

**Foundation of Cooch Bihar Politics and Religion under the Regime of Maharaja  
Bishwasingha**

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**Abstract**

The city of Cooch Bihar is situated in the west Bengal district of our country. It is in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya. This city of North Bengal renounced for its History- as a state of famous Koch dynasty. The founding father of this dynasty was Maharaja Biswasingha, who came into the power on 1510 and ruled up to 1530. There is a lot of myth connected with his life. Through this writing we are trying to describe it that people can know about this. There is a lot of History connected with his rising power, end of Muslim power in Kamrup district, conquest of Bhutan facing Muslim advent etc. We also try to through the spot light on the administration system of Kochbehar during his regime. We also give special emphasize to find the relation in between his religious believe and famous Kamakhya temple of Assam. This writing is very important for all, because we are all known about the fact that the Cooch Bihar was one of the princely states of India which merge with India after Indian Partition. This city has great historical importance and Maharaja Biswasingha was its founder. So we think Every Indian should know about the history of Cooch Behar and specially about his founder. So we are taken this initiative.

**Introduction**

According to Dorongobangsabali-Sahosrarjuna, the king of Haihoiya dynasty fled to Chikna, near Ratnabali due to the fear of Parusuram and started to live there. The important personality of this line before Bishwasingha was -Sumati, Bhadrjit, Bhadrasuba, Basudam and Dambhabu. We also know from this source that Haridas Mondal was the son of Dambhabu and Urbasi and after becoming powerful Haridas Mondal married to Heradevi and Jiradevi. After becoming adult Heradevi gave birth of two sons of named Sishu and Bishu. There was some myth on the birth of Bishu. According to Dorongobangsabali- Bishu was the son of Mahadeva and Heradevi. The statement is

also supported by the Abul Fazal in Akbar Nama that- The Heradevi, wife of Haridas Mondal was devoted to the Shiva of Jalpesh and It was the grace of Mahadeva that Bishu was born. However, Jiradevi, another wife of Bishu also gave a birth of two son of him name- Chandan and Modan. There also had a story that once upon a time all the son of Haridasmondal playfully started the Worshipping of Devi Bhagabati and gave a sacrifice of a neighbor boy artificially. But it was the grace of Devi that the boy was seriously died and all of them fled. Then the King of the state ordered to find and punished them. After some time All of the boy came back with an army and killed the king after capturing his kingdom. During the time of war Modan was killed in the

Battlefield by the enemy and Chandan Became King. After the Rule of 13 years, Chandan died and Bishu became king. According to the most of historian it was in the year of 1533 but Khan Choudhury Amanatullaha Ahamed it was in the year of 1496.

### Objectives

Through this study we are going to discuss:

- How lot of myth and Hindu believes is connected with the birth of Maharaja Bishwasingha.
- How small Bishu became Maharaja Bishwasingha and ended the Muslim domination in Kamrup.
- How he became successful to defeat the Bhutan King.
- How he tackled Muslim challenge in between the year 1517-1532 for making the foundation of Cooch Behar strong.
- How was the administration system of coch Behar during his time
- What was his personal religious believe and how he established Kamakhya temple.

### Literature Review

We have to make intensive study of the contemporary sources, written most of these in Bengali, Sanskrit language and books of some renounced writer. We make a study of the book “ Rajupakhyan “ composed by Munsii Jaynath on 1823. We have studied and collect the information from the book “ History Of Cooch Behar” written by Kha Chodhuri Amantullah Ahmed-volumn 1<sup>st</sup>. We have to specially rely on “Bisswasinghacharitam” written in Sanskrit language. We have to study

“Harivoktorongo” written by Durgadas in Bengali language.. We have to read “Kamrupbangsabali”,” Shiva Bansabali”, “Gandharbonarayan Bansabali”. We have the read “The Koch Kings of Kamrupa” (vol, LXII, PART I,NO,4). We have to take the help from Ain-I – Akbari, vol, I translated by H. Blochmen, “ Akbarnama” translated by H. Bevaridge. We collect some important information from the Book of “Fairly History Of India “which was written by V.A Smith.

### Rise of Power

Most of the vuyia state had been defeated by the Bishu and during that time Tsu- Sen-For sent a large army against Bishu under the commander of Chon-Khan-Gohai. Under that circumstance Bishu being diplomat signed a treaty with king of Ahom. During the time the western Kamrup faced a fatal battle against Nushrat Shah, The Pathan king of Gaur and defeated also. The king of Gaur was not satisfied only to annex western Kamrup and he also attacked the Kingdom of Ahom. The king of Ahom being unable to give any resistance fled away from the battlefield. This was the time for which Bishwasingha waited for long and ultimately he conquered Kamrup in the year of 1496 and received the title of Kamteshar and Biswasingha. We can find a vivid description of the great arrangements of the coronation ceremony of the King Biswasingha from many contemporary source where it had been told that the holy water of various part of the India had been brought for this great event and the coronation of the king had been done by the

utterance of Vedic hymns and performing many Vedic sacrifice.

### **End of Muslim Domination in Kamrup**

Initially there had a very good relationship between the Muslim sultan of Gaur and Biswasingha but the situation was going to be worse after signing a treaty between Biswasingha and the king of Ahom. The main purpose of this treaty was to end the Muslim domination. During that time the Son of the sultan Hussain Shah was defeated and killed at the war of Gorurachal and the whole Kamrup came in the hands of Bishwasingha.

### **Conquest against Vuiya State, Bhutan**

Most of the Vuiya state like- Beltala, Bijni, Rani, Bangao, Balarampur, and Kamtabari etc had been defeated and it has been told that the Pratap Vuiya of Pandu was killed by the Biswasingha when he was unarmed and take a bath in Brahmaputra River.

According to Rajoupakhan the Vutan king was also defeated by him and also being bound he was agree to give regular tax to Biswasingha. After this battle The King Biswasingha made an advent against Assam but disband the campaign due to the shortage of necessary money.

### **Facing Muslim Advent**

During the year of 1517-1532 the king Biswasingha faced lot of attack of Muslim. In the year of 1532 Tubrak Khan was defeated by the army of Ahom. During that time the state of Gaur was ruled by Nushrat Shah. According to Bishokosh Nushrat shah was defeated by Biswasingha and fled from battlefield. We also get the information

from the Rajoupakhan that Biswasingha totally captured Gaur during the time of Islam Shah of Delhi. (1545-1552).

### **Capital**

Chikna was the capital town when Haridas Mondal, father of Biswasingha ruled.

There was a myth that Biswasingha worshipped Devi Bhagabati as a form of Piece of Bamboo when he was starting a journey for hunting. But most of the historian denied the fact and told that the Haridas Mondal founded the capital of Chikna. But during the time of Biswasingha the capital was Kamtapur.

### **The Administrative System of the Empire**

The administrative system of the empire was very efficient. The head of the fort (Raikot/Durgadhakha) was Shivsingha, brother of Biswasingha. Barhina was the minister of the war and foreign policy. Jufhabar was the commander-in-chief and Baisagu was the chief judge of the kingdom of Biswasingha. There have also another post.

Thakuriya- The minister who ruled over the twenty.

Sarakiya- The minister who ruled over the hundred.

Hazarika- The minister who ruled over the thousands.

Omrah- The minister who ruled over the three thousands.

Nabab- Who ruled over twenty two Omrah.

He also had a very strong army consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephant, and bullock .etc. He distributed much important post to all

capable influential people and levied tax from the product of the state.

### **Establishing Kamakhya Temple and his Personal Religion**

Once upon a time Biswasingha and his brother Shiva Singha lost the path and being separated from their army they came to the renounced Sati pith Kamakhya at Nilachal hill. It has been told that the old Kamakhya temple was established by Narakaasur but during the time of Biswasingha it was not exist. The king came to know the divine importance of this place from an old woman and prayed to the Devi Kamakhya for getting back his army. It was really a blessing of the Devi that he soon met his full army and also feels the grace of the Devi for the first time. He made a promise to Devi Kamakhya that if he was able to save his kingdom from all kind of present difficulty by the grace of her, then he would established a new gold temple for Devi and really by the grace of the Devi Kamakhya he was able to do so. As a result to fulfill his promise he started an excavation to get the actual Kamkhyapith which was underground and finally he was successful to find it. Then he started the work of establishing new temple over it and for fulfilling his promise he used one rati of gold over every istak of the temple.

There has a lot of controversy about the personal religious believe of the king Biswasingha among the historian. According to William Hunter, Brahmanism entered for the first time during the reign of Biswasingha and the king with his entire renounced minister joined the belief. According to Dr. Kambel - Though

Biswasingha told him as a Hindu but actually he was not pure Hindu. However despite all of this it has been mostly believed that the king Bishwasingha was embraced Shaivadharm by Kalichandra Bhattacharya. He brought lot of Brahmin from Kasi, Kannauj and gave a permanent place to live here. He also brought Vallabhachariya and appointed as a main priest of Kamakhya temple.

According to Abul Fazal in his Akbarnama-Heradevi, mother of Biswasingha got him in her womb by the grace of Shiva of Jalpesh temple. So, there have no doubt that the parent of Bishwasingha was Hindu. We can get the information from Sikh religious literature that Guru Nanak also came in Kamrup during the time of Bishwasingha reign. According to "The Sikh Religion by Machanliffe" – "Guru Nanak and Mardana went to Kamrup, a country whose women were famous for their skill in incantation and Magic. It was governed by a queen called Nurshah in the Sikh chronicles. She went with her several females, went to the Guru and tried to obtain influence over him. It is said that they became followers of Guru Nanak."

A calendar was started after his coronation, which was renounced as Rajahshok which was started from the year of 1509.

### **His Ancestor**

It has been known that king Bishwasingha had lots of son and among them Norosingha, Noronarayan (Mallodev), Suklodhavaj (Chilaroy), Gohai Modon, Ramchandra, Hemdhar were renounced for their work. It has been told that Maharaja Bishwasingha

took the help of “Gulibat” to determine the future of his sons. According to the process it had been determined that Norosingha would be the king of foreign, Noronarayan would be the king of the Kamrup and Chilaroy Would perform his duty of war to protect the people of this state and glorify the respect of the state by war. It has been told that Bishwasingha loved Norosingha more than his other sons and seeing this being disappointed Noronarayan and Chilaroy left the kingdom and went to Barinas where they got education of grammar, literature, astrology, Veda, Mimansa and Purana from Brahmhananda Bisarad.

### **Conclusion**

Once upon a time a Bramhin, named Vabananda came in the court of Bishwasingha who told that Brahmhatega have in the fetes of Brahman. During this time in order to prove the truth of the demand of Brahman he made an order to break the feet of the Brahman. As a result the Brahman was dying and before his dying he told that Bishwasingha would die soon. After the fifteen day of this incident Bishwasingha died with Smallpox and advised to all of his son that never ever disobey any Brahman. According to Gandharbonarayan Bongshaboli. Haridas Mondal, father of Bishwasingha died soon after hearing this news and Heradevi, mother of Bishwasingha performed sati.

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