

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE SERIES - 11



A PEEP INTO THE TANTRALOKA AND OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE



KOSHALYA WALLI



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN

Foreword

I have great pleasure to present this volume of *Golden Jubilee of India's Independence Series of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan* to our esteemed readers. The Volume verily represents the goodwill and co-operation, the Sansthan has all along been receiving from the distinguished scholars all over the country.

The Sansthan was established in October, 1970 as an autonomous apex body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India with a view to promoting, preserving and propagating Sanskrit learning in all its aspects, with special reference to the in-depth shastraic learning. Apart from conducting the regular courses of studies at the constituent Vidyapeethas, it has been bringing out invaluable publications representing dissemination of knowledge contained in the various Shastras.

Thanks to the continued help, encouragement and support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India that the Sansthan has grown by leaps and bounds and has been able to render its services to promotion of Sanskrit learning at national and international levels. Sansthan has decided to bring out 50 scholarly monographs by eminent Sanskrit Scholars of different fields as part of the academic programmes organised to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

INTRODUCTION

Man does not live by bread alone. He finds a vacuum in his life despite his material and intellectual progress. That vacuum even for one moment leads him to the ultimate destination of Self - realization. Since times immemorial *man - the crown of the whole creation* - has been searching the source of true bliss. *Darśanam* has a great place of significance in human life. Philosophy and cultural development make him to wander in the inner world. He lives with himself and thinks *what am I ? Who am I ?* These *what* and *who* words puzzle him. He becomes a true Jijñāsu. We have in Indian Philosophy various types - the gifts of different periods to human history. *Mīmāṃsā (Pūrva and Uttara)*, *Sāṃkhya yoga*, *Nyāya*, *Vaiśeṣika*, *Baudha*, *Jaina*, *Cārvāka*, *Śaivism* and *Tantra* are famous types of Indian philosophy. Southern *Śaiva siddhānta* originated and developed in south. Kashmir *Śaivism* originated and developed in Kashmir. Seeds of *Śaivism* are found in *Rgveda - the oldest work in the universe*. Kashmir *Śaivism* is one of the systems of Indian thought that is very practical in the attainment of human goal.

Elaborating thirty six elements responsible for creation of this universe, knowledge of thirty six elements inspires a person to go ahead to understand this system of thought.

- (a) *Pañca Mahabhūtas* - the five great elements are - Pṛthvī (Earth), *Jala* (water) Agni (fire), *Vāyu* (air), and *Ākāśa* (ether).

CHAPTER - II

CONTENTS OF TANTRĀLOKA

The first chapter comprises 333 Ślokas. The first Śloka is full of various interpretations. One of the interpretations is that Ācārya Abhinavagupta's mother's name was Vimalakalā and father's name was Narasimha.¹ Usually, Sanskrit scholars do not introduce us to their parents, but Abhinavagupta is an exception in this arena.

In the 9th Śloka clearly it is said that Śrī Śrīkaṅṭha is the one and the only teacher (Guru) descended on this earth.² This is followed by the names of Somānanda - writer of *Sīvadṛṣṭi*. Śrī Utpaladeva is its commentator. Śrī Lakṣmaṇagupta is the son as also the disciple of Śrī Utpaladeva. Abhinavaguptacārya is the disciple of Sri Lakṣmaṇagupta, thus, say the 10th and 11th Ślokas.³ In the 12th Śloka, Abhinavaguptacārya remembers his venerable father Narasimhagupta as his Guru - the best Guru⁴.

1. T.A. 1.1

2. जयति गुरुरेक एव श्रीश्रीकण्ठो भुवि प्रथितः।
.....॥ 9 ॥ T.A.I

3. श्रीसोमानन्दबोधश्रीमदुत्पलविनिस्सृताः।
जयन्ति संविदामोदसन्दर्भा दिक्प्रसर्पिणः॥ 10 ॥

4. यः पूर्णानन्दविश्रान्तसर्वशास्त्रार्थपारगः।
स श्रीचुखुलको दिश्यादिष्टं मे गुरुरुत्तमः॥12 ॥ T.A.I



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN

56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri,
New Delhi-110058