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**Maha Prabhu Sri Chaitanya Dev: His impact in contemporary Bengali  
Literature**

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**Abstract**

Sri Chaitanya Dev, the embodiment of the humanity of the Bengali nation (1486-1533). Chaitanya Dev is worshiped in the form of theoretician, in the form of the sage, in the literature of the medieval period. His divine life is full of miracles. He has not been properly evaluated that's why today we are writing about the great man. What was the result of the last life etc. He will be highlighted in various contexts. To analyze how novelists see him in today's context, in what context they wrote about and how important the novels.

**Keywords:** Sri Chaitanya Dev, incarnation, contemporary, disappearance.

**Introduction:**

Sri Chaitanya Dev is a proverbial person in Bengali as well as Indian society, literature, and culture (1486-1533). He was worshipped as an avatar by Gaudiya Vaishnava devotees. Chaitanya Dev is worshiped in the form of theoretician, in the form of the sage, in the literature of the medieval period. His divine life is full of miracles. Sri Chaitanya Dev has not been properly evaluated that's why today we are writing about the great man. After 500 years, not biographical literature, essays, dramas, poetry, novels, the novelists of the past have presented Sri Chaitanya Dev, in the perspective of the recent scenario. These Chaitanya centered novels cover the mystery of Sri Chaitanya Dev's birth, personal and family life, asceticism, fairy tales

and miracles. What was the result of the last life etc. He will be highlighted in various contexts. To analyze how novelists see him in today's context, in what context they wrote about and how important the novels.

“On that day, a large part of the entire Bangladesh was made crazy with new emotions and joy. In the man in whom the great life unfolds. The brilliant personality and character of that man deeply stirred the consciousness of the entire nation. The man of that great life then became a worshiper. Worshiped in the glory of God”. (Bhattacharya,Devipod:p32)

He is none other than Sri Chaitanya Dev, the embodiment of the humanity of the Bengali nation (1486-1533). Sri Chaitanya Dev, though a scholar and professor, did not write any books. However, Vaishnava Padavali and Charit Sahitya have been written about him in Bengali literature. His influence can be seen in Mangalkavya and translation literature. Not only in Bengali but in other languages have been written about him. A man has flourished in various aspects of literature. Poems, plays, stories and novels have been written about him in modern times. Even after about 500 years of his death, he is being in limelight. We can see his large influence in the social and cultural history of Bengal. We can see also his spreading influences in Bengali literature in recent times.

Now a days we can see changes everywhere, in every sector. Like Globalization, new economy, privatization, science, technology, digital platforms etc. we can notice also people are trying to write on Sri Chaitanya Dev with new aspects of writing. Whenever we talk about Sri Chaitanya Dev, we visualize the bald monk, an incarnation of Krishna, Radha is the dual form of Krishna. But in modern novels there is an attempt to humanize the Gods. To construct the recent society and character of the time, the colonialists brought Chaitanya Dev into the arena of novel. These novels have created a great response in the literary world.

The recent novels written about him are not meant to glorify him, in fact to know how was Sri Chaitanya Dev, the man? What was his intention? His personal and family life, why he took a monk? Why did he take refuge in Nilachal? What happened to him in his travels and later life? How was his journey? The novelists of the past discussed these issues in the context of the present scenario. He was a political figure. The novelists tried to focus on the incomplete part of his character and give a realistic shape. Almost every novel is research oriented. Tried to bring new information about his life around the gaps in the biographies. So, it is very natural to reconstruct Chaitanya Dev in modern times.

A comprehensive attempt to understand Chaitanya Dev in modern life is found in Sharadindu Bandopadhyay's story 'Chua-Chandan' (1934). In this story Chua and Chandan's love and their marriage faced a big protest. To Overcome that obstacle, Pandit Nimai got them married with scholarly wit and tact. Storyteller Sharadindu Bandopadhyay tried to portray Nimai as an eminently intelligent, efficient, and philanthropic social activist. Among all the novels that have been written on the life of Sri Chaitanya Dev in recent times are notable.

'Sachal Jagannath Sri Krishna Chaitanya'(2001)- Dipak Chandra, 'Raaj Path Dharma Path'(2008)-Abhijit Sen, 'Chena path ochena pathik'(2009)- Nandini Chattopadhyay, 'Gora'(2012)-Saibal Mitra, 'Khama koro hey Mahaprabhu'(2013)-Rupok Saha, 'Panihata'(2014)-Sadhan Chattopadhyay, 'Sri Chaitanya katha'(2019)-Kinnor Roy, 'Sethay Charan Pore Tomar (2020)-Deboshree Chakraborty etc.

In 'Sachal Jagannath Sri Krishna Chaitanya' novel, Deepak Chandra explored the political and social background behind the asceticism of Sri Chaitanya Dev and incompleteness of his books. He did not keep the mystery of Sri Chaitanya Dev's disappearance. Wrote about his secret murder. Nimai and lakshmi's love, marrying Lakshmi against her mother, devoting himself to the work for the country and society after the death of his wife. That's why Nimai told her mother:

“Maa leader must be self-sacrificing. He must think about their country and nation, otherwise people are doubting, disbelief does to go away, a greedy, selfish people surrounded me with

doubts, even the king of the country is scared. He also believes that I can invite more people. I will make them believe.”

Nimai took up a political plan to unite the Hindus who were opposed to the Muslim society of that time and for the implementation of that plan, his asceticism was merely a disguise. Asceticism was his only recourse to inspire people above all doubts. He wanted to free society from the reforms of people’s immobility. Chaitanya Dev was not an avatar, a flesh and blood human, religious, revolutionary, political, and social leader. The author has changed the subject and character to create a real biography based on the ideas of the time, because today that environment does not exist. Writer Deepak Chandra presented Nimai, in a modern human form. Nimai has been established as a social hero of this age.

Literary of eighties Abhijit Sen presented travel experiences of Sri Chaitanya Dev in North India through his book ‘Raajpath Dharmapath’ in 2008. The main theme of this novel is Sri Chaitanya Dev, Gaur’s political and religious preoccupations. It is a historical novel. The novelist tried to showcase the journey of Sri Chaitanya Dev from Nilachal to Nawadip, through Shantipur to the arrival of Gaur Bengal or Ramkali and again came back to Nilachal and went to Vrindavan through Jharkhand. Whether any ambitions were germinating among king Hussain Shah’s Hindu followers about Chaitanya Dev? What did Chaitanya dev discuss with unknown person? From there, why did he go to the house of Vidya Vachaspati and there his anonymity? Why did meet him at midnight wearing traditional clothes? An attempt has been made to find the answers to such questions in the narrative. The author tried to showcase that he will be the king of Gaur and he will fulfill the aspirations of Hindus. Two high ranking employees of sultan Hossain Shah; Roop and Sanatan, under their supervision Sri Chaitanya Dev came to Ramkali to take them to his group. It was done secretly, not in front of everyone. If the two employees can be removed from the hands of the Sultan, then Sultan will soon be weakened. He did not meet them directly with the permission of Haridas and Nityananda, they met in disguise in the dark of night. From here we can see his political intellect. Just like today, big leaders are brought in to campaign for votes in power struggles during elections, that is exactly how Sri Chaitanya came to Gaurbanga.

In this context of novels, Sri Chaitanya Dev played the role of a visionary political leader. That’s why Sri Chaitanya Dev could be heard saying – “That is not my job. I do not believe in war, whatever it is, only destroys and causes untold suffering to countless people. My work is different. And you all should remember that the country is not only a Hindu country and most of the Muslims in this country belong to this country by birth”. Abhijit Sen drawn Sri Chaitanya Dev in human form by resorting to history. He portrayed Sri Chaitanya Dev as a political visionary, moving away from Vaishnavi Drishti or preacher.

Another novelist Shaival Mitra in his novel ‘Gora’ the main theme of his novel is the life of Sri Chaitanya. He has created a new story from within the narrative from the conventional biography. Chaitanaya’s brother Vishwaroop written a book in which he has given the secret of Chaitanya Dev’s real birth. We can find there a story of the Dargah of Pir Bourhaddin of Srihatta and the story of supernatural pregnancy. Through this narrative, he has shown the role of Chaitanya Dev in the construction of Bengali national identity. The stories of the novels do not match the story of history. Miracles make the content of the novel interesting. Shaibal Mitra has also tried to highlight the political context of the time through this narrative. The novelist tried to match the Naxalbari movement along with the period of Chaitanya Dev during the decade of six.

There have been many studies on the mystery of Sri Chaitanya’s death and reincarnation. Some believe in reincarnation of Sri Chaitanya Dev so they are searching for where he was born. On the other hand, some are searching for the mystery of Chaitanya dev’s disappearance. Chaitanaya Dev’s contemporary Bengal Muslims threatened the existence of Hindus. Similarly, Dalits continue to be oppressed by the upper caste people in the present day as well.

Padmanabha Maharaj explained to people that Chaitanya dev is the enemy of Utkal society. Dalits did not understand the theory but they belief in religion. If Mahaprabhu is not killed, till now Pandas not able to flourish their business. For that reason, there was no way but to kill him. Rupak Saha wrote, "I firmly believed that there was a deep mystery behind the disappearance of Mahaprabhu. Many of his enemies joined hands at one time for various reasons. He was murdered. The author has seen the characters, society and events of the past together".

The main theme of the novel of Devarshi Chakraborty "Sethay Charan Pore Tomar" (2020) is the origin of the mystery of the disappearance of Sri Chaitanya dev. The author has tried to find a solution by collecting information of logic, intelligence, and history about the story of five hundred years ago. The main focal point of this novel is Sri Chaitanya Dev. She has written a thriller based on the mystery of his disappearance or death. What was the original intention of Sri Chaitanya Dev? Did he take 'Sannyas' to unite the Hindu kings? Did he dissolve into the body of Jagannath in Puri's Jagannath Temple? Or it was a secret murder? The history of Jagannath temple and the social and political context of Bengal are situated throughout the narrative. A part from highlighting the work life of Sri Chaitanya,he also explored the mystery of his disappearance.

Author Ratul and Omkari's research revealed the possible causes of Sri Chaitanya Dev's death. For example, she informed about the conspiracy to kill Sri Chaitanya Dev by applying mild poison to the food. She wrote about this... "During the renovation of Puri Temple, the skeleton that was found was as long as Mahaprabhu. Professor Vasudev Mukhopadhyay may have known that Mahaprabhu was killed and buried inside the sanctum sanctorum of Puri temple. So might be he was killed"

The author has simultaneously established a juxtaposition of past and present. The writer wants to correlate the time and character of history. Novelists have always presented Sri Chaitanya Dev as a human being, as a lover, as a social and political leader in their novels.

### **Conclusion: -**

As long as the Bengali language, nation and society exist, Sri Chaitanya Dev will exist. Literature was written about him beyond the medieval period and will be in the future. Today's world needs this man's message. The past guides the future. Standing in the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have not been free from the narrowness of the caste system. Today exploitation, oppression and torture can be seen on Dalit society in various parts of the country. For this reason, it is our necessity to follow the path of Chaitanya Dev in context and society. In this environment and currently his practice and philosophy of life seems to be our absolute need for the whole of mankind to get rid of from this chain.

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