

Religious Philosophy, Architectural Elements, and Local Context A Close Observation in Kantajee Temple, Bangladesh

Muhammad Montasir Rahman (GORA) and Rajan Das

Abstract

Temple is the adobe of God which belongs to the Hindu religion. In ancient times, the Guptas, Palas, Senas and Chandras built a number of temples in Bengal. After these Buddhist-Hindu rulers, Bengal was ruled by Muslim rulers and no evidences of temple erection were found in the early phases of Muslim rules i.e. 'Sultanate Period'. However, in the late phase, especially during the 'Mughal' rule, a number of temples were built in Bengal. The 'Kantajee Temple' which dates back to early eighteenth century was built at the same period.

Bangladesh is a tradition based society, which is influenced by traditional heritages of socio-cultural phenomenon. However, this traditional system is under pressure of changes due to the internal and external influences of various kind. But still Bangladesh is predominantly maintaining its socio-cultural life with distinct identity. Therefore any study on architectural monuments might explore deeper knowledges and understanding about the past traditional norms and beliefs in both artistic and esthetic sense.

This paper uses the example of a late medieval style temple 'Kantajee' of Northern Bangladesh to illustrate the basic symbolic meanings of Hindu temple architecture. It will also try to explore the synthesis of the philosophical and metaphysical concepts of Hinduism in context of historical areas, geographical areas, and local culture.

Key Words: Kantajee Temple, Hinduism, Temple Architecture, East and West Bengal, Terracotta Tiles.