

A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF “BATHOU AND KHERAI”- THE DEITIES OF BATHOISM.

Bijon Boro.

Asstt. Professor, dept. of

Boro

Chaiduar College, Gohpur

Introduction:-

The Boro Community has been living together peacefully by embracing the “Bathou Religion” since the Bodo civilization is beginning till today. This Bathou religion is the holy religion of Boro community where the tradition, custom, language and culture of Boro is fully exposing. The Boro worshipped the unseen Supreme Soul Bwrai Bathou (God) deep heartedly through the Bathou religion. Who is the creator of all the living thing i.e. human being, living creature and plants etc. from the time of immemorial. So, there is chanting in the introductory religious performance of Bathou religion as -

“+É<+É lÉènùÉâ +É<]ÉÉè MÉE®únùÉâ

+É;ðÉ*ÉÉ lÉènùÉâ +É;ðÉ]ÉÉè MÉE®únùÉâ

lÉâ´É᳚ÉÉâ xÉÉâ +É;ðÉ ᳚ÉÉâ®úÉ*É ᳚ÉÉlÉÉè

´É)½pÉ®úÉVÉÉ]ÉÉè ;ÖðÈVÉxÉÉâ MÉE®úÉ]Éè VÉÉâ*”

(Mother died we give up mother

Father died we give up father

Yet we are not give up to worship

you father, the king supreme soul

Bwrai Bathou)

- The word **Bathou** derived from the Bodos two words namely **Ba** and **Thou** (Ba + Thou). **Ba** means five, thou means deep tatta or principle as well as five elements. These five elements are Ha (land) Bar (air) Dwi (water) Okhgrang (sky) Orr (fire). So these five elements are the main source of all power of living and non living things. Nothing can be existed without the influences of these five elements. From this ‘point of it is seen that the Philosophy of the Bathouism is scientific and logical. So they kept the nomenclature of their unseen Divine as Bathou who is omnipresent and omnipotent. Keeping this point in mind and as per advise of the Mwnsing sing Bwrai symbolically they plant the Sijou plant which has five ridge (five thorny line) towards the northeast side of the courtyard. Then they make their Bathousali (Bathou alter) to worship their unseen Divine which is called

Bathou is the oldest religion of the Bodos. They worship the Bathou to get the blessings of the unseen Divine. Since when this religion had been adopted by the Bodos, it is not known and not any written record is available. But it is true that it has been existing since thousands years ago. So history also can't reach and speak about its starting period and time. According to the legend about its origin it is said that Mwnsing sing Burrai is the chief exponent of this religion, who is an agent or representative of God. As per his advise Bodos started to worship

the unseen Divine under the Sijou Plant making a alter known as Bathou Surrounded by the fencing of eighteen pairs of bamboo strip with five fastening symbolizing eighteen pairs of god-goddess and five Principle of life are birth, marriage death, peach (Pleasure) and trouble. That means no one can escape from this five principle in our living Society of human being. Thus worshipping Principle of Bathouism has been continuing orally and folk to folk among the Bodos.

Kherai:-

The Kherai is believed to be the greatest religious festival of the Boros. Prior to the British Period when there was Bodo Kachari Kingdom there were Bathoushali (alter of Bathou) were found at Dimapur, Khaspur, Maibong etc. So from this point of view, it can be said that this Bathou religion was also adopted by the Bodo Kachari monarch.

Aham

“Ong Hring Cling Fwd Se.....”

Since the Saytyo Yugo the Bathouism religion was breeding so far the Indian mythologist believed. So the Bathouism is one of the oldest religion of this globe. The Bathouism religion is same of Hinduism philosophy concern to all. Bathouism at the time gradually developed Yugo after Yugo means developing gradually through the Satya Yugo, Treta, Dwapara and Koli Yugo flourishing one after another till this current era known as Kolki Yugo.

Mongolians the Bodo people are religious and pous and come acrossed the Yugoes starting from the Satya Yugo flourishing till this current era. The system of prayer had changed Yugo after era till now through society changed. The Bathouism also charging the method of prayer according to the philosophical reports of the old folks and Bathou followers carefully sacrificed man, then other animal like chicken, goat, fowls, pigeon etc. Now-a-days Bathouism people are avoiding the method of sacrificing creatures instead of such living being. They are using to offer prosads a mixture of pulse, peas, rices, banana and sugarcant along with coconut.

Bathou means- ‘Ba’ (Five) and ‘Thou’ (deep). Hence the Bathou means Five Deep Spiritual things. Bathou religion and its philosophy to the numeral ‘Five’ has well been expressed in the following piece of Bodo verse-

“Thaigirmi Khonga Khongba,
Sijouni Siria Siriba,
Sifungni Gudunga Gudungba,
Bathouni Bandw- Bandwba,
Boro Bwraini Raoabw Fongba.”

The teaching of Bathou religion the devotees try to follow basically ‘Five’ principle in their day to day life and follows the five basic teaching on the necessity of self realization as follows-

1. To think constantly “SIJOU” (The Supreme Soul).
2. Adoration of the Supreme Soul.
3. To think constantly of “Mainaoburi” (The Goddess of Wealth and Corps as Laxmi)
4. T realized the power of Earth, Water and wind.
5. To execute one’s duty on this earth with negligence.

Bathou religion is based on the five preaching through Bathouism thought as given below-

1. Prayer and meditation for God.
2. Helping other to acquire religious virtue.
3. Helping and offering alms of poor, hopeless and needy.
4. Love and affection for all.
5. Make harmonised united effort to solve complex problem.

The Bathou alter is prepared by making highly steepled of soil which have been fenced bamboo splits and in the middle of Bathou alter "Eupherbia" splendens has holly mind. The Eupherbia splendens is called "SIJOU" by the Bodo people. Eupherbia splendens is consisting two deep meaning such as "Si" and "JOU". 'Si' means Soul and 'JOU' means high Soul. As well as the Eupherbia splendens or "SILOU" means the Supreme Soul. God is almighty. Hence the "Eupherbia splendens" is the symbolic representation of the Supreme Soul the almighty God.

The Bathou since the very beginning "KHERAI" worship is become traditionally along with religion prays in five seasonal based are given below-

1. Sangsari kherai fwrbw- Saytra Sangkranti of 6 Bwisag.
2. Amthi Kherau fwrbw- 11 Ashar.
3. Mainao Kherai fwrbw- 1 Kartik.
4. Angkham gwrlwi janai kherai fwrbw or neon janai- celebrated in Aghon months

on nine day.

5. Magw domasi kherai fwrbw- celebrated on Sangkranti of Push and 1st day of Magh month.

Hence Bathouism shows the three abodes known as "Barigongtham"(Three Housing) at the occasion "KHERAI" performances. The three abodes are- 1. Rungsar (Heaven) 2. Mitha (Earth) and 3. Hasing or Hajing equivalent to the other religions known as- 1. Swargo, 2. Martya and 3. Pathal

Now let us describe the deities of Bathouism in details.

Name of religious bamboo splits and lences:-

1. Ailong:- Bathou Tharnai. (Birth)
 2. Agrang:- Bathougidingnai. (First of steeping) (Satrli dance the earth)
 3. Khwila:- Cha-gwlaow mwsanai. Sibirw lanai, si, cha-gusung mwsanai, Sijou khow naithinai.

4. Khazi:- Imphi Sibnai, Maya dannai. Use of sword avoiding illusion.
5. Rajputhar:- Rwn Chandri dance. Identification of foes.
6. Rajkundra:- Khamao barkhwnai. Try to practise.
7. Abla Khungur:- Khwjima phonai. Dance try to know/learn.
8. Allbura:- Gandwola homnai. Dance to religion following.
9. Monasho:- Badamali gelenai. Entreheinto illusion.
10. Sarijomon:- Badamali gelenai. undertaking the world.
11. Barliburi:- Musha-Mufur gelenai. Care of living event.
12. Bwisumuthi:- Mainao dikhangnai. Earning knowledge.
13. Bagraja:- Mwsha gelenai. Energy.
14. Songraja:- Daothwisi lwngnai. Controlling bad etiquettes.
15. Gaoraja:- Ashar gunai. Learning of truth.
16. Basumuria:- Neolai gelenai. Controlling of mind.
17. Ahaon bwrai:- Naobarnai. Gait from earth death.

18. Basuchondri:- Gorai dabrainai. Acquiring real knowledge.

The above abodes are the dance performing among Bathouism as “KHERAI” to worship the God almighty. Hence there are many folk dances also like Bagurumba, Jaraphagla and Bwirathi dance etc.

The name of the above deities working their day-to-day duties and the workers of this solar system also following peacefully which the people of this world can not understand and follow as we think ourselves.

It is also conjectured that the supreme deity whom we worship and pray is supposed to be single one God whom we supposed will distributors the work and responsibilities for smooth administration the human being must have to follow and obey certain principle of living in this globe as abodes people believed. Peaceful living is the best of all that can managed ourselves. Adoringly the invisible powers of the earth may help them who obey and follow the noble principles in life time. Religion can bring such valuable and adorable ways and means in span of human life.

However a parent body Bathouism as we can know All Bathou Mahasabha bring unitely the believers and compiled modelities of worship through the basic principle. Though its basic principle “KHERAI” is performing as traditional Bathouism dance now-a-days. And the part of a few Bathou believer they pray and worship to the Bathou the God through kherai performances as we know “Bwli Bathou and Dwibobani Bathou.” Otherhand Gwthar Bathou believers are not performing through “Kherai”.

As Bathouism is one of the earlier and oldest religions. We can belief and adore ourselves to attain the pin-point of achieving the truth of religions in this infinite solar system.

The Bodos is the Bathou and the bathou is the Bodos as well as known to all. All the Bodo people are still honest and straith followers and now admiring themselves before their deities for better attainments in life. The Bathou also carried the traditional and communal culture, behaviours in their society life.

“May God ‘SIJOU’ bless us and surmonise in the followers of Bathouism.”

“May the deities of Bathouism help the followers of Bathouism.”

“May the almighty Solar System help the Bathou believers including prosperity and unity among the neighbouring societies and religions.”

“Jwi Bwrai Bathou.”

● **Reference book**

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