who are worshiped as *Parsavadevatas*. The outer wall of the temple also bears the image of Vyala figures. The southern entrance of the *Jagamohana* bears four handed image of Bhairavi(Fig 2) above the door. The image is made up of chlorite. The upper right hand holds a raising sword and upper left hand holds the Kapala (skull cap), the lower right hand possess the *aksamala* and her lower left hand is in *Varada mudra*. The deity seating in *lalitasana* with her mount lion.

While crossing the main entrance, seated images of Parsavanatha, one on each side are marked. In the earliest images of Parsavanatha, a canopy of seven hooded snake is marked.⁵ Here in the Jagannatha temple the Parsavanatha image worshiped as ananta contains nine and thirteen hooded snake(Fig 3). Canopies over their head which is peculiar and not found in else where Odisha.⁶ On the chest of the images diamond shape symbol is marked. Both the images are seated in *Yogic* posture. The other features of Parsavanatha are absent. The inner wall of the Jagannatha also contains the navagrahas, Gajalaxmi, Ganga and Yamuna and Jamabala and Jainatirthakaras. The Rirsavanatha image(Fig 4) is standing in *Kayotasarga* pose on a double-petal lotus. This image contains on it's stele the figures of all other Tirthakaras in standing pose with their respective lanchanas. Here Risavanatha has been regarded as

Mulanayaka. This image is very much identical with the other *Risavanatha* image found from Subei in Koraput district.⁷ The *Parsavanatha* image of Jagannatha temple can be compared with another *Parsavanatha* image found from Kosali near Badasahi in Mayurbhanj district. The feature of the Kosali image is similar with the *Baripada* image to a great extent.⁸ The *Jambala* image is seen in a niche on the inner side of the *Jagamohana* of the Buddhist pantheon. On the basis of iconographic features the image can be dated to sixteenth century A.D. On the left hand of the image, a mongoose is noticed and on the right, it has the citron. Possession of the mongoose and citron are the typical features of the *Jambala* image (Fig 5). The image is sitting in *lalitasana* and his left feet resting on one lotus which is out of lotus pot placed on lower side. The image is potbellied. N.K. Sahu assigned this image to 9th Century A.D.⁹

Another important image placed inside the temple compound is the standing chlorite image represented in four hands. According to some scholars like N.N. Basu and R.P. Mohapatra the image is a *Bodhisattva Lokeshvara* (Fig 6). Its upper two hands are shown with *akshamala* and conch shell whereas the lower two are placed on the head of male and female attendants. The deity is *kiritamukuta* instead of *chakrapurusa* and *gadadevi* confirms the identification with Vishnu but the possession of *akshamala* in the right hand leads to its identification with Avalokitesvara. This image can be compared with the Vishnu image of Nilamadhava temple of Mudgala. Both images are dated by T.E. Donaldson to 9th Century A.D. The Vishnu image of Mudgalais flanked by *Chakrapurusa* and *Gadadevi* have their emblem on their head.¹⁰ The image is still somewhat squat wears a tall *KiritaMukuta*. A *puspakundala* hangs from each ear lobe and he has a beaded necklace. His thin, beaded *Yajnopavita* hangs below his knees in the manner of a *Vanamala*. The image is worshiped locally as MudgalaMadhaba while various scholars

have identified it as the Buddhist Lokeshvara, Harihara, or Narayana.¹¹ It can be pointed out that both the Vishnu images of Baripada and Mudgala are similar to a great extent. Both the images are rare of their kinds and not found elsewhere in Odisha. More research is required to highlight the best part of both the images.

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Dr. Arabinda Bose
Lect. In History
V.N. (Autonomous) College, Jaipur Road

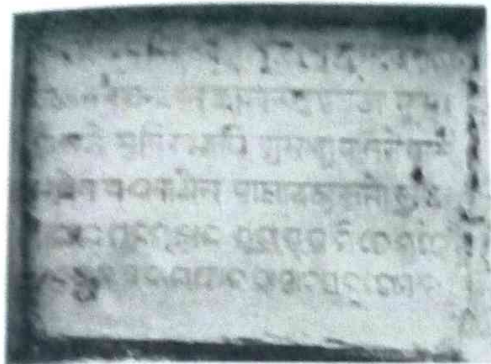
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Fig. 1 Inscription
BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada



Fig 2 Bhairavi
BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada



Fig. 3 Parsavanatha with 13 hooded snake
BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada



Fig. 4 Risavanatha
BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada



Fig.5 Jambala BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada



Fig.6 Vishnu, BadaJagannatha Temple, Baripada