

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE SERIES-28



SANSKRIT IN ASSAM THROUGH THE AGES

BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN

Preface

The decision taken by the *Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi* to join the Golden Jubilee Celebration of fifty years of Independence of India by publishing a series of books is most appropriate and timely. Sanskrit sayings and literatures inspired the people of India to awake, get up and have what is their right. *Vande-mātaram* served as the *bīja-mantra* to the people to make India free from the foreign yoke. Therefore, it is quite fitness of the approach behind the project that books on and about Sanskrit, which will not only be a contribution to the *National Heritage* but also a contribution to the cause, which the *Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan* serves.

Dr. Kamala Kant Mishra, the imaginative and energetic Director of the *Sansthan*, invited me to join the celebration by the *Sansthan* with a book, and he kindly allowed me to choose a subject, if I so desire. I agreed to write a book and chosen have the subject: ***Sanskrit in Assam through the Ages***. My association with the *Sansthan* since its inception prompted me to accept the offer and I owe an explanation to the esteemed readers for selecting the subject.

I believe that emotion which is played on for national integration, falls quickly as it rises in a moment. It is like fire on straws. The element which forms the basis of culture lasts a long time, perhaps thousands of years inspite of political and administrative differences. India is one culturally, though

सारात् सारतरं तन्नं किं जानासि वद प्रभो।
अतीवेदं रहः स्थानं तेन मे शुश्रूषा सदा॥

—KT. 1.3

The work deals with *mantroddhāra* in the second *paṭala* in the 3rd *cakra-cintā*, in the 4th *mantras*, in the 5th about *guru*, in the 6th *pañca-tattva* (five principles or *makāras*), in the 7th the means of destroying dreaded enemies, in the 8th *pūrṇābhīṣeka*, in the 9th the theory of liberation and the means to achieve it, and in the 10th the identity of the Goddess *Kāmākhya* with *Kālikā*.

या देवी कालिका माता सर्वविद्या स्वरूपिणी।

कामाख्या सैव विख्याता सत्यं देवि न चान्यथा॥

There are a number of MSS. of *Kāmākhya-t.* preserved and catalogued; one of the MS. is in India Office Library, London, another in the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta. It is also listed in the *Notices of Sanskrit MSS. by Rajendralal Mitra*. One MS. is in the personal library of earstwhile Mahārājā of J & K. etc. The work is also published from Dhaka and Calcutta.

The text of all the MSS. is not the same. The *KT.* edited and published by the present author contains 1 *paṭalas* and about five hundred verses.

Uttara Tantra:

Uttara tantra, an important work on *Tantra* is one of the 64 *Tantras*. *Uttara-tantra* has been referred to in the *Kālikā-p.* (9th cen.A.D)

From the reference of *Uttara-tantra* in the *KP.* and the instruction that what is described in the *Uttara-tantra* should be followed, and thus presumption is irresistible



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