Twitter Thread by [redacted]



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@BengalAntiquity

MadanMohan Mandir
Bishnupur.

The idol of Shri Shri Madan Mohan was taken hold of by Raja Bir Hambir of Mallyabhum. Although as per historical records it seems that the mandir was built by his descendant Raja Durjan Singho.

There's a fascinating story as to how Raja Bir Hambir



came in possession of the ■■■■■■/ idol.
Birhambir while on a pilgrimage , on his way back to Bishnupur after visiting Vaidyanatha Dham, Bakreshwar etc., took shelter in a picturesque temple as it was getting dark at night while walking through the forest at Brishvanupur in



Beerbhoom. At the end of the day, the Brahmin who used to do the nityapuja , came for the daily service and met the king and received him as a warm guest. But the king was bewildered to see the magnificent deity inside the temple, and was quite enamoured by its ethereal beauty



On asking the attending brahmin he came to know that the idol was that of Lord Madanmohon.
The King then decided to take that idol to Bishnupur. The next day, after making that offer to the Brahmin, the Brahmin politely said, how is that possible!



The king stayed in the guest house of the temple for two more nights and finally "took charge" of Madan Mohan without the knowledge of the Brahmin and brought him to Bishnupur.



Followers, however, claim that Raja himself received a divine order in his dream from Thakur to take him to Bishnupur. Devaseva continued in secret inside the palace. Only a priestly Brahmin, his wife and mother knew about Madan Mohan.

Meanwhile, the Brahmin priest from



Brishvanpur, like a madman, came to Bishnupur in search of Madan Mohan, the deity of life, and begged the king to return his deity. Raja flatly denied bringing it.
However, he said that he has three idols like Madan Mohan. He has to choose the real Madan Mohan from among them.



The idols of Jugal Kishore, Gourgobindo and Radhakanta Jiu were placed in front of the Brahmin. The shape of these idols was almost the same as that of the original Madan Mohan. But Brahmin could recognize that none of them is Madan Mohan, the deity of his soul.



Unable to get the real Madan Mohan back, he decided to immerse himself in the Koch Birai river near Bishnupur. Meanwhile, the mother of Thakur Madanmohan's priest came to fetch water from the river, saw the Brahmin tired and devastated and asked him the reason for his grief.



Seeing the Brahmin aspiring to commit self harm , the old woman revealed the position of Madan Mohan inside the palace, despite the prohibition of her son, so that the sin of ■■■■■■■■■■■ does not fall on her son. The emaciated and relaxed Brahmin quickly came to the king and



Pleaded the King to return his deity. Hearing this, the sky seemed to fall on the king's head. The king wanted to satisfy the Brahmins with lots of riches instead of Madan Mohan.
But the poor Brahmin would have none of it.
The Brahmin stayed adamant in his decision,

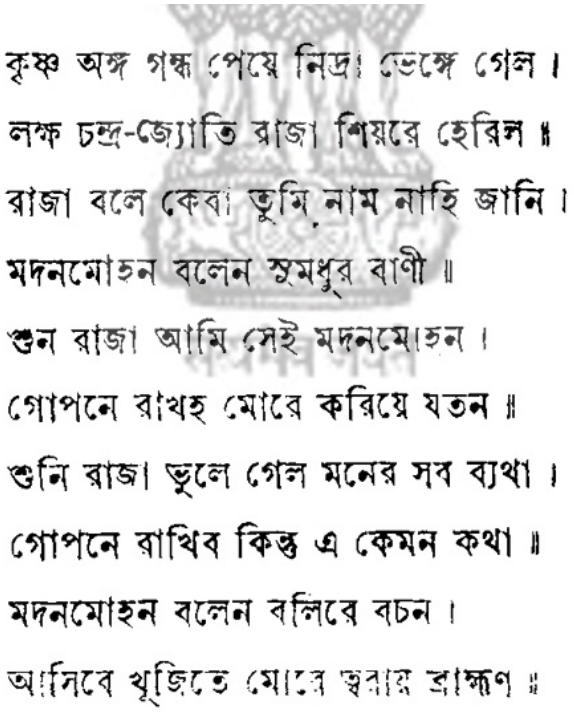
he decided to go on a hunger strike by killing himself in the temple of Mrinmayidevi, if he does not get the deity of his life. What a wonderful providence of God, the weary exhausted Brahmin dreamt in the night as if his deity were saying



But you are like my father, you tied me to Maya, so my soul cries to make you sad. You go home, I will go to your house every night, my wife is alone, I will leave a garland of flowers as a sign of my presence to her. ” The Brahmin returned home helpless, and the next morning

when the priest opened the door of the temple, he found a bunch of fresh flowers lying beside her. How true this incident is, and how much Birhambir's attempt to absolve him of the crime of burglary is subject to explanation.

As has been explained in this poem here



কৃষ্ণ অঙ্গ গন্ধ পেয়ে নিদ্রা ভেঙ্গে গেল।
লক্ষ চন্দ্র-জ্যোতি রাজা শিয়রে হেরিল ॥
রাজা বলে কেবা তুমি নাম নাহি জানি।
মদনমোহন বলেন সুমধুর বাণী ॥
শুন রাজা আমি সেই মদনমোহন।
গোপনে রাখহ মোরে করিয়ে যতন ॥
শুনি রাজা ভুলে গেল মনের সব ব্যথা।
গোপনে রাখিব কিন্তু এ কেমন কথা ॥
মদনমোহন বলেন বলিরে বচন।
আসিবে খুজিতে মোরে ত্বরায় ব্রাহ্মণ ॥

Raja Bir Hambir was an accomplished poet too who is later life was named Shri Chaitanya Das for his extreme devotion to God.

প্রভু মোর শ্রীনিবাস পুরাইলে মনের আশ
তোয়া বিনু গতি নাহি আর।
আছিনু বিষয় কীট, বড়ই লাগিত মিট
ঘুচাইলে রাজ অহঙ্কার॥
করিতু গরল পান সে ভেল ডাহিন বাম
দেখাইলা অমিয়ার ধার।
পিব পিব করে মন সব ভেল উচাটন
এসব তোমার ব্যবহার॥
রাধা পদে সুধারাশী সে পদে করিলা দাসী
গোরা পদে বাঁধি দিলা চিত।
শ্রীরাধিকাগণ সহ দেখাইলা কুঞ্জ গেহ
জানাইলা দুহু প্রেম রীত॥
যমুনার কুলে যাই তীরে সখি ধাওয়া ধাই
রাধা কানু বিলসয়ে সুখে।
এ বীর হাম্বীর হীয়া ব্রজপুর সদা ধীয়া
যাঁহা অলি উড়ে লাখে লাখে॥

Second Song.

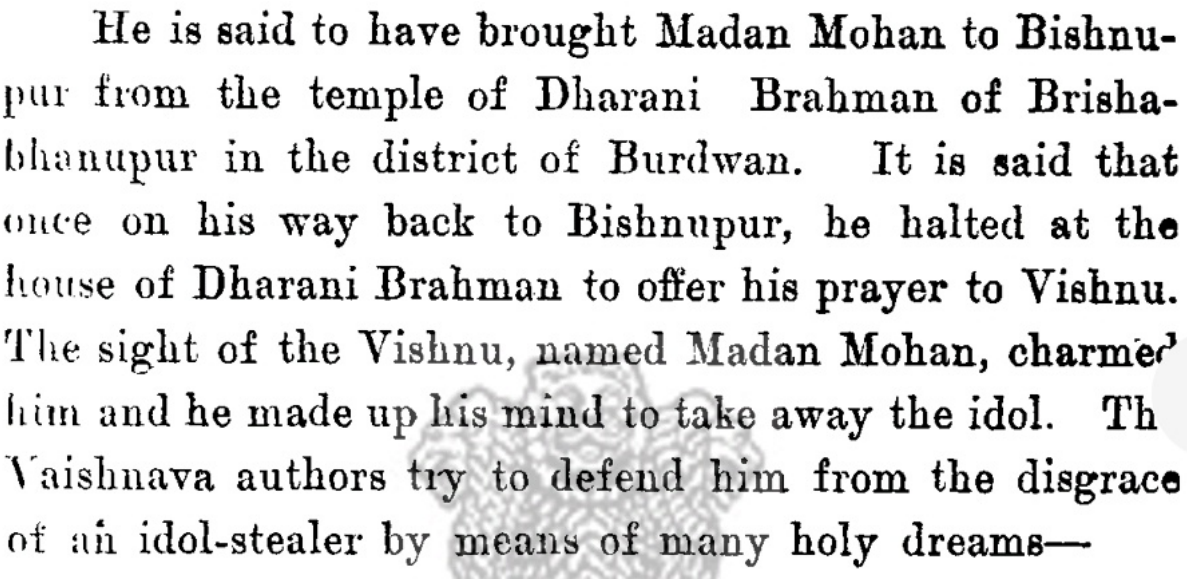
শুনগো মরম সখি কালিয়া কমল আঁখি
কিবা কৈল কিছুই না জানি।
কেমন করয়ে মন, সব যেগো উচাটন
প্রেম করি খোয়াইনু পরাণি॥
শুনিয়া দেখিনু কালা, দেখিয়া পাইনু জ্বালা
নিবাইতে নাহি পায় পানি।
অগুরু চন্দন আনি, দেহেতে লেপিনু ছানি
না নিবায় হিয়ার আগুনি॥

Additionally, in the temple premises you would find an ancient shiva linga which I couldn't locate the date of and a kamandal with water from Gangasagar which is renewed every year.


2022

One important fact I missed in the thread needs to be put up.

The name of the Brahmin to whom the original bigroho belonged to was called Dharani Brahmon.



He is said to have brought Madan Mohan to Bishnupur from the temple of Dharani Brahman of Brishabhanupur in the district of Burdwan. It is said that once on his way back to Bishnupur, he halted at the house of Dharani Brahman to offer his prayer to Vishnu. The sight of the Vishnu, named Madan Mohan, charmed him and he made up his mind to take away the idol. Th Vaishnava authors try to defend him from the disgrace of an idol-stealer by means of many holy dreams—

Sources

1. History of Bishnupur Raj By AbhayPada Mullick
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]