

Mahima Dharma

The father of a student in Dhenkanal is a Mahima Dharma. The Headmaster punished the student for telling lie. He commanded him to stand on the bench. The father has told the headmaster: "Beware of this boy. He is Alekha. It means that he is the grandson of Lord Mahima. He will not pay you the money. Don't punish him, I will give money as much as you need."

The teacher asked: "How is Lord Mahima?"

The old man said: "He takes up different incarnations in different Yugas. He delightfully travels in the human world. Let me tell one by one. First in a fair-complexioned body, bearing matted hair on his head, hanging on his chest a necklace of *akshyas*, wears bark round his waist, with four hands, he holds a *kamandalu* in one hand out of the four. This is the form of god, seeing which worship all sadhus."

The teacher said: "He is only a swindler, a cheat, who lives on cheating people. His body was moth-eaten. How can he be God?"

The old man replied: "Who have no faith on such religion, they will succumb in their own way, the Lord will not be guilty of it. I will no more send my son to study. Strike up his name."

This religion had first become influential. But because of the efforts made by the former Commissioner Sahib, its prominence had diminished. Now again it gradually spreads. We should keep our eyes on it. (*Utkal Deepika*, 25th August 1883, p. 267)