



Baul Sadhak Lalan Fakir on Syncretism and Women Liberty: A Historical Study

Amaresh Pramanik

Abstract

Bauls the syncretic tradition, Lalan Fakir was the prominent preceptor of this way of sadhana. People belonging to all caste, class, and community have come under the shelter of this way of sadhana. The name and fame of Lalan Shah was widespread throughout Bengal. He is considered as the icon of equality, fraternity and brotherhood. The idealism of Baul tradition has been reached its zenith under the leadership of Lalan Fakir. His teachings and preaching of syncretism successfully created a social movement of the oppressed section of the society of Bengal. Lalan emerged as charismatic leader among the general mass of his contemporary society. He, in his lifetime strongly protested against caste disparity, class oppression, social persecution and religious bigotry. Baul seeks their 'Man of heart' within the Man, through love and devotion. In this way of sadhana, they have no shrine, no scripts and no Temple or Mosque they have only the song, mystic in nature to express their inner cry or joy. Lalan gives the highest position to man. As it is the body centric esoteric way of sadhana, no sadhak can attain siddhi without the active participation of the women. Women are termed as 'chetan Guru' so, to women he offers the highest position, proclaimed for women liberation, honoured as the 'sadhan-sangini' for the sexo-yogic union by which attainment of Supreme Bliss will be possible.

Keywords: Preceptor, Sadhana, Syncretic, Esoteric, Man, Women, Liberation.