

Marginalities and the Indian Subcontinent:

HISTORICAL CHALLENGES

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A GLIMPSE AT THE OTHER RELIGIOUS SECTS: KARTABHAJA

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Abstract: After the aftermath of the Battle of Plassey, numerous minor religious sects had developed in Bengal. The changes in the political situation affected the majority: it was reflected in the social spheres. These sects had challenged the established major religious institutions. Some of these heterodox sects were Aul, Jagmohini, Sain, Darbesh, Sahebani and others. One of the major personalities associated with the sect was Fakir Aulchand. The ambiguity existing in Aulchand's social and religious identity attracted both the Hindus and the Muslims who wanted to break away from the yoke of the torments of the caste-ridden society.

The heretodox sects relegated to the backdrop again in the nineteenth century when the nuances existing between tradition and changes were stirring in Bengal. I would explore the

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