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Babas and Alekhs – A Religion in Its Making

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ABSTRACT In this paper I would like to present some results of my research on diverse profiles of ascetic cultures in Orissa. In the first section I will describe monastic structures of the new religion shaped by male ascetics. Then I will present missionary areas in tribal Orissa where female religiosity is crucial. The processes of institutionalisation and diversity shall be in addition demonstrated within the Mahima Dharma religious doctrine.

[Home](#)

[Back](#)
