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Editorial

Few days back, an invitation was extended to attend a function to celebrate Silver Jubilee of togetherness in Damanjodi in the district of Koraput, Odisha. It is a distant place from the usual habitat of Santals. Due to their engagement with NALCO, Santals are living in that small town developed due to the NALCO project. The annual get-together is usually organized on 11th February to coincide with the birth anniversary of Baba Tilka Majhi. The celebration as such attached with anniversary of great personality ipso facto enhances the value and purpose of such endeavour. The significance lies in the fact that it is being organized from year to year for the last twenty four years. Apart from the celebration, the effect of nostalgia is more important. The happiness it brings can be gauged from the fact that it is being celebrated as a festival. It is quite interesting to note that as and when Santals start to live in a particular place and for certain period, they start some social and cultural activities. The basic understanding and the belief on the society are being disseminated in the process from one generation to another. The continuity and the contents are enough to influence the next generation and in the process they cherish to preserve the age old cultural traits, value system and social norms and practices. It is an occasion to invite other culture loving people and also to showcase the cultural variety before own as well as invited people.

Following the Sakrat festival, there are many events / occasions that are being celebrated by Santals in their respective areas. Apart from such events in the Santal populated places, instances are common now a days that in many metro cities also some events are being organized. In some places it is being organized in a grand way and many guests and artists are being invited to the metro cities. The artists in particular enjoy their outings to the metro cities and for having a chance to mingle with people and share some quality time. The feeling and outcome is precious as the bonding is renewed year after year and people have contact with each other. Some expect greater result from such gathering and assembly and such expectations are expressed from time to time to achieve some better and greater results out of such gathering. Full credit goes to the society loving people in such places who toil very hard to bring together people and ensure that people come and enjoy immensely from such events. The efforts of such organizers are commendable and deserve to be hailed. The organizers in particular are satisfied due to the fact that they at least have been instrumental in bringing people together in order to foster brotherhood and fellow feeling. The spirit must continue and prevail throughout the country so that people who are living in a particular geographical area across the country could be brought to a common platform at least in one occasion during a year.

Unraveling Indian Census Data on Santals (Education)

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This is the season of festivals & celebrations. Many people particularly for western society this season is for enjoyment, outing and holidays. Santals mostly living in Jharkhand, West Bengal & Odisha also have many festivals during this season. Santals who have migrated to various urban centres in small towns, cities & Metros also go out for picnic in various teams & groups of their convenience. These picnics are popular amongst the Santal community in the name of "Birsole" or "Bajarsole". There may be hundreds of such picnic organized every year all over various urban locality of India but Santals living in villages are not so fortunate to enjoy such Picnic outings together. It is observed from below Table that highest percentage of illiterate Santals i.e. 77.55%, are having profession as main workers are living in Bihar and it is decreasing in order in the state of Jharkhand, West Bengal & Odisha.

**MAIN WORKERS CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND SEX
(FOR SANTAL TRIBE SEPARATELY)**

| Educational level | Main workers | | | | Cultivators | | | Agricultural labourers | | | HHI | | | Other workers | | |
|--|--------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|--------|---------|------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------------|--------|---|
| | P | M | F | T | P | M | F | P | M | F | P | M | F | P | M | F |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| ORISSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 216,956 | 153,474 | 63,482 | 96,461 | 77,621 | 18,940 | 71,165 | 43,003 | 28,162 | 10,881 | 3,470 | 7,411 | 38,449 | 29,380 | 9,069 | |
| Illiterate | 133,936 | 79,232 | 34,714 | 55,504 | 39,467 | 16,037 | 52,926 | 27,418 | 16,508 | 8,474 | 1,922 | 6,553 | 17,032 | 10,415 | 6,617 | |
| Literate | 83,020 | 74,252 | 8,768 | 40,957 | 38,154 | 2,903 | 18,239 | 15,585 | 11,654 | 2,407 | 1,548 | 859 | 21,417 | 18,965 | 2,452 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 58,787 | 52,120 | 6,667 | 30,833 | 28,465 | 2,368 | 14,849 | 12,669 | 2,180 | 1,901 | 1,186 | 715 | 11,204 | 9,800 | 1,404 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 18,131 | 14,972 | 1,156 | 7,294 | 7,073 | 221 | 2,248 | 2,916 | 240 | 327 | 246 | 81 | 6,262 | 5,848 | 614 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 3,344 | 3,112 | 232 | 823 | 799 | 24 | 153 | 140 | 13 | 32 | 27 | 5 | 2,336 | 2,146 | 190 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 1,367 | 1,273 | 89 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,359 | 1,272 | 87 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 377 | 338 | 39 | 53 | 51 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 312 | 277 | 35 | |
| Rural | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 202,891 | 142,802 | 60,289 | 96,063 | 77,255 | 18,806 | 70,083 | 42,328 | 27,755 | 10,733 | 3,375 | 7,358 | 26,012 | 19,844 | 6,368 | |
| Illiterate | 128,274 | 76,021 | 32,253 | 55,271 | 39,261 | 15,010 | 52,088 | 26,954 | 15,134 | 8,399 | 1,687 | 6,512 | 12,516 | 7,919 | 4,597 | |
| Literate | 74,617 | 66,581 | 8,036 | 40,792 | 37,994 | 2,798 | 17,995 | 15,374 | 11,621 | 2,334 | 1,488 | 846 | 13,496 | 11,725 | 1,771 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 54,961 | 48,718 | 6,243 | 30,717 | 28,352 | 2,365 | 14,546 | 12,494 | 2,154 | 1,848 | 1,141 | 707 | 7,748 | 6,731 | 1,017 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 13,559 | 12,544 | 1,015 | 7,038 | 7,038 | 219 | 2,919 | 1,981 | 240 | 310 | 233 | 77 | 3,771 | 3,282 | 489 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 573 | 475 | 98 | 96 | 96 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 459 | 366 | 93 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 1,977 | 1,834 | 143 | 821 | 797 | 24 | 149 | 138 | 11 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 977 | 874 | 103 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 212 | 192 | 20 | 52 | 50 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 149 | 133 | 16 | |
| Urban | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 14,065 | 10,672 | 3,193 | 398 | 366 | 32 | 1,082 | 675 | 407 | 148 | 95 | 53 | 12,437 | 9,736 | 2,701 | |
| Illiterate | 5,662 | 3,201 | 2,461 | 233 | 206 | 27 | 836 | 464 | 374 | 75 | 35 | 40 | 4,516 | 2,496 | 2,020 | |
| Literate | 8,403 | 7,471 | 732 | 165 | 160 | 5 | 246 | 211 | 133 | 73 | 60 | 13 | 7,921 | 7,240 | 681 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 3,826 | 3,402 | 424 | 116 | 113 | 3 | 201 | 175 | 26 | 53 | 45 | 8 | 3,456 | 3,069 | 387 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 2,572 | 2,431 | 141 | 37 | 35 | 2 | 27 | 27 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 2,491 | 2,356 | 135 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 319 | 301 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 301 | 18 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 1,367 | 1,273 | 89 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,359 | 1,272 | 87 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 165 | 148 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 144 | 19 | |
| JHARKHAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 627,106 | 464,448 | 162,658 | 369,133 | 278,886 | 90,247 | 155,990 | 105,387 | 49,703 | 6,170 | 3,224 | 2,946 | 96,713 | 76,951 | 19,762 | |
| Illiterate | 414,440 | 272,890 | 141,550 | 247,685 | 187,515 | 80,170 | 115,985 | 70,430 | 45,555 | 4,425 | 1,827 | 2,598 | 48,345 | 35,118 | 13,227 | |
| Literate | 212,666 | 191,558 | 21,108 | 121,448 | 91,371 | 10,077 | 39,105 | 34,957 | 4,148 | 1,745 | 1,397 | 348 | 50,368 | 43,833 | 6,535 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 156,344 | 141,935 | 14,409 | 95,273 | 87,134 | 5,139 | 32,421 | 28,962 | 3,459 | 1,308 | 1,032 | 276 | 27,342 | 24,807 | 2,535 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 38,661 | 34,708 | 4,153 | 18,391 | 17,353 | 1,038 | 4,181 | 3,915 | 266 | 299 | 259 | 40 | 15,990 | 13,181 | 2,809 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 1,367 | 1,273 | 89 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,359 | 1,272 | 87 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 6,841 | 5,953 | 888 | 1,718 | 1,662 | 56 | 233 | 218 | 15 | 34 | 30 | 4 | 4,856 | 4,043 | 813 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 495 | 377 | 118 | 29 | 28 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 462 | 347 | 115 | |
| Rural | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 604,861 | 448,193 | 156,668 | 367,154 | 277,249 | 89,905 | 153,952 | 104,484 | 49,468 | 6,009 | 3,135 | 2,874 | 77,746 | 61,325 | 16,421 | |
| Illiterate | 405,815 | 266,945 | 138,870 | 246,716 | 166,810 | 79,060 | 115,313 | 89,961 | 45,352 | 4,347 | 1,799 | 2,548 | 39,439 | 29,375 | 11,064 | |
| Literate | 199,046 | 179,248 | 19,798 | 120,438 | 110,439 | 9,099 | 38,639 | 34,523 | 4,116 | 1,662 | 1,336 | 326 | 38,307 | 32,960 | 5,357 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 149,424 | 135,537 | 13,987 | 94,579 | 86,499 | 5,083 | 32,077 | 28,641 | 3,436 | 1,259 | 998 | 261 | 21,509 | 19,402 | 2,107 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 34,385 | 30,632 | 3,753 | 18,158 | 17,131 | 1,027 | 4,962 | 3,839 | 263 | 273 | 237 | 36 | 11,862 | 9,435 | 2,427 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 137 | 114 | 23 | 50 | 48 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 77 | 56 | 21 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 5,254 | 4,634 | 620 | 1,699 | 1,645 | 54 | 222 | 208 | 14 | 30 | 27 | 3 | 3,303 | 2,754 | 549 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 331 | 259 | 72 | 29 | 28 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 296 | 229 | 69 | |
| Urban | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 22,245 | 16,255 | 3,990 | 1,979 | 1,637 | 342 | 1,138 | 903 | 235 | 161 | 89 | 72 | 18,967 | 15,626 | 3,341 | |
| Illiterate | 8,625 | 5,945 | 2,680 | 969 | 705 | 264 | 672 | 469 | 203 | 73 | 28 | 20 | 5,906 | 4,743 | 2,163 | |
| Literate | 13,620 | 10,310 | 1,310 | 1,010 | 932 | 78 | 466 | 434 | 232 | 88 | 61 | 52 | 12,061 | 10,883 | 1,178 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 10,446 | 8,149 | 964 | 684 | 636 | 56 | 342 | 314 | 25 | 49 | 24 | 15 | 4,616 | 4,205 | 411 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 4,476 | 4,076 | 400 | 233 | 222 | 11 | 89 | 86 | 3 | 26 | 22 | 4 | 4,128 | 3,746 | 382 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 53 | 46 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 44 | 7 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 1,587 | 1,319 | 268 | 19 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1,553 | 1,289 | 264 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 164 | 118 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 164 | 118 | 46 | |
| WEST BENGAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 738,862 | 484,601 | 254,261 | 216,554 | 169,417 | 47,137 | 394,762 | 225,639 | 169,123 | 11,463 | 4,214 | 7,249 | 116,083 | 85,331 | 30,752 | |
| Illiterate | 460,155 | 245,944 | 124,211 | 116,012 | 77,896 | 36,116 | 278,888 | 132,506 | 146,380 | 8,090 | 1,951 | 6,109 | 57,187 | 33,561 | 23,628 | |
| Literate | 278,707 | 238,657 | 40,050 | 100,542 | 91,521 | 9,021 | 115,896 | 93,133 | 22,763 | 3,373 | 2,233 | 1,140 | 58,896 | 51,770 | 7,126 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 233,116 | 199,809 | 33,307 | 87,497 | 79,563 | 7,934 | 102,402 | 82,821 | 15,581 | 2,946 | 1,930 | 1,016 | 40,171 | 35,495 | 4,776 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 23,497 | 21,678 | 1,819 | 7,678 | 7,429 | 249 | 3,939 | 3,716 | 223 | 186 | 159 | 27 | 11,694 | 10,374 | 1,320 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 4,455 | 4,050 | 405 | 437 | 430 | 7 | 177 | 165 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 3,627 | 3,442 | 385 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 559 | 473 | 86 | 31 | 30 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 517 | 433 | 84 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 559 | 473 | 86 | 31 | 30 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 517 | 433 | 84 | |
| Rural | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 708,910 | 462,175 | 245,735 | 215,348 | 168,532 | 48,817 | 390,693 | 223,243 | 167,450 | 11,333 | 4,151 | 7,182 | 91,535 | 66,249 | 25,286 | |
| Illiterate | 445,466 | 237,074 | 120,850 | 115,310 | 77,452 | 37,852 | 276,096 | 131,333 | 144,894 | 8,016 | 1,952 | 6,144 | 56,896 | 34,700 | 19,532 | |
| Literate | 263,426 | 225,101 | 38,225 | 100,039 | 91,080 | 9,969 | 114,801 | 92,107 | 22,494 | 3,317 | 2,199 | 1,118 | 45,469 | 39,715 | 5,754 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 223,686 | 191,363 | 32,323 | 87,073 | 79,189 | 7,884 | 101,307 | 81,937 | 19,370 | 2,910 | 1,908 | 1,002 | 32,396 | 28,329 | 4,067 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 20,165 | 18,657 | 1,509 | 7,645 | 7,397 | 245 | 3,890 | 3,659 | 221 | 175 | 151 | 24 | 8,455 | 7,440 | 1,015 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 211 | 193 | 18 | 29 | 28 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 168 | 152 | 16 | |
| Graduate and above other than technical degree | 2,633 | 2,622 | 211 | 430 | 425 | 5 | 172 | 162 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 2,220 | 2,024 | 196 | |
| Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post | 401 | 348 | 53 | 31 | 30 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 359 | 308 | 51 | |
| Urban | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 29,952 | 22,426 | 7,226 | 1,205 | 885 | 320 | 4,069 | 2,396 | 1,673 | 130 | 63 | 67 | 24,548 | 19,082 | 5,466 | |
| Illiterate | 14,671 | 8,670 | 5,801 | 702 | 444 | 258 | 2,774 | 1,370 | 1,404 | 74 | 29 | 45 | 11,121 | 7,027 | 4,094 | |
| Literate | 15,281 | 13,556 | 1,725 | 503 | 441 | 62 | 1,295 | 1,026 | 269 | 56 | 34 | 22 | 13,427 | 12,055 | 1,372 | |
| Literate but below matric/ secondary | 9,430 | 8,449 | 964 | 424 | 344 | 50 | 1,099 | 853 | 211 | 36 | 22 | 14 | 7,875 | 7,166 | 709 | |
| Matric/ secondary but below graduate | 3,331 | 3,021 | 310 | 43 | 32 | 2 | 149 | 144 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 3,238 | 2,934 | 304 | |
| Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | 44 | 28 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 25 | 18 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

TRIBAL PROFILE AT A GLANCE - MAY 2013

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India

{Continued from January 2014 issue}

6. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

| Per thousand distribution of Urban households of different social groups by household type | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| social group | household type | | | | |
| | self employed (SE) in | Regular wage/ salaried (RWS) | Casual labour (CL) | others | all (incl. n.r.) |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| ST | 233 | 384 | 211 | 169 | 1000 |
| All social groups | 347 | 397 | 134 | 121 | 1000 |

Source: Report no. 543 of NSS 66th round, 2009-10

| Per thousand distribution of Rural households of different social groups by size class of land possessed and size class of land cultivated | | | | | |
|--|------|------------------|--|------|------------------|
| All India | | | Rural | | |
| Size class of land possessed (hectares) | ST | All (incl. n.r.) | Size class of land cultivated (hectares) | ST | All (incl. n.r.) |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| 0.000 | 101 | 83 | 0.000 | 372 | 454 |
| 0.001-0.004 | 138 | 117 | 0.001-0.004 | 10 | 8 |
| 0.005-0.40 | 328 | 448 | 0.005-0.40 | 186 | 203 |
| 0.41-1.00 | 198 | 161 | 0.41-1.00 | 208 | 155 |
| 1.01-2.00 | 130 | 97 | 1.01-2.00 | 127 | 95 |
| 2.01-4.00 | 83 | 65 | 2.01-4.00 | 76 | 61 |
| 4.01 & above | 22 | 30 | 4.01 & above | 20 | 25 |
| all | 1000 | 1000 | all | 1000 | 1000 |

Source: Report no. 543 of NSS 66th round, 2009-10

{To be continued...}

Folklore of the Santal Parganas

Translated by **Cecil Henry Bompas** of the Indian Civil Service, 1909

{ASECA CHANNEL intends to publish the stories in order to familiarize the stories among the general public for their better appreciation}

{Continued from January 2014 issue}

V. Karmu and Dharmu.

There were once two brothers Karmu and Dharmu. Karmu was a farmer and Dharmu was a trader; once when Dharmu was away from home Karmu gave a religious feast and did not invite Dharmu's household; when Dharmu returned and learnt this, he told his wife that he also would perform the ceremonies in his house, so they set to work and were employed in cooking rice and vegetables far into the night; and Karam Gosain came down to see what preparations Dharmu was making in his honour, and he watched from the back of the house.

Just then Dharmu strained off the water from the cooked rice and threw it out of the window, and it fell on Karam Gosain and scalded him, and as the flies and insects worried the wound, Karam Gosain went off to the Ganges and buried himself in the middle of the stream. As he had thus offended Karam Gosain, all Dharmu's undertakings failed and he fell into deep poverty, and had not even enough to eat, so he had to take service with his brother Karmu. When the time for transplanting the rice came, Dharmu used to plough and dig the ditches and mend the gaps along with the day

labourers. Karmu told him not to work himself but act as overseer of the other labourers, and the labourers also told him that it was not suitable for him to work as a labourer himself, but Dharmu said that he must earn his wages and insisted on working; and in the same way Dharmu's wife might have acted as overseer of the women, but she was ashamed not to work too.

One day they were transplanting the rice and Karmu brought out breakfast for the labourers; he told Dharmu and his wife to wash their hands and come and eat; but they answered that they belonged to the household and that the hired labourers should be fed first, so the labourers ate and they ate up all the rice and there was nothing left for Dharmu and his wife. When the midday meal was brought the same thing happened, Dharmu and his wife got nothing; but they hoped that it would be made up to them when the wages were paid, and worked on fasting. At evening when they came to pay the wages in kind, Dharmu's name was called out first, but he told his brother to pay the labourers first, and in doing this the paddy was all used up and there was nothing left for Dharmu and his wife; so they went home sorrowfully and their children cried for food and they had nothing to give them. In the night Dharmu's wife said "They promised to pay us for merely looking after the work and

instead, we worked hard and have still got nothing. We will not work for them anymore; come, let us undo the work we did to-day, you cut down the embankments you repaired, and I will uproot the seedlings which I planted.” So they went out into the night to do this. But whenever Dharmu raised his spade a voice called out “Hold, hold!” And whenever his wife put out her hand to pull up the rice a voice called out “Hold, hold!” Then they said “Who are you who stop us?” And the voice answered “You have done evil and offended Karam Gosain by scalding him; this is why you have become poor and to-day have worked without food and without wages; he has gone to the Ganges and you must go and propitiate him.” And they asked how they should propitiate him, and the voice said “Grind turmeric and put it on a plate, and buy new cloth and dye it with turmeric and make ready oil and take these things to the Ganges and call on Karam Gosain.” And they believed the voice and the next day did as it commanded, and set off, leaving their children in charge of Karmu. On the way they came to a fig-tree full of figs and they went to eat the fruit; but when they got near they found that all the figs were full of grubs, and they sang:—

“Exhausted by hunger we came to a fig-tree,
And found it full of grubs,
O Karam Gosain, how far off are you?”

Then they came to a mango tree and the same thing happened. And they went on and saw a cow with a calf; and they thought that they would milk the cow and drink the milk, but when they went to catch it it ran away from them and would not let itself be caught; and they sang:—

“We go to catch the cow and it runs away,
We go to catch the calf and it runs away,
O Karam Gosain how far off are you?”

But the cow said to them—“Go to the banks of the Ganges.” Then they came to a buffalo and went to milk it, but it lowered its head and charged them; and Dharmu cried but his wife said “Don’t cry” and sang:—

“If you go to catch the buffalo, Dharmu,
It will kill you.
How shall we drink milk? How shall we drink milk?
How far off are you, O our Karam Gosain?”
And the buffalo said “Go on to the bank of the Ganges.” Then they came to a horse and they thought that they would catch it and mount it, but it kicked and snorted; and they sang:—

“Dharmu tries to catch the horse:
But it kicks and runs away.
How shall we reach the Ganges?”

O Karam Gosain, how far off are you?”

And the horse said “Go to the banks of the Ganges.” Then they saw an elephant but it would not let them approach, so they decided to push on straight for the river; and they saw under a banyan tree a large pot full of rupees, but they were so disheartened that they made no attempt to touch it; then they met a woman who asked where they were going and when she heard, she said “For twelve years I have had a *pai* measure stuck on my throat; ask Karam Gosain for me how I am to get rid of it,” and they promised; and going on they met a woman with a bundle of thatching grass stuck to her head; and she made them promise to ask Karam Gosain how she could be freed; then they met a woman with both her feet burning in a fire and another with a stool stuck fast to her back and they promised to enquire how these might be delivered.

So at last they came to the Ganges and they stood on the bank and called to Karam Gosain; and when he came they caught hold of him and he said “Fie, what low caste person is touching me?” But they said. “It is no low caste person, but Dharmu.” Then they bathed him and anointed him with oil and turmeric and wrapped him in the new cloth which they had brought, and thus they persuaded him to return; so they rose up to go back, and Dharmu asked about the women whom they had met, and Karam Gosain said: “The woman has a stool stuck to her back because when visitors came she never offered them a seat; let her do so in future, and she will be freed; and the woman has her feet burning in the fire because she pushed the fuel into the fire with her foot; let her not do so in future, and she will be freed; and the woman has the thatching grass stuck to her head because when she saw a friend with straw sticking in her hair she did not tell her about it; let her do so in future and she will be freed; and the woman has the *pai* measure stuck to her throat because, when her neighbour wanted to borrow her measure, she would not lend it; let her do so in future and she will be freed.” And Karam Gosain asked whether they had seen an elephant and a horse and a buffalo and a cow and money and mangoes and figs and Dharmu said “Yes,” but that he had not been able to catch the animals and the fruit was bad. Karam Gosain promised them that on their way back they should take possession of all; and they did so and mounted on the elephant and returned to their home with great wealth. On their way they met the four women and told them how they could be saved from their troubles. The villagers welcomed Dharmu and he arranged a great feast and gave paddy to all the villagers to husk; but when they had boiled it the weather became cloudy so that they could not dry it, so they prayed to the sun and he at once shone out and dried the paddy.

Then a day was fixed and they prepared rice beer, and worshipped Karam Gosain and they danced all night and got very drunk and enjoyed themselves.

{To be continued...}

FROM:

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