

Visnu's Sleep, Mahisa's Attack, Durga's Victory: Concepts of Royalty in a Sacrificial Drama

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ABSTRACT This paper deals with concepts of royalty as expressed in the annual Durga Puja of a local goddess in the Jagannatha temple of Puri (Orissa/India). This festival is first described as part of a system of royal rituals, which annually take place in the palace as well as in the temple. Next, the author presents his ethnographic data on Durga Puja in Puri and interprets it with reference to the Debi Mahatmya. In the final part of this paper, the author constructs a model of three different levels. These levels are said to be ordered hierarchically, that is, on a superior level, one value encompasses others while on a subordinate level it is opposed to these values. The aim of this paper is to elaborate Dumont's ideas concerning Hindu ideology by studying the magico-religious functions of the king.