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A Philosophical Perspective on Tribal Culture

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ABSTRACT:

The impact of many religions can be seen among the tribals living in India nowadays. However, each tribal community has its own distinct culture and traditions. But what they have in common is their belief that every tribal community in India (they worship Nature). Although there are some differences in religious practices among the various tribal groups in India, they are basically Nature worshippers. For example, Santal, Ora, Munda, Mahali, people believe that their original religion name is 'Sari' or 'Sarna' which means 'Real'. Some of the main deities worshiped are "Sim Banga" or Surya Dev, Chandu Banga or Chandra Dev, also Jayer Than, Ayu Baba, and many other Bangas are worshipped. Adibasis never worship idols/murti according to Sarna dharma. The name of the religious book of Sarna Dharma is Sir Jam Puthi. The question is if the religion of the tribals is Sarna then why their religion is considered to be Hindu. The answer to this complex question is the lack of information, moreover Hinduism and Sarna religion can be found to have some similarities if we look deeply.

Hindu-Tribal Cultural Relations in Colonial East India, if we observe the impact of Hindu religion on the tribal society during the colonial period, various ideas have been developed in this context; in this article I will try to analyze some of them. In fact, a perceptual gap between Hindu and Tribal cultures persisted for a long time. "During 1950-53 and 1956-59, when Sinha studied the Bhumij, he observed that Bhumij had moved even farther in the direction of Hinduization since Risley's time." (yourarticle library.com) Surojit Sinha said, "The tribal villages lying in a homogeneous culture area lived in by the same ethnic group. The contacts of the tribes with the neighboring peasantry have given rise to a sort of tribal-peasant continuum." (Sinha, 1957) Surojit Sinha's view can be taken as a confession. During 1950, he researched about the society and culture of Singhbhum's people. Before research work started he thought that the tribal culture was different from Hindu-Brahmin culture. After a few days of research he realized that his ideas before research were wrong. After doing some research he realized that the connection between these two cultures are very similar, long-standing and geographically extensive. I am using the word

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"culture" in its broadest sense, i.e. social life practice, religion, action, meditation, agriculture, arts and techniques and formation of integrated society etc.

In Hindu-Tribal cultural relations, mainly Hindu influence is mentioned. The exchange and the trend of the two cultures were prominent, that is how tribal religious belief and rituals have influenced various aspects of Hindu life practice. But an idea of the significance of the impact of tribal culture is subject to judgment, saying that there is no significant difference between Hindu influence and tribal influence. Kumar Suresh Singh calls this second influence the "countervailing processes" compared to the Hindu influence. There is a glimpse of two trends in the exchange of Hindu-Tribal culture on Hindu society that is evident in some places. While these two cultures have parallel stands, mainly because the Hindu-Brahman order hailed to establish itself in the tribal area, but Kumar Karan's view is different. He says the impact of tribal culture on all Hindu groups was not equally important. In fact it had little impact on upper caste Hindus but it had a significant impact on lower caste Hindus. In this context he speaks about two groups, farmer who