

Analysing the film *Jai Jagannath* and the play *Chandaluni*

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Low caste persons were untouchable in society in the ancient age. Sriya was a low caste lady who worshipped Goddess Laxmi very sincerely. So Goddess Laxmi got delighted with her prayer. She appeared in her house for giving wealth. The story got a new turn then when god Balaram knew she went to a low caste lady house. He separated goddess Laxmi and Lord Jagannath for supporting the discrimination on untouchability. The two brothers offended Maa Laxmi and let her out from Sri Mandir. As Laxmi moves out of Jagannath's household, Jagannath and Balaram undergo enormous suffering so that two brothers famish without food and water. The curse of Laxmi had such a severe impact on the brothers with the help of Astabetal, Vayu dev, Agni Dev, Pawan Dev, and Nidra Devi that for 12 years they had a tough time. The hungry and homeless two brothers went from village to village, house to house in search of food and they failed to get food and water. After all, the lesson was given by maa Laxmi and co. they realized the importance of Laxmi keen to bring her back to their abode. Laxmi returned to Jagannath's abode on one condition. There will be no discrimination of caste and creed on earth.

The Film *Jay Jagannath* is based on the Odia mythological story of Jay Jagannath and maa Laxmi. The story was adapted by the poet Bhakta Kabi Balaram Dasa who has written *Laxmi Puran*. The film was directed by Sabyasachi Mahapatra and it was multilingual. It was dubbed on 15 languages. In this film, Pritam Das played as Lord Jagannath, Jyoti Mishra as Goddess Laxmi, Pintu Nanda as Lord Bala Bhadra, Mohini as Shilalipi and as Sriya Chandaluni and others.

In this context, mythological play Chandaluni was narrated but in a different way. Chandaluni, the play was directed by Dr. Sourav Gupta and written by Mrs. Monideepa Gupta. This mythological act was played by the Nandanik theatre group, Koraput. It was played on 9th November 2019 at Bhanja Mandap auditorium, HAL, Sunabeda in Koraput district of Odisha. The play started with a village of Koraput where Laxmipuja observed by villagers. And a singer who took the play by pronouncing the Laxmi Puran to the villagers and the related stage play was lived with that song. In this village, an established family's daughter in law named Laxmi went to a low caste lady named Raila for helping her in Laxmi puja who helped the

villagers in many ways like village cleaning and helps others village ladies patients. When Her brother in law named Balramknew about her he insulted Laxmi and he forced Jagannath her husband to let out him from his home and also Jagannath beat Laxmi and let him out from his house. After letting him out Jagannath showed their love by missing him it was a symbol of husband and wife bond. After that with the help of Koeli (cuckoo) and his friends- elephant, jackal, cat and crow Laxmi gave a severe blow to their daily life. They destroyed his kitchen his garden all the sources of food, water, etc. After seeing that duo went to the villagers for begging food but they cannot but one villagers helped them but the elephant and cat destroyed his food. After all, trying for food and water two bothers were helpless then the low caste Ledy Raila help them to give them food and water all villagers were demeaned them. So two brothers realized his impact and then Balaram and Jagannath apologized for his mistakes and Laxmi return to Jagannath's house. In this theatre play director and scriptwriter mentioned Koraput cultures like Sabara Srikshetra, Desia dance, Koraput local dress up and chariot and also Koraput dialect. It is a Laxmi Puran based on mythological play. Through mime, live music, choreography the team deftly portrayed human follies and eccentricities followed by realization learned the hard way.

The film Jay Jagannath and play Chandaluni was based on woman empowerment and also caste discrimination in society. But in the film, they show the actual story with the theatre mechanism but in theatre, all happens in the stage there is no effect or anything. So that the theatre gives a strong message to a small audience and the film gives a message to a large audience.

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jai_Jagannatha

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