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Cover page illustration : Ms. Deblina Roy

The charioteers or 'Dahukas' used to recite 'Dahuka Boli' or 'Dahuka Gita' during 'Ratha Jatra' in Jagannath Dham, Puri, Odisha. 'Ratha Jatra' being a symbolic expression of the life-death cycle and thus fertility, these poetic recitations contain bawdy words/phrases in colloquial language. Although they seem vulgar, they are loaded with deep spiritual meanings that cannot be directly disseminated to the public. These recitations have tremendous psycho-social significance. The authorities have banned the ritual for many years after huge controversy. Now, it is only carried out in a symbolic form.

Reference-<https://odishatv.in/news/festivals-events/songs-of-the-charioteers-during-ratha-jatra-135981>