

Rayagada – Rayagada

Jagadish Mohanty*

Translated from Odia by Karunakar Mohapatra.

1) Hearing that my son was reading at Rayagada all my acquaintances were somewhat surprised and asked in incredulity Rayagada! In Rayagada? As if Rayagada is not in Odisha, not on this earth, nowhere in this universe.

2) From the Rayagada railway station going towards Nakua hill my son stood still looking at it: Father, do you see that hill? It seems as if, a man is sleeping contentedly.

I too saw that and was surprised: yes, so it looks!

3) At a short distance from MIITS Engineering College, the Naxals had landmined a stretch of the road. It was evening. A police vehicle was blown up. My son showed me the spot. Towards Bhubaneswar from Rayagada, a few kilometers from J.K Paper Mill colony, a little after Amalapat, the road was broken up, tar and all. That day I felt happy. In the middle of the road an ash-coloured hole – a sign of the revolution. Rebellion, then is still alive!

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