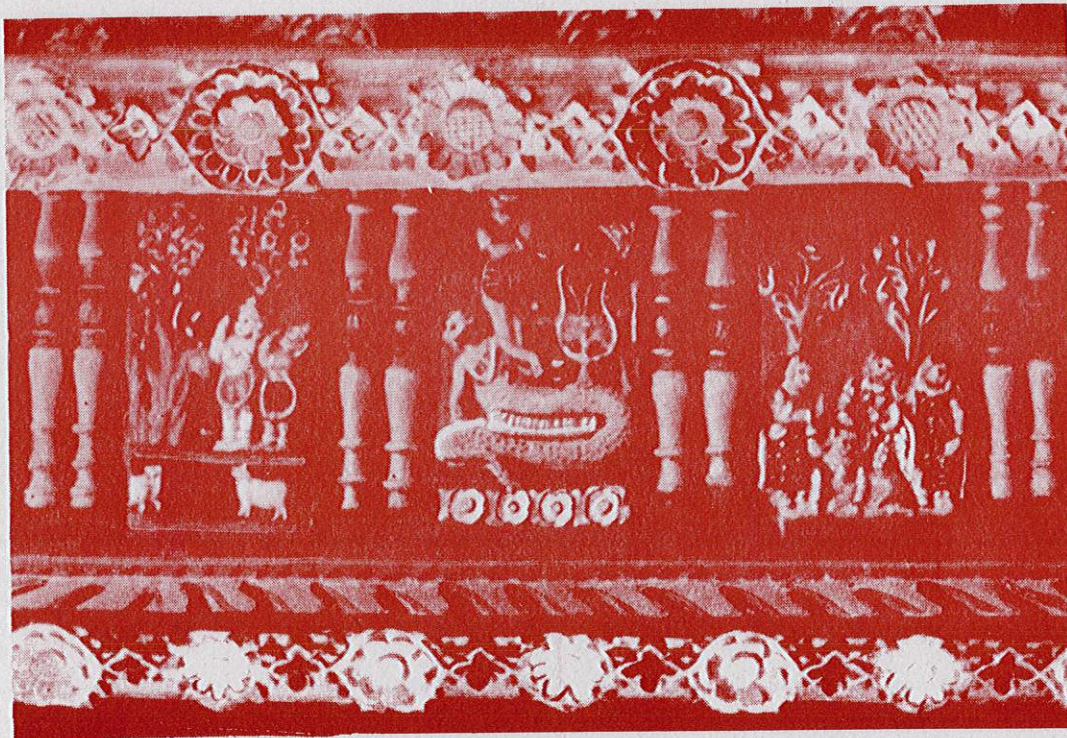


**JOURNAL
OF
THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICA**



SPRING 1990

JOURNAL
OF THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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EDITORIAL PAGE

SURA PRASAD RATH AND DIGAMBAR MISHRA

Between the publication of the Fall 1989 issue of this journal and now, many far-reaching changes have rocked the world scene from Eastern Europe to Latin America and from Soviet Union to South Africa. India and Orissa have had their share of changes, too, though the changes have taken place in the domestic, political arena. The former opposition party, Janata Dal, now holds power both in New Delhi and Bhubaneswar, and the full impact of the shift in power remains to be seen. Furthermore, it is a pride for Orissa that two of her political stalwarts are installed in the highest power structure in New Delhi - Mr. Rabi Ray, a veteran socialist, as the speaker of Lok Sabha, and Mr. Nilamani Routray, a former chief minister of Orissa, as a cabinet minister.

These political changes aside, a major exciting activity is in progress in Orissa. The city of Cuttack is celebrating its millennium beginning December 1, 1989, and has scheduled a year-long roster of cultural programs. Inaugurating the celebrations on December 10, Mr. R. Venkataraman, the President of India, praised the unique blend of antiquity and contemporaneity in the Orissan culture of Cuttack, and, tracing further the wealth of Orissa's history, its plentiful gifts to the political and religious and architectural glory of India, he detailed the state's heroic role in resisting the British — Orissa was the last state to fall into British hands — and its patriotic role in the national struggle for independence. He invoked the spirits of Ashoka, Adi Shankara, Sri Chaitanya, Madhusudan, Gopabandhu, Biswanath Das, and Harekrushna Mahatab. Mr. Venkataraman reminisced the Orissans' outstanding aesthetic sense expressed in Oriya art, architecture and music, which combine with learning, piety and tolerance. He recognized the gifts of Mayadhar Mansingh, Kalinidi Charan, Gopinath, and Kelucharan. The President applauded the leadership and sacrifice of Rama Devi and Malati Devi. Indeed, his speech touched on all the milestones of Orissa's progress from Raja Nrupakeshari, who founded Cuttack in 989 A.D.,

to Gopabandhu in the modern times — a long eulogy to an outstanding history that every Oriya is proud of.

As part of the central government's commitment to preserve this precious memento of the past, the Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken the Barabati excavation project. We, who live half a world away from these celebrations, wish to add our felicitations to the residents of Cuttack on the occasion of this millennial festivities.

Among the scheduled programs for 1990 are the following: introduction of a postage stamp on Cuttack, publication of a memoir and a book on the heritage of Cuttack, an art and photo exhibit of Cuttack's history, and a seminar on Orissan studies to be attended by more than a hundred research scholars. The organizers of the millennium are also working on holding a World Oriya Convention at Cuttack in December 1990. A team consisting of Justice Harihar Mohapatra, Girija Bhusan Patnaik, G.C. Senapati, and Ramahari Mishra are reportedly planning to attend the upcoming OSA convention in Washington D.C. in order to seek our inclusion in some of these historic events.

Do we want to be part of our homeland's glory in a serious way or not? The choice, of course, is ours. We, however, believe it is time to offer our hands to this emerging bridge, a link, if you will, between our new home in Americas and the beloved Orissa of which we are so nostalgic. Must not we seize the opportunity now to build a stable foundation for our children who would be proud of their roots and share with the posterity, our struggle and happiness?

ପ୍ରାଣି ସ୍ତ୍ରୀକାର

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ସୁଲକ୍ଷ୍ମା ଦାସ

ମୁଁ ମାତୃତ ପାଇଥିବା

କଲ୍ୟାଣର ଛବିଟିଏ ସତ ହୁଏ ।

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ଏବଂ ମୋ' କଲ୍ୟାଣର ଡାକଦର ଭଣ୍ଡି ହୁଏ

ଭଲ ଭଲ ରଙ୍ଗର ଚିତ୍ରିରେ

କେବେ ଅବା ଚିତ୍ରି ଅସସ

କେବେ ଅବା ଚିତ୍ରି ଅସେ ନାହିଁ ।

ଡାକ ବାଲ ଦଣ୍ଡି ମରି ଗୁଲପ ଏ ।

ମୋ ଅଖିରେ କେବେ ଅବା ବିଲୁଲିତ ଛବିଟିଏ

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ସରୁଦନେ ଅସନ୍ତା କି ତମ ଚିତ୍ରି

ମୋ ଛତର ଦରଦ ଓ ଅବେଗକୁ

ଅନନ୍ଦର ଲହ ହୋଇ ଝରଝରା ପାଇଁ ।

ସରୁଦନେ ଅସନ୍ତା କି ତମ ଚିତ୍ରି

ଦଶର ମେଲଣ ପରି

ମୋ ଦର ଭଣ୍ଡି ଫୁଲି ଏବଂ ହସ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ।

ତମ ହାତ ଅକ୍ଷରରେ

ମୋର ପ୍ରତି ଲହ ଠୋପା

ତମ ସ୍ୟାନ୍ତ ବନ୍ଦୁର ଛଟାରେ

ମୋର ପ୍ରତି ରକ୍ତ ଠୋପା

ବ୍ୟଥାରୁର ଗଳ ନଇ ହୁଏ—

ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ମୁଁ ଅଶ୍ରୁଲେ

ତମ ସୁଖ, ହାତ ଛତା, ବହୁ ଥାକ ଟେଗୁଲ ପିଠିରେ

କାଗଣ ତମ ଚିତ୍ରି

ତମ ହାତ ଛୁଇଁ ଆସିଲେବି

ଠିକ ତମ ପରି ହସି ପାରେ ନାହିଁ

କିମ୍ପା

ଠିକ ତମ ପରି ବାଉ ପାରେ ନାହିଁ ।

BHUBANESWAR*

JAGANNATH PRASAD DAS

There is no thrill,
 there is no suspense,
 the sun comes up
 from behind the pages
 of history, emotionless.
 Jackals howl
 in the aerodrome grounds.
 The day breaks
 amidst cycle bells
 and the fish market din.
 Office gates open
 to the sounds
 of temple gongs.

Asphalt roads separate
 the old from the new.
 Telephone wires sever
 the stone lovers' talks.
 Neon signs wipe off the wonders
 of the temple dark.
 Newspaper headlines
 take all meaning out of the
 mysteries of the saddest legends.

Festivals of the
 payday of the month
 are shortlived.
 The fate of the cabinet
 gets entangled
 with the genealogy of emperors.
 Dissident leaders
 gather on the embattled ruins
 of the Kalinga war.
 On days of decisions,
 heroes are discarded into
 the dust heaps of the museum.

Under cinema posters
 cows ruminates.
 In front of road side shops
 young men hang around
 with nothing to do.
 Ashoka and Kharavela
 are evoked no more.
 The car drives past
 the employment exchange
 and stops at the newest hotel.
 The rickshaw wheels
 measure the undulations
 of the social setting.
 Beggars come out of the
 historic caves.
 Ancient remains make way
 for high rise buildings.
 The tourist's camera
 spirits away the meaning
 of the temple rites.

Files gather dust.
 Temple tops look up askance
 at the sky.
 The afternoon flight takes off.
 Slogans lettered on the walls
 speak of a revolution.
 The clerks march out from their offices,
 their heads bent,
 silently homeward.

* Translated from original Oriya

CONTEMPORARY ORIYA POETRY

An Exclusive Interview with Sitakant Mahapatra

By Harprasad Paricha Patnaik

Some Excerpts

Note: Sitakant Mahapatra is a leading contemporary Indian poet who weilds considerable influence over many younger poets writing in Oriya and English. A senior member of the federal civil service in India (I.A.S.), he currently is an advisor of State plans at the Indian Planning Commission in New Delhi. A good news for Oriya poetry lovers is that thirty-five of Mahapatra's Oriya poems have just been published in French translation entitled *MORT DE KRISHNA et autres poemes* (Death of Krishna and Other Poems)

In 1987-88, Sitakant Babu spent a year in the United States as a Ford Foundation Fellow at Harvard University.

HPP: How would you interpret the essence of Oriya poetic tradition and relevance of lyricism to contemporary Oriya poetry?

SKM: One can only answer by a generalisation and as such, it may be only partially correct..Our poetic tradition has combined within itself a deep love for life and a strange detachment from it. It takes in both renunciation and deep commitment; a sense of pathos and darkness and the possibility of sunshine. Above all, it has never turned its back on life in despair. It has forged a language that is earthy, smelling of the soil, its ancient roots, its rugged grandeur and tortured soul. It has been largely lyrical, a lyricism born out of patterns of reading and breath-pauses. The oral tradition explains quite a bit of it for the printed word is not very old and poetry once was mostly to be recited as indeed it is done even today.

HPP: Don't you feel what we call representative poems of contemporary Oriya poetry,

many of them are under heavy influence of Western literary sensibility?

SKM: I would not say that. I am aware of this criticism though often it is exaggerated and is aimed at most modern poetry in our language. It is true most of our practising poets are well read in the poetic traditions of the west. But as in any good poetry what one knows, reads or is influenced by, ultimately becomes secondary. One's own inner voice speaks. One's own sensibility works through words, forms and themes. It is not possible to speak of any good poetry except as emerging from a definitively unique individual sensibility. It may have known the whole world literature but the sensibility remains one's own. For no good poetry is possible with a borrowed sensibility. Yes, there was influence of the West. Perhaps it was natural. But it was a passing phase. And slowly, imperceptibly there has been a return to the roots, to the flavour of the soil. A good poet may "take" a mood, a climate of mind, even an idea from others but he pays back in greater measure, he converts what he takes by the alchemy of his sensibility. Has not Eliot been influenced by the French symbolists, particularly Mallarme? But did not he go much further, creating new landscapes of mind, new connections, new combinations?

HPP: What is a good poem? Can you give an example of your own?

SKM: Perhaps one can never define it adequately. Like love, like anguish, for example. And yet one knows intuitively what is a good poem. Perhaps one can say more on what it is not. It is not, for example, an addition to our store house of knowledge. It does not teach, it does not pontificate. It mediates on existence. It is only a moving shape which, through its texture of words, seeks desperately to convey the mysteriousness of all that exists and happens. Be it a stone, a falling petal, an uncertain smile or a dying hope. It is full of intense evocations - from our deepest dreams to the taste of food in the mouth. At its core is the

joy of bringing into existence something that did not exist before.

In a good poem we perceive simultaneously both our terrible fate and the grandeur of living. It goes beyond joy and sorrow where life becomes its own worth. Suffering and joy become equally valid and meaningful. Words are charged with myriad nuances and yet they tend to speak slowly, quietly, almost afraid of breaking the silence.

A good poem remains ever anguished that what it has said has been said before, and what is wanted to say is perhaps unsayable. I would not like to name any of my poems by way of illustration. It is better to let the sensitive reader to judge for himself. But I know it is every poet's dream to be able to write at least a couple of good poems in a lifetime.

HPP: In one of your articles you have said, "I was always fascinated by the character of the spoken idiom of my village people and in particular, of the women folk, and the fishermen and boatmen on the river-side, the wandering minstrels who came chanting their song poems from folk tales and folk myths with the passing seasons." You also admit that "the 'structure of their poems and speeches had strength, warmth, sensuousness and lyricism in strange combinations."

How have they been helpful to you in making of a poet?

SKM: Yes, poetry is to a large extent a question of the idiom and what we seek to convey of our negotiation with life through living words, intense idioms. Words have social ancestry; they have roots in ancient pains and primitive celebrations. We partake of them, their rich colour and flavour even as we seek to etch new nuances, new meanings on them. What I enjoy in the folk idiom is its warmth, even its rawness, its sensuousness, its tentativeness, its lyricism and its energy. I consider myself fortunate that they come to me naturally, without efforts. I have often felt as if they are withing me, in my flesh and blood, in the way I am, in my psyche and my soul. I live the words of my people, and that has been of immense help in my making of a poet.

HPP: And how do you react when poets take to the language of the library?

SKM: I feel sad. Dead words, dry shells of words cannot convey life, cannot speak either of agony or of ecstasy. It is the living idiom of a society, of living human beings in their terrible destiny of living - that has to be the language of poetry, the language in which one dreams.

HPP: The last question. Do you sincerely feel that the bulk of what we call contemporary Oriya poetry, reflects the Oriya society, the little joys and sorrows of our common man? If yes, how and if not, why?

SKM: It does to a large measure, and in various ways, through different modes. If Deepak, Soubhagya, Rajendra do it in one manner, Rabi Singh, Brajanath Rath do it in another manner. And that I consider the strength of our total poetic creativity, its range, its complexity.

Yes, I believe Poetry is about every man, his joys and sorrows. Of man, the citizen and man per se. Our times and our humanity, both are intensely relevant to poetry. But when one speaks honestly of one man, does not one speak of all or atleast of most men? Hence the quest for authenticity of speaking even about one man can lead to speaking about a whole generation, an entire society.

Poetry is no sociology. But the cultural, physical and emotive contours of a society become visible in and through it. An in quite a bit of today's Oriya poetry, we witness the passing of the seasons, the rise and fall of human hopes, of our despair and anguish, and our dreams and passions. But mind you, not all talk of society or of man can qualify as the raw material for poetry which is after all a valuable document of the soul and not a write-up in the press which is documented, presented, read and forgotten. Man has to be man before he can be a citizen. Our times are troubled times, terrible times. Its metaphors have to be equally tentative. Poetry at its best speaks of its time and hence the essence of its culture and the web of togetherness we call Society. I believe the best in Oriya poetry speaks of this wit, humility and candour.

THE LOMA PRIETA EARTHQUAKE: DEVASTATING BUT NOT UNEXPECTED

Kula C. Misra

October 17, 1989. The afternoon rush-hour traffic was rolling as usual through the highways of San Francisco metropolis. Some 60,000 high-spirited baseball fans in Candlestick Park were getting restless in anticipation of the World Series game. Suddenly, at **5:04 P.M. (local time)** there was chaos everywhere. A mile-long section of the Nimitz freeway's (I-880) upper deck began to heave, then collapsed onto the lower deck, flattening many cars under a cloud of dust; the TV pictures from Candlestick Park started to jiggle and then the screens went black due to power failure; the air was filled with panick-stricken screams of people suffering from the bizzare experience of living in a world of trembling ground and swaying objects. A major earthquake had struck the San Francisco Bay area! Within a span of 15 agonizing seconds, the quake left about 60 dead, 3400 injured, 14,000 homeless, and a damage estimated at more than 10 billion dollars.

An earthquake is the quaking or vibration of the earth caused by the release of energy from shock (or seismic) waves passing through some portion of the earth's crust. The shock waves originate at some point, called the **focus (hypocenter)**, deep inside the earth due to sudden movement (or slip) of strained rocks along a fracture (or **fault**) and travel in all directions with rapid dissipation of energy with increasing distance from the focus. The wave front eventually reaches the earth's surface producing an earthquake. The **epicenter** of an earthquake is the point on the earth's surface vertically above the focus (the minimum distance to the focus from the surface) and, therefore, is the place where the earthquake registers its maximum intensity. The earthquakes are monitored by a network of permanent stations that are equipped with instruments, called **seismographs**, capable of recording ground motions caused by seismic waves, and from these records scientists can locate the epicenter of an earthquake within minutes of its occurrence.

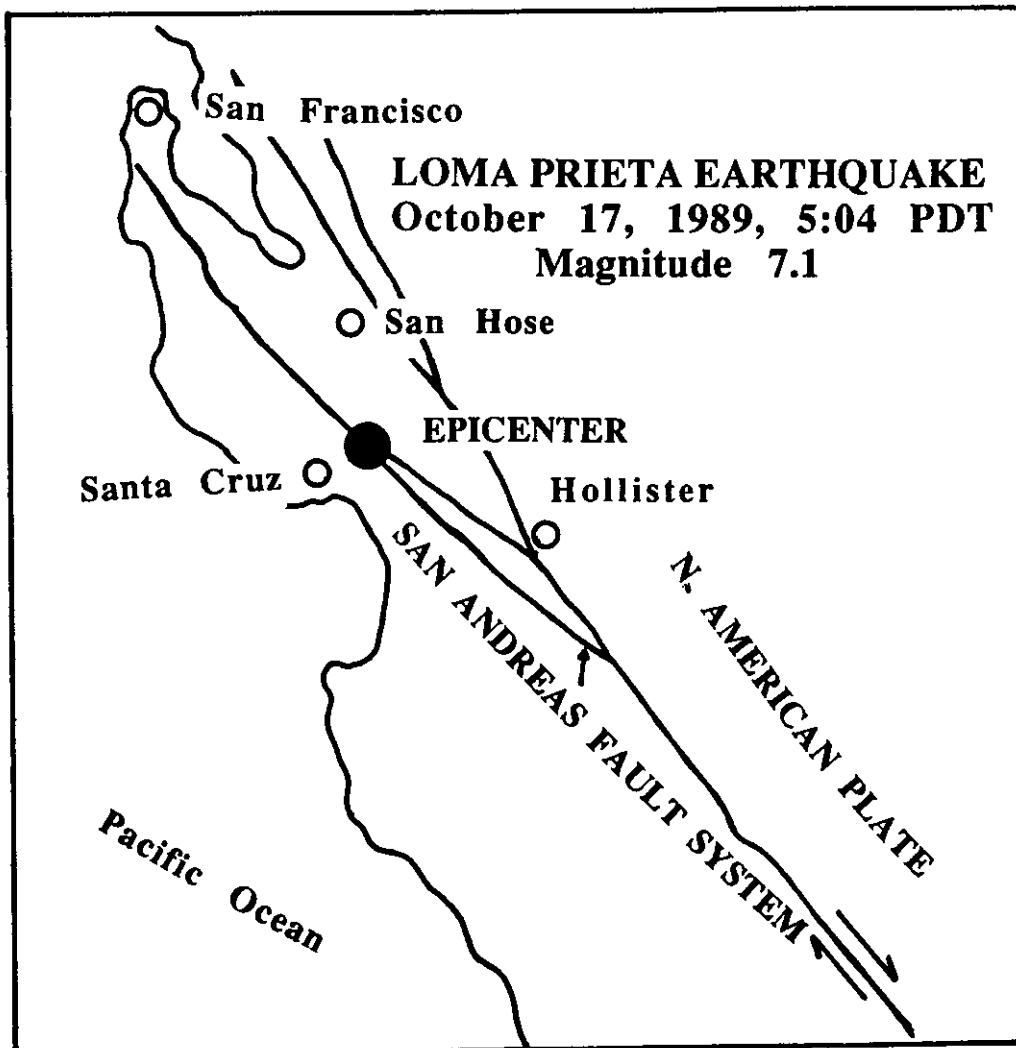
Evidently, the energy released at the focus should provide the most precise measure of the intensity of an earthquake, but this computation is a complicated process. Seismologists have therefore adopted an approximation, called the **Richter magnitude scale**, which is based on the amplitude of seismic waves recorded by seismographs. This is a logarithmic scale; i.e., an increase in magnitude of 1 unit corresponds to a tenfold increase in the intensity of the earthquake. For example, an earthquake of magnitude 8 would be 10 times more intense than one of magnitude 7 and 10,000 times more intense than one of magnitude 4. Seismographs are sensitive enough to detect earthquakes of magnitude less than 1, but earthquakes of magnitude less than 3 are generally not felt by us and those of magnitude less than 5 seldom cause much damage to structures; the largest earthquakes yet recorded show Richter magnitudes of about 8.5. The damage caused by an earthquake, however, is not only a function of its intensity but also of other factors such as population density, the type of structures, designs of the structures and their foundation material. In fact, much of the damage by an earthquake in a population center is caused by collapse of structures due to ground motion and by fires breaking out due to broken gas pipes and electric cables.

The Loma Prieta earthquake had a Richter magnitude of 7.1 and was followed in the next two weeks by many **aftershocks** of magnitude less than 5 (the exception was one aftershock of magnitude 5.2 that occurred 37 minutes after the mainshock). The relatively small number of casualties in this earthquake, comparable in magnitude to the Soviet Armenia earthquake of Dec 7, 1988 that killed at least 25,000 people, is largely accredited to better design and construction in the San Francisco area, a result of tightening of construction codes since 1971. The heavier damage in the Marina district, which was built partly on land reclaimed by landfill since the turn of the century, was most likely due to the weak foundation material. The state officials, it is reported, were aware that the I-880 bridge, completed in 1957, needed major reinforcement to prevent its collapse by a strong earthquake, but apparently did not take timely steps to rectify the situation; weak ground conditions may also have contributed to the collapse of the bridge.

One of the most revolutionizing recent advances in geology is the formulation of the **plate tectonic theory** that enables us to identify the areas with high probability of earthquakes. Many lines of evidence suggest that the earth's crust is broken by deep cracks into 15 or so large pieces, called **plates**, which are in continual relative motion due to convection in the earth's interior. The boundaries of these plates are the prime locations of earthquakes. The **San Andreas fault** (actually, a system of faults) of California, one of the most earthquake-prone areas of the world, marks the boundary between two plates, the North American plate (includes the North American continent) and the Pacific plate (includes the Pacific ocean), which grind past each other at an average rate of about 3 cm a year. This movement of the plates, however, is not uniform. Along the fault zone the plates tend to become "locked", resisting the overall motion and building up strain in the rocks. Eventually, at some point along the fault, the resistance to motion is overcome by the stress, allowing the plates to slip. The strain energy stored in the rock is released in the form of seismic waves; the result is an earthquake. Repetition of the process may produce another earthquake after a few years, probably by slip in a different segment of the fault zone. However, we are still not in a position to predict exactly when and where the next earthquake would occur along a susceptible fault zone. Nor have we been able to devise any cost-effective means of preventing the occurrence of an earthquake.

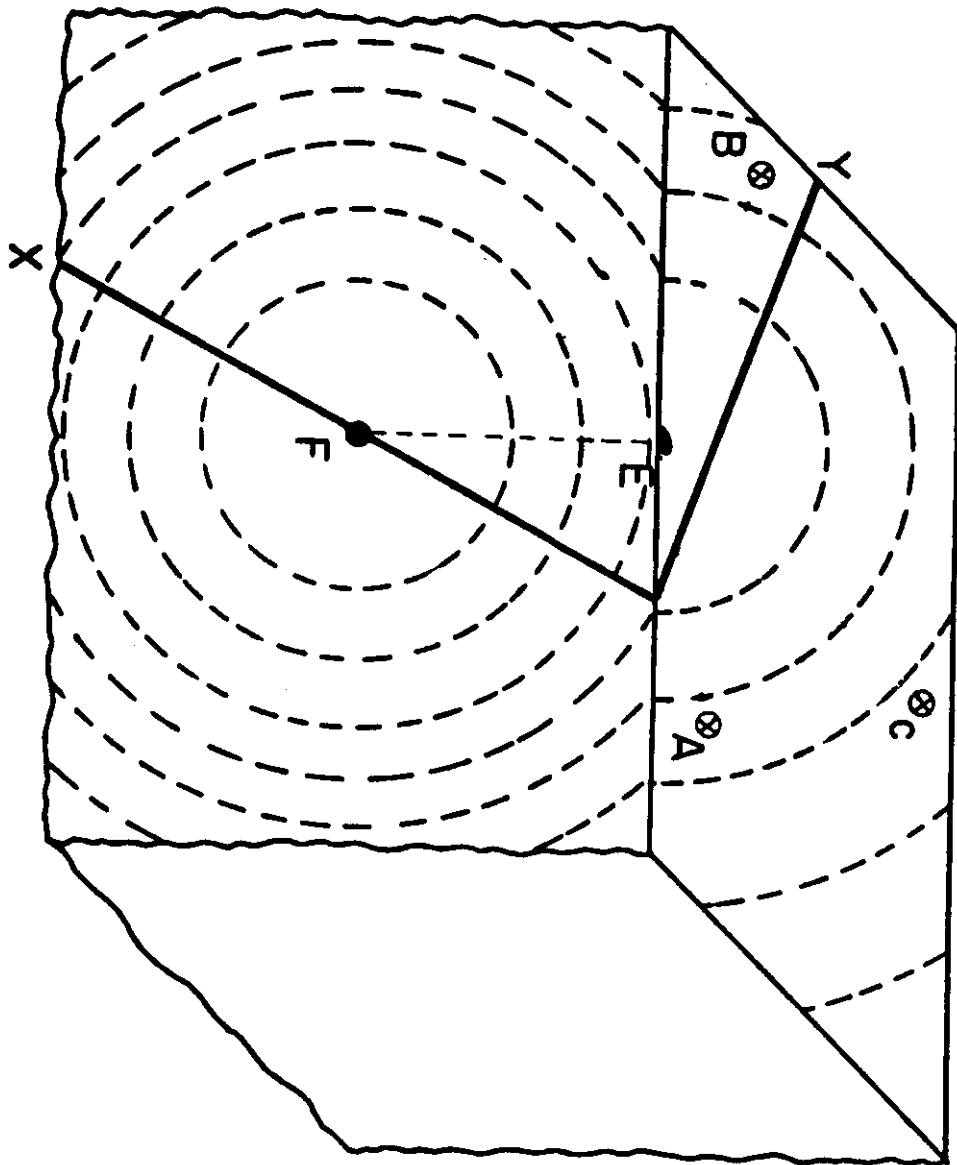
The Loma Prieta earthquake did not come as a complete surprise. Besides the devastating San Francisco earthquake of 1906 (Richter magnitude 8.3), California has experienced several earthquakes of magnitude greater than 5 in this century, all related to the San Andreas fault zone. The largest one of these was in 1952 (magnitude 7.8) and the latest ones were in 1988 (magnitude 5.1) and 1989 (magnitude 5.2). In fact, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred very near the 1988 and 1989 epicenters and near the southernmost limit of slip during the 1906 earthquake. This segment of the San Andreas was clearly recognized by scientists as being capable of producing an earthquake of magnitude 7 but was given only a 20% probability of doing so in the next 30 years!

The consensus is that the Loma Prieta earthquake was not the "Big One" that the scientists have been predicting for California, because this quake fell far short of exhausting the pent-up strain energy stored in the 800-mile long San Andreas fault system. Experts believe that the Los Angeles area is the most likely target for the next large earthquake related to San Andreas -- an estimated 60% probability for an earthquake of magnitude 7.5 or higher sometime in the next 30 years. To quote Dallas Peck, Director of the United States Geological Survey, "The question is not whether a bigger earthquake is coming (in California). The question is when."



XY - Fault; F - Focus; E - Epicenter

The Epicenter can be located from the data collected by seismographs at stations A, B, and C.



ଅହଲ୍ୟାର ଆମ୍ଭେପନ

ଚକ୍ରର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀପ୍ରିୟା ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟା

ମୁଁ ଅହଲ୍ୟା, ପ୍ରଜାପତି ବ୍ରହ୍ମାଙ୍କର କନ୍ୟା । ନ ହଲ୍ୟା ଅହଲ୍ୟା । ହଲ୍ୟା ଅର୍ଥ କୁରୁପତା, ଅସୁନ୍ଦରତା । ସୁନ୍ଦରୀ ଅହଲ୍ୟାର ଅର୍ଥ କୁଶ୍ରୀତା ବିଦାନ । ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ମୁଁ ଥିଲି ରୁପୋତ୍ତମା । ମୋ ଦେହରେ ଅସୁମାର ବସନ୍ତର ଅଖଣ୍ଡ ଏକଚ୍ଛତ୍ର ରାଜତ୍ୱ । ମୁଁ ଥିଲି ଫୁଲ ପରି ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ କୋମଳ, ବନ୍ୟା ଝରଣା ପରି ଚପଳ ଓ ଅସ୍ଥିର । ରୁପହୀନା କନ୍ୟାର ବିବାହ ଯେଉଁ ପରି ଏକ ଗୁରୁତର ସମସ୍ୟା, ରୁପସୀ କନ୍ୟାର ବିବାହ ମଧ୍ୟ ତତୋଧିକ ଗୁରୁତର ସମସ୍ୟା । ପୁରୁଷ ଚିତ୍ତଦିନ ରୁପପାଗଳ, ସେ ଦେବତା ହେଉ, ଦାନବ ହେଉ ବା ମାନବ ହେଉ । ସୁର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ ଭଳି ପ୍ରତିପତ୍ତିଶାଳୀ ଦେବତାମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ମୋର ପାଣିପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ହେଉଥିଲେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରଜାପତି ବ୍ରହ୍ମା ମୋତେ ଅର୍ପଣ କଲେ ସଂସାର ଉଦାସୀ ତପସ୍ୱୀ ଗୌତମଙ୍କୁ !

ଦୁଃଖ ଦୈନ୍ୟ ସହ ମୋର ଆବାଲ୍ୟରୁ ତ ପରିଚୟ ନ ଥିଲା, ଅଭାବ ବୋଧ କ'ଣ ତା' ମଧ୍ୟ ମୁଁ ଜାଣି ନ ଥିଲି । ବିବାହ ପରେ ପ୍ରଥମ କରି ଗୌତମ ଆଶ୍ରମରେ ଅତୁପ୍ତି ଓ ଅଭାବବୋଧର ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା କ୍ରମଣ ମୋର ଚିନ୍ତାଶକ୍ତିକୁ ପ୍ରବଳ ବେଗରେ ଆଲୋଡ଼ିତ କରିବାରେ ଲାଗିଲା । ମୁଁ ତ ବନବାସିଣୀ ତପସ୍ୱିନୀ ନ ଥିଲି, ମୁଁ ଥିଲି ରକ୍ତମାଂସର ଜଣେ ସାଧାରଣ ନାରୀ । ଭୋଗ, ବିଳାସ, କାମନା ବାସନାର ବଶୀଭୂତ ହେବା ମୋ ପକ୍ଷେ ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ । ଦିନ ଦିନ, ମାସ ମାସ, ବର୍ଷ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ମୁଁ ଏ ଦେହକୁ ଫୁଲତାଲା ଭଳି ସଜାଇ ରଖିଲି । ପ୍ରବୃତ୍ତିର କ୍ୱାଳାରେ ଅସ୍ଥିର ହୋଇଛି । କାମନାର ଯାତନାରେ ମ୍ରିୟମାଣ ହୋଇଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଚିର ଉଦାସୀ ଗୌତମ ପାଷାଣ । ପାଷାଣଠୁ ବଳି ଆହୁରି କଠିନ । ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ମୋ ଭଳି ଅନନ୍ତ ଯୌବନୀ ରୁପୋତ୍ତମାକୁ ଦେଖି ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମା ତାଙ୍କର ସମ୍ମୋଗର ବାସନା ଜାଣେ ନାହିଁ ? ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ! ରକ୍ତ ମଧ୍ୟ ଉତ୍ତାଳ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ, ବରଂ ସ୍ଥିର ଚିତ୍ତରେ, ଶାନ୍ତଚିତ୍ତରେ ସେ ମୋତେ ଦ୍ୟାଗର ଦାକ୍ଷାରେ, ନିଚୂର୍ଣ୍ଣର ମାର୍ଗରେ ପ୍ରଧାବିତା ହେବାପାଇଁ ପ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତାନ୍ତି । ମୁଁ ପାରେ ନାହିଁ । ମୋର ନୟନର ଅଶ୍ରୁକଳରେ ଆଶ୍ରମ ସମୀପସ୍ଥ ନଦୀବନ୍ଧ ଲୁଣି ଲୁହର ଚେଉଟରେ ଉଚ୍ଛଳିତ ହୁଏ । ବିଚିକ୍ର ବନଭୂମି ମୋର ଦୀର୍ଘଶ୍ୱାସରେ ଭାରାକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହୁଏ । ମୋର ମଧୁର ସ୍ୱପନର ମୋହ ଭଙ୍ଗ ହୁଏ । ଅହଲ୍ୟାର ଦେହ ଅବରୁଦ୍ଧ ବାସନାରେ ରୁଦ୍ଧଶ୍ୱାସ ହୋଇ ମୁକ୍ତିର ଦିନ ଗଣ୍ଠାଥିଲା ବେଳେ ତା'ର ମନ ସହସ୍ର ମାଳୀ ଜ୍ୟୋତିଷ୍ମାନ୍ ଦିନେଶ ଓ ପରମ ଭାଗ୍ୟବନ୍ତ, ଐଶ୍ୱର୍ଯ୍ୟଶାଳୀ ଦେବେଶଙ୍କୁ ଝୁରି ହେଉଥାଏ ।

ସେଦିନ ରତ୍ନ ବସନ୍ତର ଶେଷ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ବହିକାବର୍ଜିତ ।

ଫୁଲରେ ସୁଗନ୍ଧ, ପକ୍ଷୀ ଚଣ୍ଡରେ ମଧୁର କାକଳି, ଆକାଶରେ ଅସୁମାର ନକ୍ଷତ୍ର, ନଦୀରେ ଭଲ୍ଲୀସ । ମୁଁ ଆଶ୍ରମରେ ଏକାକିନୀ ଥାଏ । ମୋ ସ୍ୱାମୀ ମୁନି ଗୌତମ କୌଣସି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଆଶ୍ରମର ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଇଥାନ୍ତି । ମନ ମୋର ଉଦାସ, ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ମୋର ଦିଗନ୍ତରେ ହଳି ଯାଇଥାଏ । ଦେହ ମୋର ତନ୍ଦ୍ରାକସ । ତଥାପି ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ମୋର ମନେ ହେଉଥାଏ କେହି ଜଣେ ଆସିବେ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ । ଆସିବେ ବୋଲି ହୁଏତ ପକ୍ଷୀ ଚଣ୍ଡରେ ଏତେ କାକଳି, ଫୁଲରେ ଏତେ ମଧୁରତା, ମନରେ ଏତେ ଅଧୀରତା !

ମୁଁ ଆଶ୍ରମ ସମ୍ମୁଖସ୍ଥେ ପୁଷ୍ପବାଚିକାରେ ଅନ୍ୟମନସ୍କଭାବେ ବିଚରଣ କରୁଥାଏ । ଏଇ ସମୟରେ ଆଶ୍ରମରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ ମୁନି ବେଶରେ ମୋର କାମ୍ୟ ପୁରୁଷ, ବହୁ ବାଞ୍ଛିତ ଅତିଥି ଦେବେଶ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର । ସେ ବିନା ଭୂମିକାରେ ମୋର ସଙ୍ଗ କାମନା କରି ମୋର ସମ୍ମୁଖି ଜିଜ୍ଞାସ କଲେ । ମୁଁ ସଜ୍ଞାନରେ ସମ୍ମୁଖି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥିଲି - " ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରର ସଙ୍ଗ ତୁାଡ଼େ କିଏ ? ମୁଁ ତ ସୀତା, ସାବିତ୍ରୀ ବା ପାର୍ବତୀ ନୁହେଁ ।" ରଚି ବିକାସ ପରେ ଆମେ ଉଭୟେ ପରିତୁଷ୍ଟ ହେଲୁ । ତାପରେ ବିରାବଚିତ ଭୟ ମୋର ସମଗ୍ର ସରାକୁ ଗ୍ରାସ କରିଗଲା । ଦେବରାଜଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରି - "ହେ ଦେବେଶ ! ଏଥର ତୁମେ ନିଜକୁ ଓ ମୋତେ ମୋର ସ୍ୱାମୀ ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ରକ୍ଷାକର ।"

ମୋ ସ୍ୱାମୀଙ୍କ ଆଶ୍ରମରେ ମୋ ସଂସାରରେ ଦେବେଶ ହିଁ ହେଲେ ମୋର ଅଭିଳଷିତ ପ୍ରଣୟୀ ପୁରୁଷ, ଗୌତମ ହେଲେ ଇତର, ସାତପର । ତଥାପି ମୋର ଏ ଅକ୍ଷମଣୀୟ ଅପରାଧ ପ୍ରତି ମୁଁ ନିଜେ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ସଚେତନ ଥିଲି ଏବଂ ପ୍ରବଶ୍ଚ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରର ଅପେକ୍ଷାରେ ରହିଲି ।

ମୁଁ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗର ପାରିକାତ ବାହିଁ ନ ଥିଲି, ଭୋଗ ବିଳାସ ବାହିଁ ନ ଥିଲି । ସାଧାରଣ ରକ୍ତ ମାଂସର ଚିରନ୍ତନୀ ନାରୀଟିଏ ମୁଁ, ବାହିଁ ଥିଲି କାଣିବାଏ ପ୍ରେମ । କେହି ନ୍ୟାୟ ନିରପେକ୍ଷ, ବିଚାର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସ୍ଥିର ମସ୍ତିଷ୍କ, ଶାନ୍ତ ଚିତ୍ତରେ କହୁ, ମୋର କ'ଣ ଏହି ବାହିଁବାଟା ଅନ୍ୟାୟ ?

ତେବେ ମୁନି ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ଏ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସା ନିରର୍ଥକ । ତାଙ୍କ ଆଶ୍ରମ ଭିତରେ ତାଙ୍କର ପତ୍ନୀକୁ ପରପୁରୁଷର ବାହୁବନ୍ଧନରେ ଥିବା ଦେଖି ସେ ହିତାହିତ ଜ୍ଞାନ ହରାଇ ବସିଲେ । ସେଦିନ ପୁଣି ମୁଁ ନିଜକୁ ଅପରୂପ ବେଶରେ ସଜାଇଥିଲି ରାଜେନ୍ଦ୍ରାଣୀ ସଦୃଶ । ବଳକଳ ପରିହିତା ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାସିନୀ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତେ ଗୌତମ ଦେଖିଲେ ଏକ ବିକାସିନୀ ନାରୀକୁ, ସେ ଚମକି ଉଠିଲେ । ମୁଁ ଓ ଦେବରାଜ

ଅଭିଶାପ ପାଇଁ ମଥାପାତି ଅଧୋବଦନରେ ଠିଆହୋଇ ରହିଲୁ । ସାରା ଦେହ, ସକଳ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରିୟ ମୋର ଅସ୍ଥିର ଆବେଗରେ ଉନ୍ମୁଖ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।

ଗୌତମ ଜୀବନରେ ପ୍ରଥମଥର ପାଇଁ ମୋତେ ଅନେକ ସମୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିରୀକ୍ଷଣ କଲେ । ମୁଁ ମୋର ସୁଦୀର୍ଘ କେଶର ଅରଣ୍ୟରେ ଖଞ୍ଜିଥାଏ ନୀଳୋତ୍ପଳ ଦଳ, କଣ୍ଠରେ କନକ ଚମ୍ପକ ସ୍ତବକ, ବକ୍ଷଦେଶରେ ଲମ୍ବାଇଥାଏ ଶୁଭ୍ର ଶତଦଳମାଳ, ବାହୁରେ, ମଣିବନ୍ଧରେ ଶ୍ୱେତ କଞ୍ଚନର କେୟୂର, କଙ୍କଣ, କ୍ଷୀଣ କଟୀକୁ ରେଷ୍ଟନ କରୁଥାଏ ସୁରଶ୍ୱ କେତକୀର ମେଖଳା, ଲାଷାରଞ୍ଜିତ ପଦରେ ଖଞ୍ଜିଥାଏ ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଶିରୀଷ ମଞ୍ଜରୀର ମଞ୍ଜିର ଏବଂ ହସ୍ତରେ ସେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିଃଶଙ୍କରେ ଧାରଣ କରିଥାଏ ଦେବରାଜ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ ଲୋହିତ ପାରିଜାତ ପୁଷ୍ପ ।

ଏଇମିତି କେତେବାର ମୁଁ ନିଜକୁ ସଜାଇଛି । ପ୍ରିୟ ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ପ୍ରଣୟ ନିବେଦନକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରି କେତେଥର କେତେ ବର୍ଷମୁଖର ଶ୍ରୀବଣ ରାତ୍ରୀ, କେତେ ଶାରଦୀୟ ରଜନୀ ପାହି ଭୋର୍ ହୋଇ ଯାଇଛି । ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ରକ୍ତରେ କେତେ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇନାହିଁ ପ୍ରଳୟ ଝଡ଼, କେତେ କାମନାର ଦୁର୍ଗାର ତେଉ ତାଙ୍କ ହୃଦୟରେ ଉତ୍ଥାଳ ହୋଇନାହିଁ । ମୋ ଚକ୍ଷୁର ଦୀର୍ଘ ପଲ୍ଲବ ଅଶ୍ରୁସଜଳ ହୋଇ ଉଠିଛି ଏଇ ଶୀତଳ ଔଦାସୀନ୍ୟ, ଏଇ ନୀରବ ଉପେକ୍ଷାରେ ।

ଗୌତମ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଆଗନ୍ତୁକ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କୁ କହିଲେ — "ହେ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର ! ଏ ପାପ ଲାଳସାର ପରିଣତି କ'ଣ ? ଏ ବ୍ୟଭିଚାରର କୌଣସି କ୍ଷମା ଅଛି କି ? ତୁମେ ବୃଷଣହୀନ ହୁଅ ।"

ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଭିତରେ ମୋର ସହସ୍ର ବୃଷ୍ଟିକର ଦଂଶନ । ମୁଁ ସ୍ତମ୍ଭୀଭୂତ । ଏହି ଚିର ସୁନ୍ଦର, ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ପୌରୁଷସମନ୍ୱ ମୋର କାମ୍ୟ ପୁରୁଷଙ୍କୁ ଏ କି ହୀନ ଲାଜ୍ଜନୀ ? ମୁଁ କିଛି ଗୌତମଙ୍କୁ କହିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଦେବରାଜଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଦେବଗଣ ଆଗେଇ ଆସିଲେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ମୋତେ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସେଦିନ କେହି ନ ଥିଲେ । ନାରୀ ଚିରଦିନ ନିରାଶ୍ରୟ । ଗୌତମଙ୍କ କୋପରୁ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଦେବତା ମାନେ ମୋ ସ୍ୱାମୀଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଥିଲେ — "ହେ ଶୁକ୍ଳାଚାରୀ ! ଦୃଢ଼ହୃଦ ମୁନି ! ଦେବରାଜ ଯଦି ମୁସ୍ତହୀନ ହୁଅନ୍ତି, ତାହେଲେ ସମଗ୍ର ଦେବସଭାତା, ଦେବ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କ'ଣ ?"

ଶେଷରେ ଅଗତ୍ୟା ମୁନି ଗୌତମ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ ଦେହରେ ମେଷ ବୃଷଣ ଯୁକ୍ତ ହେବାର ଅଭୟ ବର ଦାନ କରିଥିଲେ ଓ ସେହିଦିନୁ ଦେବଗଣ ଓ ପିତୃଗଣଙ୍କୁ ବୃଷଣହୀନ ମେଷ ପ୍ରଦାନର ବିଧି ପ୍ରଚଳିତ ହେଲା । ତା ପରେ ମୋ ଉପରେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ପୁନର୍ଗାର ସ୍ୱାମୀଙ୍କର ସ୍ଥିର ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ନିଷିପ୍ତ ହେଲା, ସେ ଶୀତଳ ଅବଜ୍ଞା ସତେକି ରାଶି ରାଶି ଦୁଷ୍ଟାର କଣାରେ ମୋର ସମସ୍ତ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରିୟକୁ କଠିନ, ନିର୍ବେଦ କରିଦେଲା । ମୁକ୍ତ କଣ୍ଠରେ ମୋତେ ମୁନି ଗୌତମ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଲେ —

'ବାୟୁଭକ୍ଷା, ନିରାହାରା, ତପ୍ୟନ୍ତି ଭସ୍ମଶାୟିନୀ'

ଆଉ ଅଧିକ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନ ଥିଲା । ଏତିକି ଶୁଣିବା ମାତ୍ରେ ମୋ ମୁଣ୍ଡରୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଅପରାଧର ଭାର ଓହ୍ଲେଇଗଲା । ମୋତେ ତପସ୍ୱିନୀ କରିବା ହିଁ ଥିଲା ଗୌତମଙ୍କର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ । ମୋର ଏ ଚରମ ଅପରାଧରେ ତାଙ୍କର ଏତେ ଦିନର ସାଧନା ପରମସିଦ୍ଧି ଲାଭ କରିଛି । ତାପସୀ ହେବା ହିଁ ଥିଲା ମୋ ପକ୍ଷେ ସବୁଠାରୁ କଠିନ, ଅଥଚ ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ଅଭିଶାପ ମୋତେ ତାପସୀ ହିଁ କଲା ।

ଶେଷରେ କିନ୍ତୁ ସହସ୍ର ବର୍ଷ ଧରି କଠୋର ତପସ୍ୟାରେ ହିଁ ହୋଇଛି ମୋର ପାପର ସମାପ୍ତି, ତାହା ପୁଣି ନାଟକୀୟ ଭାବରେ । ଅଯୋଧ୍ୟାର ରାଜପୁତ୍ର ଦଶରଥ ତନୟ ନବଦୁର୍ଗାଦଳ ଶ୍ୟାମ, ନୟନାଭିରାମ ପ୍ରଭୁ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କର ଆଗମନରେ । ଭଗବାନ ଶ୍ରୀରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ସତ୍ୟ ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ । ମୁଁ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର ସଂଗମରେ ସତ୍ୟ ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟା, କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟତ୍ୟାଗୀ ହୋଇଥିଲି । ସହସ୍ର ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ସକଳ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରିୟ ବାସନାକୁ ନିରୁଦ୍ଧ କରି, ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରବୃତ୍ତିକୁ ଉଚ୍ଛେଦ କରି ଅଭିରତ ତପଶୃଙ୍ଖ୍ୟା କରି ମୁଁ ସତ୍ୟ ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟକୁ ଚିହ୍ନି ପାରିଥିଲି ବୋଲି ନିଜେ ସତ୍ୟରୂପୀ ଭଗବାନ ଶ୍ରୀରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର କ୍ଷତ୍ରିୟ ସନ୍ତାନ ଭାବରେ ମୋର ପଦବନ୍ଧନା କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ମୁଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ସତ୍ୟକୁ ଚିହ୍ନି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟକୁ ଉପଲବ୍ଧି କରି ସତ୍ୟ ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟର ସମାହାର, ସତ୍ୟ-ଶିବ-ସୁନ୍ଦରର ପ୍ରତୀକ, ସତ୍-ଚିତ୍-ଆନନ୍ଦର ସ୍ୱରୂପ ସେହି ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ ପଦବନ୍ଧନା କରି ସ୍ୱାମୀ ସେବା ହିଁ ମୋର ଧ୍ୟୟ ବସ୍ତୁ ହେଉ ବୋଲି ପଚିତ୍ର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଜ୍ଞାନରେ ସେହି ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ନିକଟକୁ ଫେରି ଯାଇଥିଲି ।

ଯେଉଁଦିନ ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ନିକଟରୁ ଚାଲି ଆସିଥିଲି ସେଦିନ ମୋ ମସ୍ତକରେ ଥିଲା ଲଜ୍ଜା ଓ ଅପରାଧର ମସ୍ତକତ ଗୋଟି, ପୁଣି ଯେଉଁଦିନ ଗୌତମଙ୍କ ନିକଟକୁ ଫେରିଗଲି ସେଦିନ ମୋ ମସ୍ତକରେ ଥିଲା ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ଗୌରବର ଅକଳଙ୍କ ମୁକୁଟ ।

(ମୂଳ ରାମାୟଣର ବାଳକାଣ୍ଡ ଅବଲମ୍ବନରେ)

THE DOCTOR

SIDHARTHA DAS

The oldest of professions
The noblest of livings
The toughest of competitions
The longest of studying

The chapters are diseases
The course, thus never-ending
Majority are unseen -dysplastic, ischemic,
metabolic or infective Symptoms may hint,
where they hide

While all look for miracles
Thou break thy head -colleagues smile
Books profess tests -expensive but not bright
Where nearly half live below poverty -line

Yet thy trade is costliest -its human life
Poseur ought to be wise -stance of a genius
Mostly remedy is "enchanted shirt"
Remember -oath is to be a hippocrate

He survived because you were called
Died, as nature was unkind.

MEMORY

CHANDRA MISRA

Sifting through the ashes of our relationship
I find many things to be grateful for.

I can say "thank you" for being there
and willing to share;

I can say "thank you" for the countless
poems
you inspire.

Through you I re-examined my need (uh,
desire)
For one significant other to share my
life-space.

I love solitude and see the changes of color
in my dreams.

I've grown;
I feel whole and touch my joy within me.

But how, in these words and alien sounds,
Can I ever say it all?

Through all the tears and the sadness
Comes one thought that can make me
smile again; I have loved.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR NUMBER COMES UP FOR AN IRS AUDIT

SATYA B. SHAW

What are the odds of being audited by the IRS? This year the IRS expects to audit roughly 1.5 million taxpayers - up from 1.1 million last year. And if your income exceeds \$50,000, the chances are three in one hundred that you will be picked. What if you're one of the unlucky ones who gets a notice in the mail from the IRS?

Step 1: Don't panic. There's a good chance that the IRS is routinely checking one or two items on your return. Assuming you have the records and receipts to back up your claims, your case can be easily resolved.

Step 2: Determine what type of audit the IRS is conducting. This can have a bearing on your course of action. Basically, there are three types of audits.

Correspondence audit: This is the simplest type of audit. It usually concerns substantiation of one or two items. For instance, the IRS may ask you to provide records of your non-cash charitable contributions for the preceding year. You can handle the entire matter through the mail. However, even this simplest type of audit should be treated with respect. Make sure you comply within the time limits imposed by the IRS. You are sure to come out a tax loser if you don't meet the deadlines.

Office audit: In this type of audit, your presence is requested in a face-to-face meeting at the local IRS office. Obviously, this is a more serious situation than a correspondence audit. The notice generally will include a checklist of area that will be examined; e.g., your travel and entertainment deductions, charitable deductions, or home-office deductions. Nevertheless, your entire return is subject to an audit.

Suggestion: Bring only what's necessary - information on those items checked off - to the meeting. However, be prepared to answer questions about other parts of your return; you can retrieve additional records later if it's necessary.

Field audit: This type of audit is generally reserved for complex business returns. The IRS agent will come to your office - to examine your records.

In this case, you may not know beforehand which items will be questioned.

Step 3: Now that you know what to expect from the audit, consider whether you need a professional advisor (e.g., an accountant or attorney). Rule of thumb: The more complicated the audit, the more you need professional assistance. Perhaps the only type of audit you should handle yourself is a correspondence audit.

Step 4: Preparation is the key, no matter what type of audit you're involved in. Round up every receipt, check, or other document that can back up your position. The burden of proof is on you, not the IRS.

Step 5: If you don't come out a winner, you can appeal the case. Eventually, you could wind up in the Tax Court. But beware: Even if you are convinced you are right, going to court can be time-consuming and costly.

Weighing the Odds: About one out of six make it through an audit without paying anything extra. Infact, last year over 50,000 taxpayers were entitled to refunds. Of course, the other five out of six had to cough up more cash.

FROM THE HEART

PRADIP K. SWAIN

It happens sometimes - something that could just break your heart. Perhaps it is to be expected in the Emergency Room. However, one never really gets accustomed to it. If we did, we might become less caring.

It happens sometimes... I was a junior resident in a New York hospital 12 years ago working in the busiest emergency room in the city. It was 12 midnight. The upper echelon began to peel away, heading home to get enough rest to do battle with another battalion of patients the next day. The pace in the Emergency Room has been so hectic that I felt I had to swim as hard as possible just to keep from drowning in human misery.

All of a sudden the blades of the Life Flight helicopter clattered loudly as it touched down on the ground of the hospital parking lot. It's precious cargo was a two year old boy, a victim of an auto accident. He was comatose - his anatomy all screwed up.

Entering the Emergency Room he stopped breathing - "Let's put a tube down the throat - and hook him on the mechanical respirator" I screamed while we were crowded around this miniature failing machine. "Beep, beep, beep," the heart monitor kicked in. The orders were barked, "What's his pressure?" "Place the respirator rate at 25." "Run these blood gases to the Lab." Hey Doc, he's not beating. "Push I.V. adrenaline." Finally "OK, we've got a weak beat." Adrenaline conquers the weariness and the rush begins, once again.

We all know our jobs. Time stretches on without this little patient aware of our attention. The drained soul lies quiet on the hospital bed equipped with hundreds of tubes and gadgets. Spirits are artificially bolstered. Down deep we all know it's an exercise. The kid's gonna die!

It is 3:00 AM and both of us were stuck together in a terrible mess, just 3 hours after we had met. Fifteen minutes later things change - irregularities in the heart rhythm. Intensity builds, labs drawn, we are in control, the chief arrives, the baby dies. The chief said "Don't feel bad Pradip. No body could have saved him."

And then I am all alone looking at a dead, but peaceful child. The nurse helps me remove all the tubes, clean off the body and place fresh linens. I sat on his bed, held his hand, looked directly into his eyes, and gave him my undivided attention. I talked to him. "Good bye little one, I am sorry it had to be this way. Being so small, you sure put up a good fight. It seems unfair that you have to leave us, not the victim of opposing circumstances, but of the flesh. It's an uncertain world we reflect, and while you didn't triumph over your illness, your spirit did not go unheralded."

Although, he was unable to communicate, I was always convinced he knew I was there. Perhaps because of the powerful bond linking me and him at some level - he could sense my presence and hear my voice. I still believe this. As I entered the waiting room, I saw the mother of this baby with her hands covering her face. She was crying softly. She looked as I sat down beside her.

"My son!" she said in a tired voice. "Please - I must see my son." I hesitated, paused for a moment. Her voice broke as she brushed aside a tear with the palm of her hand. "He is my son...my child. you don't understand." "I do understand, I really do. I have a son too." "I'm sorry to tell you that your son has died." She crashed to the floor. I picked her up, as she leaned heavily on my arm. As we went into the trauma room, she looked around apprehensively and with her fingers clutching the baby's little hands. Both mother and child remained a unit, like some sickly Madonna shrouded in a veil of loneliness and isolation.

From the Heart - Continued

Days turn into years. New babies are born (We now have three - Tooshar, Devjaneer and Joyprada) and together we move up the aging ladder. Twelve years have passed, twelve rungs with the little boy reappearing maybe every other rung, trapped within a tear in the corner of my eye, may be during a sad movie or a patriotic song or during my little girl's dance recital. And I am left to wonder why I must be reminded. What's the point?

We all live with the recurring vision that reminds and teaches us. But for this doctor, the backdrop is heightened - more dramatic than most. People often say, "How can you stand it every day? It must be depressing." Wrong, sometimes it is deplorable, even heartrending, but never depressing. There is always the cogent knowledge that somehow - I may have helped someone through a difficult time. And that is uplifting.

Flower Faces

JOYA SAHU

Every rose on the little tree
Is making a different face at me!

Some look surprised when I pass by,
And others droop - but they are shy.

Mahatma Gandhi's Struggle for Freedom

ARUN RANJAN PANIGRAHI

Mahatma Gandhi was a wonderful and courageous man,
He stood up to the British while other people ran,
He was famous for non-violence and for keeping freedom strong,
While the British made us slaves and did evil and wrong.

He fought for India-his mother land,
And he sought for equal rights and for liberty to expand,
He took up a worthy occupation,
To modernize the Indian Civilization.

He fought the British with honor and peace,
And because of non-violence the British ceased,
His freedom was as strong as a charging ram,
And it flowed like a stream with a strong dam.

He was a person who had belief and courage,
And he freed India from Britishers' rage,
"An eye for an eye makes the world blind"
Non-violence was the battle of his kind.

He showed the Indians a vision they could see,
There was an opportunity for which they had the key,
1947 was a wonderful year,
Because India was a newborn country with lots of cheer.

He made India full of life,
And he never fought with a dagger and a knife,
Nathuram Godse shot him in the heart,
And it went through his body like a dart.

India fell into sorrow and grief,
And his ashes fell into the river as auspicious leaves,
He was always for peace and harmony,
Throughout his life, freedom and justice was his sign.

NIGHT'S CALAMITY

LIKUN MISHRA

In the realms of a dreary, hostile night,
An evil resides, stirring a fright.
All shudder in dreadful fear,
As some lurking sound corrupts the ears.

What could it be that threatens them so?
The malicious air holds them foe.
It sparks a weary evil in the souls,
Igniting and spreading to fulfill the night's
goals.

This morbid night appears to bring,
Faint whispers which seem to sing,
The song like that of the sirens', to swallow,
Those helplessly fated to follow.

What Satanic agents pollute the air?
Some malignity seizes as if to dare,
Those who appear to stand brave,
When inside, they scream; they are night's
belabored slaves.

This sinful night does seem to stay,
Stalking the streets in search of prey.
So no man should feel that he can resist the spell,
For there remains, that dire path to the dooms
of hell.

Temptations of the Moon

ANANYA DASH

The moon watched impatiently,
anxious in her haughtiness for the sun's
last rays to evanesce and surrender
unto night.

The Seduction
of the mind
was already at play.
All senses were being held hostage,
Perhaps not against their will.

The shape.

The form.

The innocence.

The guilt.

Uncovering the mysterious secrets of
night was she, the moon.

She laughingly peeled away the
Inhibitions of the Night.

None possessed by night were free.

Nor would they ever be -

Till morning shone again
and light

vanquished the delicacies of night.

Leaving the moon's seduction of the night

Only a faded memory.

“Oreng”

SARTHAK DAS

Note: For the purposes of this writing all Oriya words will be phonetically spelled so all readers can understand them.

The tattered, nibbled-on, folded-a-million-times, pamphlet with cheery pictures of autumn in New England and young men and women taking walks stares at you with the seemingly harmless statement at the top, “The College Admissions Process.” How can the The College Board call that hellish voyage that begins in the spring of your junior year and doesn’t end until April of your senior year, where you go through argument after argument, paper after paper, SAT after SAT, application after application, essay after essay, the College Admissions Process? That sounds much too nice to describe what many of us will go through or have gone through or are going through now. No, I think they should call it something painful like, “Journey Down A Giant Razor Blade and Into A Bowl Of Rubbing Alcohol: The College Admissions Process.”

Nonetheless, it is during this period that many of us pore over our applications and come upon that question that asks us what language we speak at home if it is different from English. We cheerfully fill in Oriya regardless of how little or how much we speak it at home and then go on to the next question which probably says something harder like, “Describe yourself in a word and explain why.” You can’t put down, “I’m Brief,” and then not write anything else because it has been tried a dozen times before. So you get bored with thinking about it, and your mind wanders around your room, your desk, your sock, and then to the lint in your belly-button where you’re so grossed out you decide to get back to work and stop fooling around. You again look at the question, and then back to the one above it about the language(s) you speak. Of course you probably take French, Spanish, or German or something in school, but wait, maybe there is one more language you know. It’s one

almost all of us know as Oriya/Americans. It’s that precarious and ever so delicate combination of Oriya and English that our parents speak. It’s “Oreng.” There are so many examples of it that rush into your mind. Like that mysterious manner in which the W’s and V’s somehow got mixed up in our parent’s mind. For example your father might say, “Did you vant that wideo?” or “yes. Vee bought that wideo camera three years ago.” They also have that strange habit of turning all f’s into ph’s like when your mom will say, “Did vant to inwite your phrend phor dinner?” or when your dad will be haggling and he’ll say “Phorty to phifty dollars sounds good to me.” They also like to rhyme other words with words for emphasis. For example, “Peelamena aoo tee vee fee vee aoo dhek-hanee.” or “Peelamena, kana sandvich fandvich khaeba?” Now that they’ve been living here so long they too don’t always speak in the native tongue, and that’s when you’ll overhear conversations like this over the phone, “naee. Moo janeenee kon se kareeba, je I think he has made the right decision.” And you are thinking to yourself what is that? However, we must give some credit to our parents, for what they are today and how successfully they’ve adapted to America and the language. (But it doesn’t hurt to have a few laughs at the expense of their accents.) And what of that endless application that steered you on this mindless tangent? Well eventually you get it done and argue about the finer points of it with your parents over a dinner of “lamb tarkaree,” and make sure be ready to wideotape the day when you do indeed phind out you’ve been accepted.

WORK ON LIVING

SARITA MISRA

How can you say that you give?
When you keep love locked away in your heart,
And you are forever afraid to start,
Forever afraid to LIVE!

How can you say that you are strong?
When you are cold and cruel to your fellow
brothers,
And you constantly steal the very soul of others,
Refusing to admit that you're wrong!

How can you say that you are kind?
When you view amenity as a sign of weakness,
And pass all your days in sorrowful bleakness,
Life is your state of mind!

So don't be afraid to be cheery and giving!
You only live once; cast away your spontaneous
pain,
Stop pondering your losses and go gather your
gains!
Get out of your grave and begin working on
LIVING!

The Swan

VINITA MISRA

At the glistening lake in the wood
Glides a majestic creature symbolizing all
that is good.

Eyes with a hint of gold

Oh! The beauty is such a sight to behold.

White feathers intertwined with silver
Gracefully arching neck-like the innocence of
winter

Wings stretching to eternity

Then like a dream

or so it seems

The swan flaps its wings and is gone from the
vicinity,

It's aura will live in my heart forever

Diminishing never.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

I extend my greetings and wish you a very happy and prosperous 1990. We have begun the year with a renewed spirit of unity, congeniality and harmony. I am sure we will continue this spirit forever. It has indeed been a pleasure to work with an executive committee consisting of individuals who are sincere, capable and supportive. I also welcome and thank those individuals who have joined our organization as members, life members and patrons. I personally request to each of you to reach out and help in recruiting new members to make our organization strong, stable, and financially sound. We must fight negativism and apathy and develop a sense of belongingness to O.S.A.. We are also grateful to individuals who have sent their donations to O.S.A.. My sincere thanks to them.

Now it is my pleasant duty to inform you about some of the activities of the OSA.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

One of the major components of the OSA activities has been directed toward our youth. As I mentioned before in the last issue of OSA Journal, through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Bhagabat Sahu a trust fund namely Puspalakshmi Sahu Trust is being established. The interest from the fund will be used for youth activities. Since this fund has not produced any interest so far for this year, Dr. and Mrs. Sahu have consented to pay for various youth activities planned for next convention in Washington, D.C. Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Sahu for their generosity.

A Youth committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Bhagabat Sahu with Miss Anu Mishra as president, Mr. Guru Prasad (Ranjan) Choudhury as vice president, and Miss Sucheta (Meena) Mohanty as secy/treasurer. Chapter representatives will be elected in next youth convention. OSA vice president Mrs. Bijaya Mishra is serving as co-chair of the committee. The youth committee met a few times for initial planning. They have planned to hold a youth camp on 2nd July 1990,

soon after the OSA Convention. The camp activities would include discussions and demonstrations on Yoga and Pranayam, etc. Well-known speakers will address the youth. A Parent Advisory committee has been formed to look after the youth affairs, specifically the camp activities this year.

I strongly encourage our youth to participate in such activities and I solicit parents' support and cooperation. This would be very functional in maintaining our heritage and socio-cultural links between generations.

ODISSI DANCE INSTITUTE

A sub-committee was formed consisting of Mrs. Anu Biswal, chairperson of cultural committee, Mrs. Puspalakshmi Sahu, and myself to explore the possibilities of having a Summer Odissi Dance Institute. Several Odissi dance instructors were contacted. Finally, negotiations are pending with well-know Odissi dancer Oopalie Aparajita. If final terms and conditions are met, we will have the first intensive Odissi dance training program this summer in Nashville and Huntsville area. If any one is interested in organizing such an institute, please contact our cultural chair Mrs. Anu Biswal.

PAYMENT TO ARTISTS

In the last OSA Convention, the general body directed the OSA executive committee to pay the unpaid balance of the amount contracted with the artists Mr. P. Patnaik, Mrs. B. Mishra, and Mr. U. Kar, for their services in the U.S.A. and Canada in the year of 1988-89. With overwhelming majority of votes the executive committee approved the payment of \$163.00 to each of the artists. OSA Secy/Treasurer Dr. Keshab Dwivedy has already mailed the checks to these artists.

LOGO

One Logo screening committee has been formed with Dr. Kalyani Mishra as chair (Michigan) and Mr. Sudhansu Mishra (New York) and Mrs. Puspalakshmi Sahu (South) as members. Entries for competition are solicited again, since the last solicitation through the OSA journal reached some members somewhat late. The top three entries selected by the judges (committee members) will be sent out to the OSA members along with the 1983 Logo for a final selection by majority vote. All attempts are being made to complete this process before the next convention.

SUBRINA MEMORIAL FUND

It was decided by the executive committee to establish a fund in memory of Subrina Biswal for an annual scholastic award to a college-bound graduating senior. Dr. Bijoy Das from Charleston, S.C. was appointed as coordinator for fund-raising. As of today, only \$2,200.00 have been collected. This amount is no where near to our expectation. This is a noble cause. I REQUEST THE MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THIS FUND. In order to develop guidelines for the award and to make final selection of the award, a committee has been formed consisting of professor Subhendu Mahanty (Michigan) as chair, professor Kalpataru Kanongo (New York), and professor Ram Narayan Mohapatra (South) as members. Applications for the award have been solicited. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Subhendu Mohanty at 517/337-9570. The final selection of the awardee will be made before our next convention. I sincerely thank Dr. Bijoy Das for his time and efforts. I also thank Professors Subhendu Mahanty, Kalpataru Kanungo and Ram Narayana Mohapatra for their willingness to serve on the committee.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

This committee is being formed with the basic objectives of helping and guiding the students for admission in appropriate educational institutions or for training insuitable industries and businesses. If enough funds can be raised, OSA would consider developing a loan fund for needy students. The details will be announced later.

HOST FAMILY COMMITTEE

This committee would consist of members from different areas in Canada and the United States. The main objective of this committee will be to help out new incoming students and visitors. The details will be announced later.

AUDIT OF THE OSA ACCOUNTS

An Audit Committee consisting of Dr. Pramod Mohanty (chair), Dr. Purusottam Jena (member), and Dr. Bijan Rao (member) has been established to audit the OSA accounts periodically.

OSA CONVENTION

Our 21st annual convention will be held in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area from June 29 through July 1, 1990. The dedicated members of Washington chapter are working very hard to make it a very enjoyable event. This is an occasion when we meet our friends and relatives, exchange our news, views and ideas, reminisce our past together, socialize and participate in activities unique to our culture and community. Specifically, this is a great opportunity for our youngsters to meet and interact with their peers and to get exposed to our cultural activities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the OSA, I extend my cordial invitation to you to attend this great convention. I look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. My very best wishes and thanks to you all. God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Amiya K. Mohanty

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What is Next?
JOGESWAR RATH

Many of you probably do not know me, but I played a significant role in starting the Orissa Society of Americas.

In 1968, I was doing Pediatric Residency at Boston's Children Hospital. I was going to all of the cultural activities of India Association of Greater Boston held on the campus of M.I.T.. I could not find any other Oriyas. Finally one evening, after several months of searching in the Boston area, I was going through the telephone directory and found one Mr. Ashok Das who told me that he was from Bengal. He told me of another Oriya person. I found Dr. Gouri Das. Later an Oriya woman came to Boston, Smt Laxi Sarawathi Rao, (granddaughter of the famous Madhu Sundan Rao of Orissa).

The three of us got together often. We continued to find more Oriyas and formed the Orissa Society of New England, and later formed the Orissa Society of Americas with Gouri Das becoming the first president.

Today, the Orissa Society of Americas is twenty-one years old and thriving. It was a dream come true for me.

What is next? Almost all of us have settled down enough to remain and retire in this country. We have selected this great country as our home.

Now we need more than a Society and Patrikas, or Newsletters. We need a Cultural Center of Orissa. Preferrably located on the east coast, where most of the Oriya families are located.

A cultural center with several possible facilities would be a second home for all Oriyas. We could build dormitories, and meeting halls, meditation center, perhaps a Lord Jagannath Temple like the one in New Delhi.

We would use this center not only for the annual get-together in the summer, but for other events such as:

- 1) Youth summer camps
- 2) Reunions
- 3) Family get-togethers
- 4) Place for Oriya students to stay when they need
- 5) Weddings, social gatherings, and pujas, etc.

It will be a place for which every Oriya will be proud of.

It will need everyone's support, effort, and co-operation. Especially chapters near which it will be located.

If we start to find a suitable site, all of us can contribute. Oriya families could donate for building rooms, suites, cottages (depending on the areas), or dorms in the memory of their loved ones, of their family names, hometown, or any other name they wish.

Once we are successful with this center, we can plan to build regional centers and even centers in New Delhi for Oriyas from abroad.

This one investment we will all be proud of for generations to come. Let us join together for this great cause. I propose to the Washington, D.C. Chapter on the forthcoming annual convention that the theme should be "Let's Build A Cultural Center of Orissa."

Please write or call me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Jogeswar Rath, M.D.
503 - 5th Avenue
Safford, AZ 88546
Tel. (602) 428-5418

OSA YOUTH FORUM MINUTES

Date: November 24, 1989

*Location: 110 Forest Hill Drive
Richmond, Kentucky 40475*

Members Present: Ranjan Choudhury, Sucheta Mohanty, Rasmi Choudhury, Ranjan Mohanty, Anoo Misra conferred with by telephone. Mr. Bhagabat Sahu was our facilitator.

1. The past minutes were read and passed.
2. Moving the youth convention from Labor Day Weekend to July 2nd was discussed. It was decided that it would take place at this time for reasons of convenience, higher attendance, and lower costs. It's location will depend on the resources available. Some possibilities are campsites, local schools or churches, or at the same location at the OSA convention. Suggested activities were a general body meeting, a religious speaker, a speaker on drugs or sex education, a speaker on Oriya Culture, recreational sports, a dance and a campfire.
3. A youth membership drive was the next topic. A letter was to be drafted by Meena to all chapter presidents to suggest a local youth delegate. This would be followed up by a call from Ranjan C. Two names with addresses and phone numbers would be requested. The youth delegates would be responsible to help recruit members for the youth organization and to help organize the local youth.
4. An account was to be opened in which to place membership dues and donations. There was a question as to whom the checks should be made out to. It was decided that it should be to OSA Youth Forum.
5. A short newsletter is to be published by the end of January. It will contain a summary of the minutes, a letter from the officers, the goals and objectives of the OSAYF, eligible members, and future plans.
6. A Youth Trust Fund has been established by Dr. and Mrs. Bhagabat Sahu in the amount of \$5,000. The interest generated will go to winners of the essay and speech contests at the OSA annual convention.
7. Treasurer's report: As of Nov. 24, 1989, there is \$184 in the OSAYF account.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sucheta Mohanty
Secretary, OSAYF

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Sangeeta Kar, better known in Orissa as **Sushree Sangeeta Mahapatra**, has just returned from India, after a very productive trip.

She recorded a number of songs for Indian TV, All India Radio, several recording companies and also sang in various concerts at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri. She also received the prestigious award "Geet Parijat," at Puri which, in the past, was awarded to Anup Jalota and Anuradha. Sangeeta was also felicitated by the Cine Critics Association in a concert in which she performed along with Pranab Patnaik. Sangeeta lives in Midland, Michigan, where she has a school of Indian Dance and Music.

Miss Sucheta (Meena) Mohanty from Richmond, KY, has been elected as president of International Society of the University of Cincinnati. She is an honors student and is on deans list. She is a recipient of Voorheis scholarship and received a certificate of honor from the College of Arts and

Sciences. She is serving as a member of student advisor committee to the University of Cincinnati budget, and also is a member of program advisory council and Minority Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association.

Dr. Amiya K. Mohanty, Professor of Sociology at Eastern Kentucky University has been elected as chairman of the Sociology section, Kentucky Academy of Science.

Miss Bindu Mohanty, from Rourkela, has joined the Department of English at the University of Kentucky, as a graduate student.

Mr. S. Nanda has joined the University of Louisville, KY, as a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science.

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CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH - CENTRAL

S.K. Dash

Oriyas in Minneapolis - St. Paul held a grand get together on the Thanksgiving evening to bid farewell to Mr. Pippala Rao, who moved to University of West Virginia to pursue doctoral work in pharmacy.

Dr. S.K. Dash has adopted a village in Orissa where he plans to build a temple and a dispensary.

Dr. Surendra Mohapatra has joined Regis College, Denver as an associate professor of Chemistry.

Mr. Brajendra Nath Panda of South Dakota has joined the doctoral program in Computer Science at North Dakota State University, Fargo.

Mr. Sunil Mohanty has joined the Metropolitan Life as a financial specialist. He plans to provide professional advice on financial planning to the Indian community in Minneapolis.

SOUTHERN

Puspalaxmi Sahu

Binayak and Sipra Panda have moved to Huntsville, Alabama from Chicago, Illinois. Binayak Babu has joined the NASA establishment.

Saraswati Puja was celebrated in the residence of the Chapter president at Athens, Alabama. Nearly one hundred Oriyas from nearby cities gathered for the occasion.

The following decisions were taken at this informal get together presided by Promod Pattanaik:

1. The annual meeting of the Chapter would be held on the Labor Day weekend.

2. In addition to the regular annual dues, a one time life membership for \$100.00 was offered to the members. The objective was to raise \$5,000 for the Chapter activities.

3. Dr. Panchanan Satpathy presented the audited accounts (audited by Kula Mishra, Bhagbat Sahu, and Satya Hota) of the 1989 Nashville Convention. Panchanan Babu did a neat job in handling the public money. Dr. Radhakanta Mishra, the past

chair of the Convention Steering Committee, extended special thanks to Panchanan Babu for a job well done. The President of the OSA was requested to explore the possibility of incorporating this accounting format in the by-laws for future OSA annual conventions. GOSSIP NOTE: Panchanan Babu is reported to be seriously considering a switch to an accounting career by 1991, eventually eyeing on a future position of Comptroller and Auditor General of the OSA.

4. The Chapter president emphasized the need to hold Oriya classes in individual cities at least once a week. The following persons were assigned the job:

Geeta Mishra - Nashville

Sipra Panda - Huntsville

Lalit Patnaik - Birmingham

Mr. S.B. Shaw of Memphis, Tennessee had a dinner held at his residence for about 250 guests in honor of the famous playback singer, Vani Jairam, who recently performed in the city. Satyabrata is also organizing Sunjukta Panigrahi's dance program in Memphis on May 11, 1990. He extends a cordial invitation to the members of the Southern Chapter to be available on the occasion to felicitate Sanjukta and Raghunath Panigrahi.

Basanti and Satya Shaw announce the arrival of two brothers of Basanti at Memphis. They are Surya and Satya. Both have joined the graduate engineering program at the Memphis State University.

NEW YORK

Saradindu Misra

Thanksgiving was celebrated on November 25 in the home of Prava and Dibakar Panigrahi in Belle Mead, New Jersey. A number of Oriya families from around the metropolitan area were invited by the Panigrahis. Besides the snack and the grand dinner, the highlight of the evening was

the rendering of melodious Oriya as well as Hindi Ghazals by Jasbinder Singh, the man with a golden voice from Bhubaneswar. Prava Panigrahi, and visitor from Rourkela, Susama Misra, also enchanted the guests with their beautiful voice. The entertainment program continued until midnight. Guests could not have a better Thanksgiving!

New Year's Eve was a big celebration in the residence of Nirupama and Kashinath Sahoo in Reading, Pennsylvania. Despite bad weather and poor visibility, a record number of people turned up to bid good buy to 1989 and welcome 1990. The gracious hostess as she has always been, Niru took care of the guests from early evening to dawn. Food was in plentiful. Guests had so much hors d'oeuvres that they had no stomach for the sumptuous dinner until the wee hours of the morning. Youngsters had a grand time together, along side of the giant TV screen, watching the celebrations in the Times Square. A champagne toast followed at the descending of the ball from the tower in the Times Square at midnight. Quite a beginning for 1990.

Another get-together followed in Moorestown, New Jersey, in the residence of Sudha and Ram Patnaik on January 27. The occasion was a shower party for Chandra Misra. She and her husband, Sudhansu Misra are expecting their third child in April. About 60 people came to greet and congratulate the couple. Sudha and Ram Babu spared no bones in turning the evening into a gala event with sumptuous food and entertainment.

Saraswati Puja was celebrated in the residence of Shanti and Uma Mishra in Newburg, New York on February 3. Pooja was conducted jointly by Uma Mishra and Dibakar Panigrahi with Pitambar Sarangi assisting. A number of people came along with their children to worship the Goddess of Learning. After the pooja and distribution of prasada, the guests were treated by Shanti and Uma Babu to a sumptuous vegetarian lunch.

NEW ENGLAND

Nityananda Mishra

Our New England Chapter members celebrated Ganesh Puja on September 9th and Saraswati Puja

on January 27th (Scheduled). The annual picnic was held on August 12th.

New Arrivals:

1. Mahendra and Sumita Mullick have been blessed with a son. This is their second son. His name is Aditya.

2. Mahesh and Nibedita Pati were blessed with their second son recently. Manish is his name.

People on the Move:

1. Anup Pujari and Jugal Mahapatra, two young IAS officers from Orissa have joined the Boston University under a Ford Foundation Fellowship program. They are pursuing their doctoral research in Economics. 2. Sukumar Patnaik has relocated to Southern California with a promotion in his company.

3. Surendra Patnaik has relocated to California within his company on job transfer.

4. Brahmananda Panda has relocated to Phoenix, Arizona on a job transfer. 5. Aditya Dash, son of Somanath and Nirmala Dash, spent two weeks in Leningrad in November. He and few other 11th graders attended school in the Soviet Union under an exchange program called Project Harmony. Aditya also hosted an 11th grade student from Leningrad recently.

6. Nivedita Misra (daughter of Bijaya and Subarna Misra) has been accepted to Harvard University. She will join Harvard this fall.

NEW JERSEY

Sulekha Das

Obituary:

Dr. Jeetendra Mohanty lost his mother and Mr. Mahendra Mishra lost his father during the past year. Our sincere condolences to the bereaved families.

Parents Visit:

Sri Bhagaban Muduli, father of Dr. Hazari Muduli, Sri Bhagirathi Das, father of Dr. Santosh Das, Dr. B.D. Prusti and Shrimati Satybhama Prusti, father-in-law and Aunt-in-law of Dr. Dilliswar Sahoo, parents of Dr. Arati Choudhury visited U.S.A. during 1989. Dr. Mohon Rao is currently enjoying his mother's visit in New Jersey.

Family On Move:

Meeta and Nihar Kanungo moved to Texas. Good luck! and we will miss you.

Awards and Honors:

1. Sarthak Das, son of Santosh and Sulekha Das received Youth for

Understanding Scholarship and visited Spain for 8 weeks during the past summer.

2. Ananya Das, daughter of Dr. Sarat Dash and Sumitra Dash received 1st place for sitar recital and their son Alok stood 2nd and Anand stood 3rd for Tabla recital - this contest was sponsored by Academy of India Music and Fine Arts and University of Maryland, Baltimore Dept. of Ethno music. Ananya's creative writing project was among top ten in a New Jersey Teen Festival Competition.

3. Sarba Das, daughter of Santosh and Sulekha Das, received outstanding

Sujata, daughter of Ballari and Natabar Khuntia, will be graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in Material Science.

Saroj, son of Kalyani and Sudarsan Misra, has been accepted as a freshman in the Honors Program at the University of Michigan. He is also a National Merit finalist. Recently, Saroj received outstanding citizenship award for his community services. He had received MSU's Outstanding Junior award for 1989.

Debasish, son of Sanju and Sirish Mishra, received the Junior Achievement award for his superior performance in debate.

OHIO

Harlal Choudhury

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held on November 4, 1989 at Hundson, Ohio. Dr. Harlal Choudhury briefed the members about the OSA activities at the national level including the forthcoming 1990 convention in the nation's capital.

Dr. Prasana Samal, Mrs. Manjari Mohanty and Mr. Ajoy Misra were elected President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. The meeting was followed by a grand celebration of the Kumar Utchhav..

Nakul and Kunu Panigrahi were married in a gala ceremony on November 24. Many of the chapter members attended the ceremony and greeted the couple.

Jhinu and Santanu Chhotray held a grand party during the holiday season in their new house at West Lake.

Dr. D. Mangraj is currently in India as a visiting scientist sponsored by the International Society of Polymer Scientists.

Dr. Harlal Choudhury will be in Geneva, Switzerland in May 1990 to chair a panel on an International Conference on pesticide.

The members of the Ohio Chapter send their heartfelt sympathy to Dr. Prasana Samal for the passing away of his father, Dr. Brundaban Samal, an eminent Veterinary Scientist and author.

MICHIGAN

Kalyani Mishra

The chapter had a Diwali Dinner function which the youth participated actively. Dance, music, and poetry recitals by the school and college students added glamor to the occasion. The function was a great success.

Lalat, Lalit, and Laban, sons of Sabita (Lili) and Ladu Patnaik, have achieved several academic distinctions which include: academic scholarship for Lalat at the University of Michigan, Lalit's admission to the University of Michigan as a freshman, and Laban's winning the Channel 50 Essay competition.

Sujata, daughter of Ballari and Natabar Khuntia, will be graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in Material Science.

Saroj, son of Kalyani and Sudarsan Misra, has been accepted as a freshman into the honors program at the University of Michigan. He is also a National Merit Finalist. Recently, Saroj received outstanding citizenship award for his community services. He had received MSU's Outstanding Junior award for 1989.

Debasish, son of Sanju and Sirish Mishra, received the Junior Achievement award for his superior performance in debate.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sudip Patnaik

The members of the chapter are working hard to host the 21st Annual Convention of the OSA at Gaitherburg, Maryland, June 29-July 1. A steering committee has been formed. The members are:

Pratap Das - Convener
Surenra Ray
Sanjeeb Mishra
Bijoy Mahapatra
Sudip Patnaik
Jacob Patnaik
Srinivas Praharaj

We urge you to attend this convention and enjoy our hospitality.

The chapter celebrated Saraswati Puja on February 3. The members thanked Dr. Surendra Ray for his leadership in organizing the Kumar Utsab. The cultural program was superb.

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING
NEW PATRONS AND
LIFE MEMBERS:**

PATRONS

Dr. Saheb and Krishna Sahu
Dr. Ram Prasad and Sudha Patnaik
Dr. Devi Prasad and Sarojini Misra
Dr. Sabyasachi and Amrita Mohapatra
Dr. Pramod and Laxmi Mohanty
Dr. Hemant K. and Sworna Lata Senapati
Dr. Pradip K. and Asha Lata Swain
Dr. Prasant K. and Chandra Prabha Raj
Dr. Dasarathi and Patricia Ram
Dr. Ramesh and Asima Raichoudhury
Dr. Purusottam and Tripti Jena
Dr. Ghansyam and Manorama Mishra
Dr. Nitin and Pankajini Doshi

LIFE MEMBER

Dr. Bijan and Bijaylaxmi Rao

SATYA SHAW,CPA**TOTAL FINANCIAL PLANNING****800-634-1742****TAX PLANNING & TAX MINIMIZATION****HIGH YIELD CD FDIC INSURED****IRA,KEOGH,PENSION PLANS****COLLEGE EDUCATION FUNDING****ESTATE PLANNING****LOW-RATE LIFE INSURANCE****100% PLAN HEALTH INSURANCE-LOW-RATE****PREMIUM RETURN DISABILITY INCOME PLAN****HIGH YIELD TAX DEFERRED ANNUITIES****VISITORS'HEALTH**

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**

**SUBRINA BISWAL PRIZE
IN
PERFORMING ARTS**

OBJECTIVE: To provide incentive for 1) children of OSA members to follow the late Subrina Biswal's foot-prints from early childhood and 2) OSA members to attend the annual convention with their children having performing arts talents.

The **FIRST** Subrina Biswal Prize in Performing Arts will be awarded to an individual or group of individuals judged as the winner at the annual OSA convention to be held under the auspices of the Washington Chapter. The prize is sponsored by the Indo-American Friendship Foundation (IAFF) and is set at US \$200 (Two hundred dollars) and a plaque for 1990. Attempts will be made to award the prize at the end of the cultural function with the plaque to follow in the mail. This, however, may not be possible because judging will continue until the end of the last event. In that case, the prize and the plaque will be mailed together to the winner. The winner's name will also be sent to the OSA editor and Oriya newspapers.

2. **AREA OF COMPETITION:** Comedy, Dance, Drama, Instrumental, Singing, Skit

3. When the winner is a group, no one in the group must be above 22 years, and the total amount of the award will be shared equally by individuals constituting the group. The judges have the option of selecting one or more individuals from among a group of artists.

Send inquiries to: IAFF, 1413 Boxwood Lane, APEX, NC 27502

Phone: 919/362-7653 (after 10:00 pm EST, if possible)

THE IAFF HAS NO OFFICIAL LINK TO THE OSA OR ANY OF ITS CHAPTERS. HOWEVER, IAFF SPONSORS PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES AIMED AT THE SUCCESS OF THE OSA AND ITS CHAPTERS.

RULES OF COMPETITION

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Must be a registered participant at the OSA convention and must be 22 years old or younger (Guest participants, i.e. those who are not OSA members, of any age are not eligible). Proof of age and registration at the OSA convention will be required from the winner(s).

**AN APPEAL
FOR THE
SUBRINA BISWAL
MEMORIAL FUND**

March 7, 1990

Dear Friends,

In September of 1989, I had sent an appeal to the membership soliciting contribution for a memorial fund in memory of Subrina. The idea was to collect about ten thousand dollars, put in a fixed deposit separate from OSA fund, and award a scholarship out of the interest from the account. The scholarship will be given to a graduating high school senior from our membership based on scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activity and congeniality. The OSA Executive Committee has nominated a distinguished panel of educators to select the most deserving candidate for this honor. The award will be given at the upcoming annual convention in Washington, D.C.

The response from the membership has been very poor, and to date only about two thousand dollars has been collected. This will not be adequate to institute a scholarship fund.

This is a renewed request to you all to make generous contribution to make this a successful endeavor. Please send your contribution in favor of OSA, Subrina Biswal Memorial Fund and mail to my address.

Sincerely,

Bijoy C. Das, MD
9275-A Medical Plaza Drive
Charleston, SC 29418

**SUBRINA BISWAL MEMORIAL
AWARD COMPETITION 1990**

The Orissa Society of Americas (OSA) is announcing Subrina Biswal Memorial Award Competition for college-bound high school seniors who are members of the OSA.

The selection will be based on academic qualifications, extracurricular activities, honors received, and a short (one page) essay describing the student's goal in life.

Prospective applicants should send their :

- 1) official transcript from high school,
- 2) evidence of other achievements along with supporting documents,
- 3) a copy of the college acceptance letter, and
- 4) three letters of recommendation (at least one from a high school teacher).

A letter of application along with other documents should be sent to Dr. S.D. Mohanty, chairperson, Subrina Biswal Memorial Award Committee, 1210 Whittier Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48233 by June 1, 1990 (postmarked). The award will be presented at the 21st Annual OSA Convention, Washington, D.C.

**OSA 20th Annual Convention
(Nashville, July 1-3, 1989)**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT *

INCOME

Membership Dues:	Life Membership	- \$ 2,100.00	
	Annual Membership	- \$ 3,55.00	
	Patron	- \$ 400.00**	
	TOTAL		\$ 2,855.00
Convention Registration			\$ 3,780.00
Meal Tickets			\$ 7,040.00
Advertisements and Donations			\$ 7,208.00
OSA (National) Contribution toward Souvenir Issue			\$ 600.00
Sale of Convention Video Cassette			\$ 600.00
Sale of T-Shirts and Caps			\$ 1,021.76
Sale of Left-over items			\$ 141.12
TOTAL INCOME			<u>\$ 23,668.67</u>

EXPENSES

Registration Package, Trophies, T-Shirts, Caps, Badges	\$ 3,068.73
Food and Beverage	\$ 6,349.52
Stationary, Printing, Copying, Postage	\$ 1,115.55
Sports, Cash Prized, Books, Snacks for Youth Activities	\$ 2,390.44
Rentals for Cultural Activities and Guest Artists	\$ 2,390.44
OSA Souvenir Issue	\$ 1,578.00
Membership Dues remitted to OSA (National)	\$ 2,855.00
Partial Reimbursement for Convention-Related Expenses	
On Accomodation, Travel, and telephone Calls	\$ 2,311.32
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 152.00
Remitted to OSA (National) for Refund of Reg. Fees	\$ 40.00
Disbursement to OSA National Chapter - 50% of Surplus	\$ 1,089.22
Disbursement to OSA Southern Chapter - 50% of Surplus	\$ 1,089.22
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 23,668.22</u>

** \$ 100.00 was paid earlier

Panchanan Satpathy	Kula C. Misra
Treasurer	Secretary
OSA 20th Annual Convention	OSA 20th Annual Convention

* This statement has been audited by an Audit Committee consisting of Kula C. Misra (Chair) Bhagabat Sahu (Member), and Satya Hota (Member).

Logo Contest Reopened

The Executive Committee of the Orissa Society of America invites entries for OSA Logo Election. The size of the entry must be limited to 8 1/2 x 11 in one color and should represent the Orissan culture and heritage. All entries should be sent to Dr. Keshab Dwivedy, Secretary/Treasurer, OSA, 11807 Crown Prince Circle, Richmond, Virginia 23233 by certified mail on or before May 7, 1990 (Postmarked).

All the entries will be judged by a panel of three judges appointed by the OSA. The top three selected by this panel along with the previous (1983) logo will be submitted to the members of the OSA for vote

Orissa Society of America, Inc.

Name : _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

First Name of Children: _____

Membership Dues:

Amount Enclosed:

Patron \$ 500.00	\$ _____
Life Member \$ 200.00	\$ _____
Yearly Member July 1, to June 30	
Family Member \$ 25.00	\$ _____
Single Member \$ 10.00	\$ _____
Student Family \$ 10.00	\$ _____
Student Single \$ 5.00	\$ _____
Donation to OSA	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Make check payable to OSA and mail to: Keshab Dwivedy, Secretary and Treasurer, OSA
11807 Crown Prince Circle
Richmond, VA 23233

Note: Use this form for change of name, address of membership status. Any donation will be highly appreciated.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Sulekha Das is Public Library Director for Hanover Township in New Jersey.

Kula Chandra Misra is professor of Geology at the University of Tennessee.

Jagannath Prasad Das is a leading Indian poet and artist. He recently resigned from the Indian Administrative Service in order to devote full time to art and literature. Dr. Das lives in New Delhi.

Chandra Mishra is a R.N. at a local hospital in Philadelphia.

Sidhartha Dash is Assistant Professor of Medicine at S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack. He was a fellow at the Boshwell Diabetes Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1985-86.

Sarita (Pinky) Misra, daughter of Debi and Sarojini Misra, is a junior at Huntsville High School.

Likun Mishra, daughter of Digambar and Jyotsna Mishra, is a graduating senior at Homewood High School in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ananya Dash, daughter of Sarat and Sumitra Dash, is a high school sophomore. Her poems have been published in the New American Poetry Anthology. Ananya also is a recipient of several awards for her creative writing.

Pradip K. Swain is Director of Emergency Medicine and Outpatient Services at Mercy Hospital in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Satya B. Shaw, a former secretary/treasurer of the OSA, is currently a practicing CPA at Memphis, Tennessee. He is an ardent supporter of Orissan art and culture.

Vinita Misra, daughter of Niyananda and Nihar Misra, is in eighth grade at Hopkinton Jr. High in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. (Mrs.) Laxmipriya Acharya teaches at S.C.S. College, Puri. She is widely published in leading Oriya periodicals.

Mr. Narayan Rath lives in New York and is a regular contributor to OSA Journal.

Mrs. Kalpanamayee Dash lives in Minneapolis and writes occasionally for the Journal.

Mr. Haraprasad Paricha Patnaik is an English Professor in Orissa. Joya Sahu, daughter of Bhagbat and Puspaxmi Sahu of Athens, Alabama, is in fourth grade.

Sarthak Das, son of Santosh and Sulekha Das, is a high school junior in New Jersey. He is a debator who loves creative writing.

Arun Ranjan Panigrahi is in third grade. He is the son of Godabarish and Anuradha Panigrahi of Westborough, Massachusetts.

