

Attack on Sri Jagannath at Puri

Now we convey to our readers in detail after knowing what we had heard regarding this before a few days. In the afternoon of the first day of this month that is Tuesday, 16 nude persons, having their earthen rice-boiling pots with them, tried to enter into the temple. When the guards wanted to close the Lion Gate of the temple in order to prevent them from getting in, they kept their rice pots at the pillar of Garuda, pushed the doors, breaking the door of the *Bhoga Mandapa*, that is in front of the lion-gate and approached the *Jaya Vijaya Gate* of the *Jagamohan*. Then the *padiaris* closed the doors of the *Jaya Vijaya Gate* and that of the southern entrance. The attackers could not reach the throne of the Lord and the temple priests throw them out. They were all nude.

Because they have never seen the ways from the temple, while coming out their leader named Dasharam labored a lot to break the door. He stumbled upon the stone floor of the terrace before the Agniswar Mahadev temple which is close to the steps of the *Bhoga Mandapa*. He lost his consciousness. Then his companions brought him to the pillar of Garuda and fed him rice as much they willed and within an hour that fellow died there. Then the Police Sahib and the police Sub-Inspector came to the spot and sent him to the doctor. The doctor certified that the man was not killed by beating. First Police Sub-Inspector Babu Ram Kumar Mukherji, then Babu Krupasindhu Mohanty inquired in detail and recorded the statements of the employees, servants and *padiaris* of the temple. It was proved that the man was dead not being beaten, but for he stumbled down upon the stone floor. The case was then handed over to the deputy Magistrate Babu Kamalnath Ghosh. After he investigated the case, on last

Monday, he sentenced the remaining fifteen with three month's imprisonment. Now they are in jail.

These people are from Raipur, Sambalpur area. It was the command of the Guru Alekh to dead Dasharam to take away the three idols of Sri Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra, as they do not have 'Brahma' in them, from the throne and burn them down to ashes on Badadanda (broad big street). They told it to the police at the time of investigation as well as before the deputy Magistrate. They also told that, beside them some other 28 men, women, boys and girls were at village Satyabadi. Suspecting these people, police sent them to the court. Four more out of this group were sentenced to one week's imprisonment as they had also come to burn the idols. These people are barbarous. They never take bath, nor they wash them with water after leaving stool.

People can enjoy if our news reporters would write investigating what is the doctrine of this Alekh community? Who is their Guru? In which way he is propagating his doctrine? How many people have turned his followers? To which caste or creed they previously belonged? And why they are so much angry with Lord Jagannath? These information might be collected from those Mahima Dharmees who are now in jail. We think, these are Santal-like uncivilized tribal people and some clever person who has become their Guru, is living on cheating them. (Utkal Deepika, 26 march 1881, p. 50).