

Gitagovinda. It is stated at the end of the record that the Superintendent who allows any other song except those in the *Gitagovinda* will cause a violation of the orders of the god Jagannath.⁶¹

Political power of Orissa fast declined from the time of Gajapati Prataparudra Deva and with the death of Mukunda Deva, the last independent Hindu king of Orissa, in 1568 A. D., Orissa for a time passed into the hands of the Afghan power of Bengal.

The bigoted Afghan general Kalapahad who has earned great notoriety in popular tradition as a cruel iconoclast desecrated and plundered the temple of Jagannath in 1568 A. D.⁶² According to Madalapanji⁶³ Jagannath had been removed from the temple and hidden, but Kalapahad found out the deity and taking it away with him consigned it to flames on the bank of the Ganga. A devotee who had followed the god in disguise somehow succeeded in recovering the *bramha* from the charred image and kept it in the custody of the Khandayat of Kujang. King Ramachandra Deva of the Bhoi dynasty had carved out a small Hindu kingdom on the ruins of the vast Gajapati empire with its capital at Khurda. After strengthening his power and position in the new kingdom he lost no time in bringing the *bramha* from Kujang and performed the Nabakalebar ceremony of Jagannath. The deities were installed in the great temple at Puri in 1575 A.D.⁶⁴ King Ramachandra Deva not only re-installed Jagannath in the temple, but also re-established the sanctity of Mahaprasad, the offering of which had been stopped for about a decade. The Mukti-mandap Sabha which had been established during the reign of Gajapati Prataparudra Deva (1497—1534 A. D.) was re-organised by Ramachandra Deva, and became the chief authority in social and religious matters of the Hindus of Orissa.⁶⁵ For reviving the worship of Jagannath at Puri after the temple was desecrated by Kalapahad, Raja Ramachandra Deva of Khurda was popularly called 'Abhinava Indradyumna' or incarnation of Indradyumna. In 1593 A. D. Raja Mansingh, the great Mughal general, proclaimed Ramachandra Deva as the Gajapati ruler of Khurda, under the Mughal Emperor, and also the Superintendent of the Jagannath temple.⁶⁶ The Rajas of Khurda continued to be the hereditary Superintendent of the Jagannath temple and managed its affairs under their direct supervision till Orissa passed into the hands of the **Marathas**.

Kalapahad's invasion, and Raja Ramachandra Deva of Khurda

61. R. D. Banerjee, *History of Orissa*, Vol. I, p. 334.

62. Dr. H. K. Mahatab, *History of Orissa*, Vol. II, p. 458.

63. Ed. By Dr. Artaballava Mohanty, pp. 61—63.

64. Dr. H. K. Mahatab, *Op. Cit.* p. 458.

65. *Ibid*, p. 459.

66. *Ibid*, p. 460.