

“On the Road with the *Babas*” Some Insights into Local Features of Mahima Dharma

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ABSTRACT The paper presents the first results of recent fieldwork carried out in Dhenkanal among ascetics (*babas*) and devotees of Mahima Dharma, an indigenous religious reform-movement in rural Orissa. Through travels with two Mahima Dharma ascetics, rituals as well as local and regional networks were investigated. The research reveals some aspects of the socio-structural features of the new religion upon which the paper will concentrate¹.