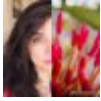


Twitter Thread by Savitri Mumukshu - ██████████ ██████████



Savitri Mumukshu - ██████████ ██████████

[@MumukshuSavitri](#)



1/n

In school we were all taught that the word “Juggernaut” was simply an English mispronunciation of Bhagwan Jagannath of Puri whose Rath Yatra is one of the most famous festivals of Hindus. But do you know the horrific origins of the English word “Juggernaut” ?

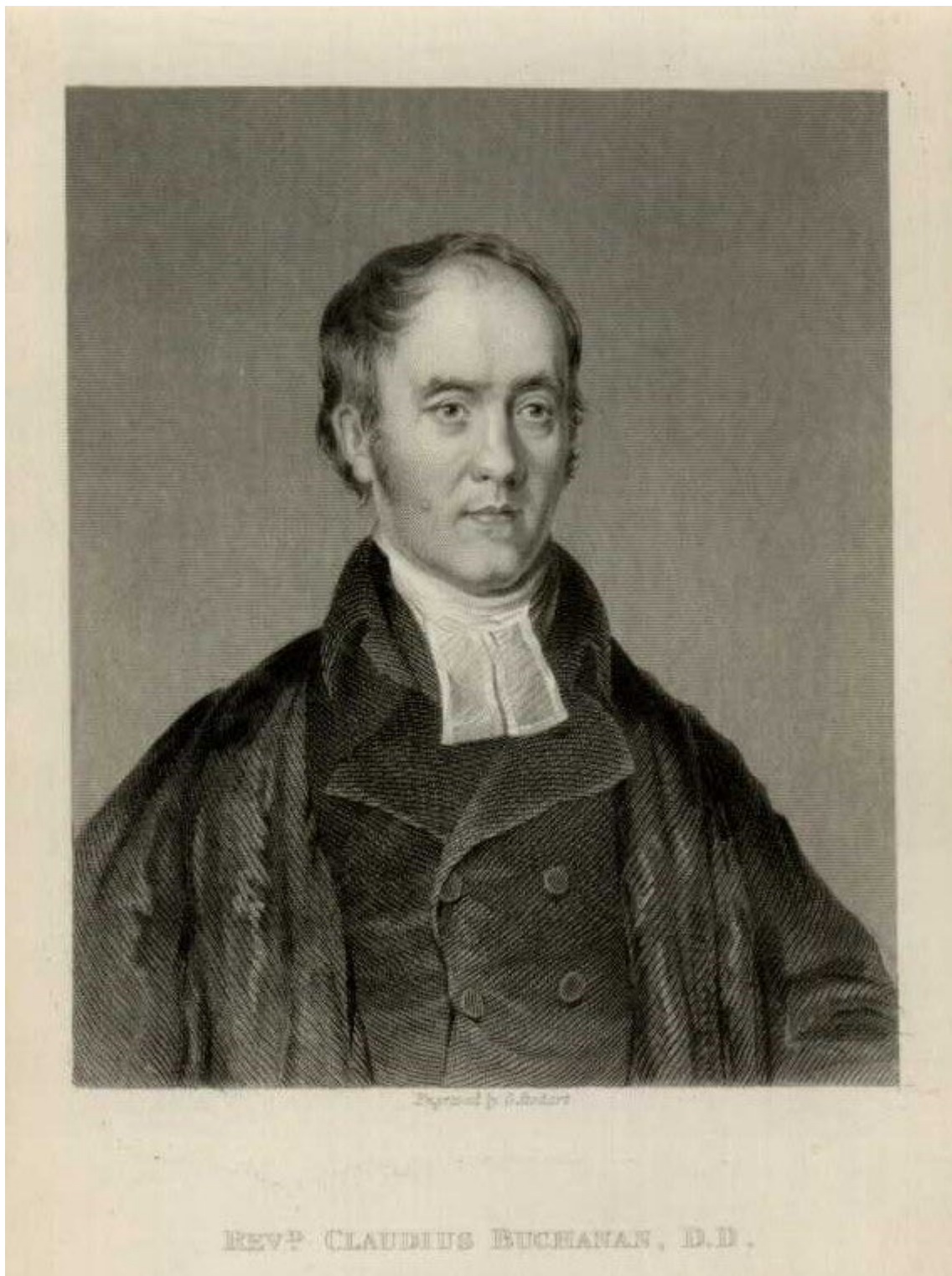


2/n

For thousands of years Lord Jagannath, Balbhadr & Subhadra are placed on beautifully decorated chariots, and pulled through the streets of Puri by devotees, so that all devotees can get a Darshan of the sacred family. The English first saw this spectacle in the early 1800s.

3/n

When the British invaders first saw the Rath Yatra they could not believe their eyes at the grandeur. Reverend Claudius Buchanan, an Anglican missionary was the first British official to use the word “Juggernaut” in the West in the early 1800s.



4/n

In his letters to Britain, Buchanan represented Juggernaut as a murderous, savage & bloodthirsty cult which sacrificed children. In 1811, Buchanan published *Christian Researches in Asia*, his "assessment" of the religious condition of India where he demonized "Juggernaut"

Paged incorrectly in original 1811

©

Second Boston Edition.



CHRISTIAN RESEARCHES

IN

ASIA:

WITH NOTICES

OF THE

TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

INTO THE

Oriental Languages.

*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the EVER-
LASTING GOSPEL to preach to them that dwell on the earth, and to
every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. REV. 14:6.*

==
BY THE

REV. CLAUDIUS BUCHANAN, D.D.

Author of *Star in the East*, *Memoir*, &c.



To which is added,

REV. MELVILLE HORNE'S SERMON,

Preached in London, June 4, 1811.

5/n

In his very first experience of a glimpse of the Rath Yatra festival , Buchanan was horrified. He immediately tied it to Biblical references of Evil Pagan God “Moloch of the Valley of Hinom”. This was the valley where pagan altars were created hundreds of years before Christ

6/n

According to the Old Testament "There the evil devotees of the mysterious dark god Moloch beat drums to drown out the ghastly cries of children immolated in sacrifice in front of their own willing parents." The Moloch idol was equipped with outstretched, cantilevered arms.



7/n

The idol's arms extended to a small platform on which innocent babies were tied. Slowly the platform swivels toward the consuming flames as the baby shrieked in helpless agony. Buchanan immediately identified Jagananath with such evil, without a single shred of similarity.

"The idol called Juggernaut has been considered as the Moloch of the present age; and he is justly so named, for the sacrifices offered up to him by self-devotement are not less criminal, perhaps not less numerous, than those recorded of the Moloch of Canaan."

respecting the Hindoos.

29

"Juggernaut, 14th June.

— I have seen Juggernaut. The scene at Bud-druck is but the vestibule to Juggernaut. No record of ancient or modern history can give, I think, an adequate idea of this Valley of Death; it may be truly compared with the "Valley of Hinnom." The idol called Juggernaut, has been considered as the Moloch of the present age; and he is justly so named, for the sacrifices offered up to him by self-devotement, are not less criminal, perhaps not less numerous, than those recorded of the Moloch of Canaan. Two other idols accompany Juggernaut, namely, Boloram and Shubudra his brother and sister; for there are *three* Deities worshipped here. They receive equal adoration and sit on thrones of nearly equal height.

When Buchanan saw the Puri Temple he referred to it as Golgatha- where Jesus Christ was crucified. To him the "walls & gates are covered with indecent emblems." & the nearby sand plains by the sea was "whitened with the bones of the pilgrims" whom he claimed were sacrifices.

“——This morning I viewed the Temple; a stupendous fabric, and truly commensurate with the extensive sway of “the horrid king.” As other temples are usually adorned with figures emblematical of their religion; so Juggernaut has representations (numerous and various) of that vice, which constitutes the essence of *his* worship. The walls and gates are covered with indecent emblems, in massive and durable sculpture. I have also visited the sand plains by the sea, in some places whitened with the bones of the pilgrims; and another place a little way out of the town, called by the English, the Golgotha, where the dead bodies are usually cast forth; and where dogs and vultures are ever seen.*

10/n

To Buchanan each & every Hindu ritual was horrifying & demonic. When the women started the auspicious Ulu Dhvani to welcome the Lord, Buchanan heard devilish

“ sounds like whistling...as if a serpent would speak by their organs uttering human sounds.”

“Juggernaut, 18th of June.

——I have returned home from witnessing a scene which I shall never forget. At twelve o'clock of this day, being the great day of the feast, the Moloch of Hindoostan was brought out of his temple amidst the acclamations of hundreds of thousands of his worshippers. When the idol was placed on his throne, a shout was raised, by the multitude, such as I had never heard before. It continued equable for a few minutes, and then gradually died away. After a short interval of silence, a murmur was heard at a dis-

11/n

The very idol frightened him - he describes it as "a frightful visage painted black with a distended mouth of bloody color" in reference to the blood that "Juggernaut" drinks from his human sacrifices. Clearly he was portraying Hinduism as the devils of the Bible.

"The throne of the idol was placed on a stupendous car or tower about sixty feet in height, resting on wheels which indented the ground deeply, as they turned slowly under the ponderous machine. Attached to it were six cables, of the size and length of a ship's cable, by which the people drew it along. Upon the tower were the priests and satellites of the idol, surrounding his throne. The idol is a block of wood, having a frightful visage painted black, with a distended mouth of a bloody color. His arms are of gold,

12/n

When the worship began - to him it consisted of "obscene stanzas" & when a boy of twelve was brought to sing & dance in devotion during the Puja, Buchanan saw it as something "Lascivious" likening it to some sort of obscene sexual ritual to please the God.

“I went on in the procession, close by the tower of Moloch; which, as it was drawn with difficulty, grated on its many wheels harsh thunder.* After a few minutes it stopped; and now the worship of the god began. A high priest mounted the car in front of the idol, and pronounced his obscene stanzas in the ears of the people; who responded at intervals in the same strain. “These songs,” said he, “are the delight of the god. His car can only move when he is pleased with the song.” The car moved on a little way and then stopped. A boy of about twelve years was then brought forth to attempt something yet more lascivious, if peradventure the god would move. The “child perfected the praise” of his idol with such ardent expression and gesture, that the god was pleased, and the

13/n

The entire Puja ceremony was repugnant to him. He says “An aged minister stood up & moved a long rod with indecent action, completed the variety of this disgusting exhibition. I was appalled at the magnitude & horror of the spectacle” He gives no idea what was indecent.

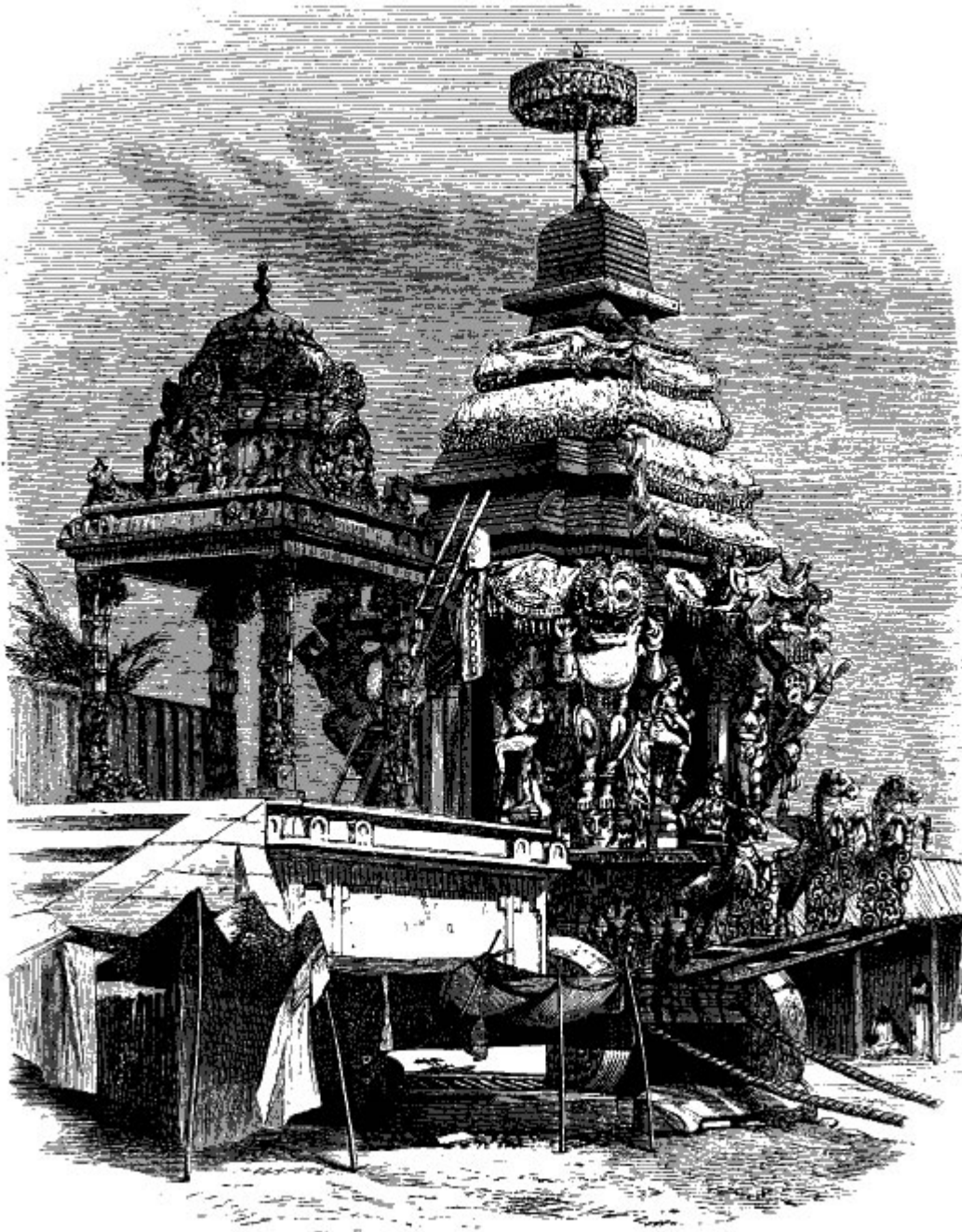
14/n

Then out of nowhere he claims just as Moloch's worship is about obscenity & blood, there would now be blood sacrifice. He says a pilgrim offered himself as a sacrifice to the idol & was crushed. Then he says Jagannath is “said to smile when the libation of blood is made”

multitude emitting a sensual yell of delight, urged the car along. After a few minutes it stopped again. An aged minister of the idol then stood up, and with a long rod in his hand, which he moved with indecent action, completed the variety of this disgusting exhibition. I felt a consciousness of doing wrong in witnessing it. I was also somewhat appalled at the magnitude and horror of the spectacle; I felt like a guilty person on whom all eyes were fixed, and I was about to withdraw. But a scene of a different kind was now to be presented. The characteristics of Moloch's worship are obscenity and blood. We have seen the former. Now comes the blood.

15/n

To Buchanan Juggernaut represented everything that was horrible about Hinduism & only Christianity could save the violent bloodthirsty Pagan savages. He showed Juggernaut as a symbol of utmost violence, savagery, human sacrifice & idolatry



TEMPLE OF JUGGERNAUT.

16/n

His description of Juggernaut became so popular that *Christian Researches in Asia* was reprinted in several editions in America and Britain. The Juggernaut demon cult was breathlessly derided & discussed in all the major Christian missionary magazines.



17/n

This horrific perception of Juggernaut among Protestant missionaries was used as a metaphor for alcohol . Like Juggernaut, alcohol has “shrines on the banks of almost every brook” and “4000 self-devoted human victims, immolated every year upon its altars.”

18/n

In 1930s, an anti-communist book labeled communism as “The red juggernaut.” In 1963, The Juggernaut made his first appearance as a villain in Marvel’s X-Men comics. Juggernaut was firmly entrenched in Western imagination as a symbol of evil, violence, death, and danger.



REST IN POWER

CHADWICK BOSEMAN

1976-2020



MARVEL

1

FABIAN NICIEZA • RON GARNEY • MATT MILLA

WIDDERNAUT



19/n

The Western demonization of Bhagwan Jagannath was all about the fear, paranoia & hatred that Christian missionaries felt about Hinduism. The word "Juggernaut" represents their ultimate fear of an immense, violently powerful, & unstoppable force that they could not conquer.

20/n

By using terms as "Juggernaut" without understanding their historical context, we encourage the perpetuation of Hinduphobia. It's important that such words no longer be treated as innocuous, but rather be called out for the unbridled hatred they were invented to represent.



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21/n

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