



Satabdi Manthan শতাব্দী মন্তন

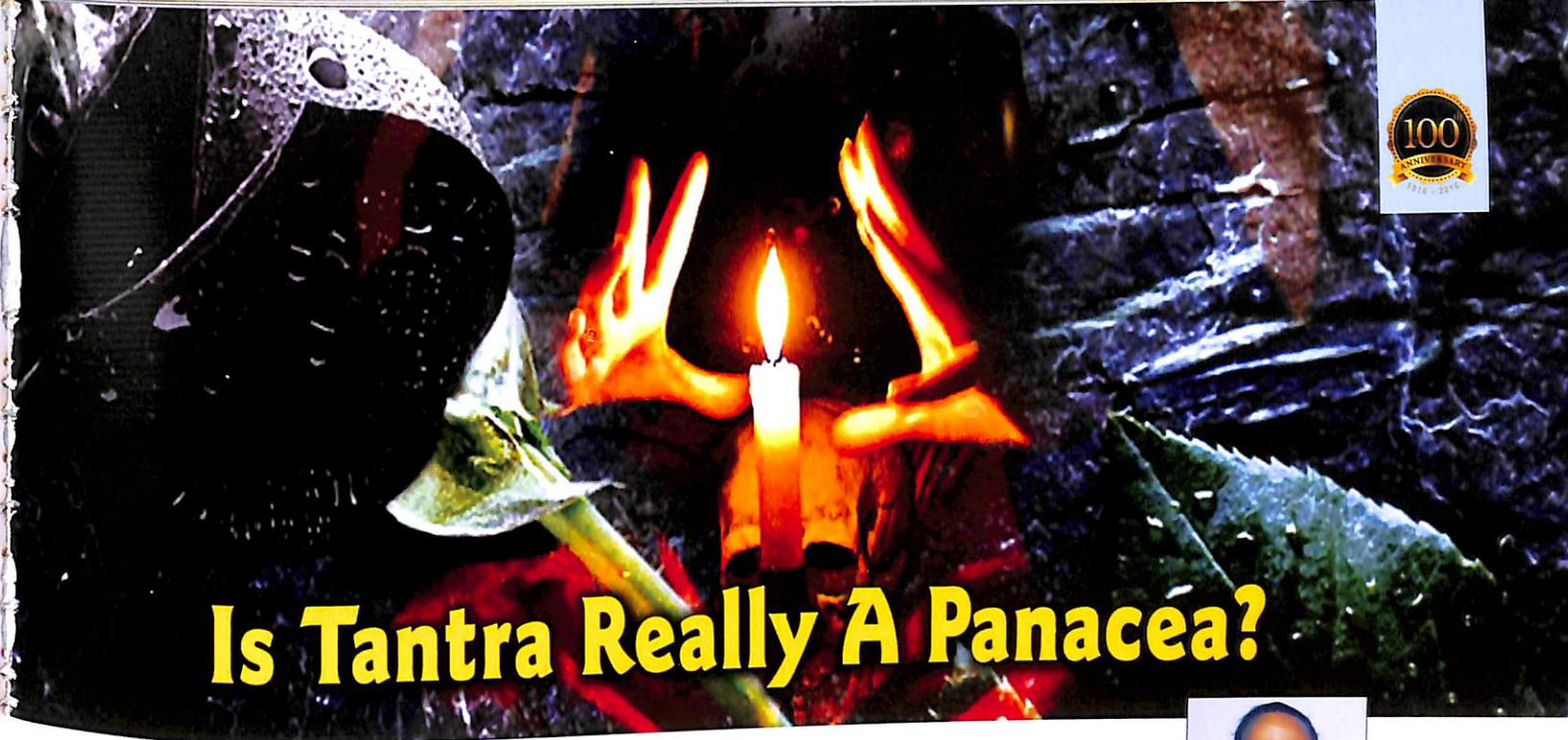


শতবাৰ্ষিকী উদযাপন
মঙলদৈ উকীল সন্থা

scientists continuously searched for scientific truth, they had to do it undergoing a lot of suffering. The great Renaissance took place at the end of 15th century. Renaissance was a period of new awakening of reasoning and revival of learning in Europe and it extended world-wide. Some of the outstanding characteristics of the great Renaissance were "belief in the power of education to produce complete man. The desire to enlarge the bounds of learning. The growth of scepticism and free thought." But in practical scene, as history of mankind revealed, the majority of people remained satisfied with their age-old and outmoded views and theories. The pioneer of those days was Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Martin Luther and many more. The Copernican discovery that the earth moves round the Sun was looked upon as blasphemy in the orthodox Christian circle. Similarly the discoveries of Galileo and Newton gave a very rude to the orthodox sections of people. Galileo was subjected to the worst persecution and ended his life as a blind man in the prison. Even in the 19th century Darwin who advocated the theory of evolution had to face a world of opposition from the Church because his theory directly opposed the Biblical theory of man's creation after the image of God. Martin Luther discovered unpardonable abuses in the Church of Rome for which he was excommunicated by the pope. But Luther remained adamant. At the beginning his protest was a cry in the wilderness - a lonely cry, But eventually country after country supported the voice of reason advocated by Martin Luther.

Omar's observation to discover the scientific discovery and his subsequent finding that "the earth moves round the sun" was not accepted by the orthodox people of that time. They rose against, Omar, held meeting to punish him as a criminal, but could not cause any harm to him due to the interference made by some nomadic tribes who had lived in the desert under tents. It is a truth to be universally acknowledged that ignorance is darker than darkness and the true knowledge is brighter than brightness and that the blasphemies of today are the established truths of tomorrow. A peep to the history of mankind reveals the fact that one of the greatest tyrannies society inflicted on man was in the name of religion. Religion is a pure notion and in its purest and noblest form, religion is one of God's blessing for mankind. But crimes and cruelties have been committed in the name of religion throughout the ages. The reason is not far to seek. According to Omar, Wisdom is the most precious of all virtues and wisdom includes moral values and rational thinking. Though the source of moral value is religion, it is only the rational understanding of religion through which moral values may be strengthened. Man is born free but every where he is in chain" - (Jefferson.) is a very important and true remark made by Jefferson. The search and struggle for truth are found in every sphere of human life. Even in the modern time anybody who expresses disagreement with the commonly accepted beliefs is immediately branded as rebel, a heretic, a blasphemer. In this way Omar Khayyam, Pythagoras, Socrates, Jesus, Martin Luther, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton - all were misunderstood. "To be great is to be misunderstood" (Emerson).●

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Is Tantra Really A Panacea?

Dr. Parimal Kumar Datta



"You can neither understand the spirit of true science ,nor of true religion unless you keep seeking in the front."
Sir Arthur Edington.

John Woodroffe was then a Judge in the High Court of Calcutta. He was born in 1865 and educated at University College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple. Later on, he became an Advocate of the High Court of Calcutta. He was selected fellow of the University of Calcutta. He held the Posts of Tagore Law Professor and Standing Counsel to the Government of India . In course of time he became a Judge in the High Court of Calcutta and rose to the Post of Chief Justice (officiating).

Mr. Harideva Shastri was a Sanskrit scholar, well-versed in English and an interpreter in the High Court of Calcutta, "Can you name a Tantrika who possesses supernatural powers?" asked Woodroffe.

"Yes, Sir", Mr. Shastri replied , but wondered.

"My question has made you astonished. It is natural. Being a British by birth and a Judge in a high court in India in the British period, I want to meet a Tantrika to solve my problem. Hearing this, anybody will wonder. I solve problems of others. Reasoning and rational thinking help me in giving verdicts. Now I have heard about the miraculous power of the Tantrikas of Kamakhya, Calcutta and Benaras. I am sure that a powerful Tantrika can solve it," Mr. Woodroffe stopped.

“Sir, a powerful Tantrika is now staying at Calcutta. His name is Tantracharya Shivachandra Vidyarnava. Though he belongs to Kumarkhali of Nadia, he spends much time in Vaidyanathadhama and Benaras. I will take you to him tomorrow”, Mr. Shastri said.

Mr. Woodroffe met Shivachandra and narrated what had happened. He asked Tantracharya if he could solve it or not.

“Nothing is impossible in Tantra. I will surely solve your problem. You will be free from all anxieties and tensions from the day after tomorrow. I shall perform a Tantric Yajna (Sacrifice) in the cremation ground of Kalighat at midnight to please Goddess Sarvamangala (Kali),” he assured him.

The assurance given by Tantracharya proved to be fully correct. John Woodroffe was astonished to see the power of Tantra.

He decided to learn Sanskrit and to study Tantra. He was initiated into Tantra by Tantracharya Shivachandra Vidyarnava. He wrote a few Tantra books. The Westeners could know about Tantra from his writings. He died in 1936 in England.

I have mentioned this incident that happened to the life of John Woodroffe (Pen name Arthur Avalan) as this article is written for the centenary souvenir of the Mangaldai Bar Association on the occasion of the completion its glorious 100 years in service to nation.

Now questions arise-

What is Tantra? Is Tantra relevance to this scientific age? Is Tantra relevance to modern India? Is Tantra really a panacea?

Probably the readers may find the answers in the following discussion.

What is Tantra?

The word “Tantra” bears more than 50 meanings. Generally Tantra means ‘a literature related to spiritual practices’. Tantra is a pre-Vedic cult. Tantra literature that is found and studied is Post Vedic. Though Tantra is basically a Sadhanashastra, it is also an encyclopedic literature that contains almost all the subjects like-

ALCHEMY, ANATOMY, ARCHITECTURE, ASTROLOGY, ASTRONOMY, AYURVEDA, BIO-SCIENCE, DANCE, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, EMBRYOLOGY, EPISTEMOLOGY, ETHERAL SCIENCE, ETHICS, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, ICONOGRAPHY, LAW, LOGIC, MAGIC, MATHEMATICS, PHILOSOPHY, PHYSICS, PHYSIOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION SACRAMENTS, SCULPTURE, SOCIOLOGY, SYMBOLIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND YOGA.

IS TANTRA RELEVANCE TO THIS SCIENTIFIC AGE?

Tantra is science. Modern physicists now agree to some postulations of Tantra. Finna finds out peculiar similarities between Physics and Tantra. Now the whole world is aware of

the utilities of the Ayurveda that is basically Tantric. The Tantric physicians known as Rasavids used mainly drugs produced from mercury, sulphur, iron, mica, gold and silver. Tantric therapy is much useful to cancer patients.

Modern chemistry owes much to Tantric Alchemy regarding medicinal preparation. Tantra Yoga occupies an important place in the life of the people throughout the world. Tantric literature is a store-house of ancient history, geography, education, law, political science and sociology. These have much relevance to this scientific age

IS TANTRA RELEVANCE TO MODERN INDIA?

In spite of fast technological and economic developments, modern India faces some issues like caste-ism, communalism, sexual harassments and scandals, national disintegration etc.

Tantra is really a panacea for these socio-politico-cultural ills of India. Let us discuss in brief how far Tantra can cure these ills.

Caste-ism and Communalism

All the castes enjoy equal rights in Tantric rituals. The door of Tantra is open to all religions, castes, communities, tribes and clans. Even Muslims are allowed to enter the Temple of Kamakhya and to offer Puja. Kamakhya is the greatest Shaktipitha in the world. Kaji Najrul Islam, rebellious poet of Bengal, was a worshipper of Mother Kali. His entry into the Temple of Tara in Tarapitha, Birbhum, was always free.

Once Mrs. Indra Gandhi, EX-Prime Minister of India, went to Puri to visit Lord Jagannatha. She could not enter the Temple and offer the Puja. She was prohibited from entering the temple because of her husband's identity. But she had a free passport to visit Mother Kamakhya. During the National Emergency in India she came to the temple of Mother Kamakhya upon the advice of Dharendra Brahmachary. Brahmacharyji advised her to perform a Yajna (Sacrifice) in the greatest Shaktipitha in order to bring political situation under control. That memorable sacrifice was performed by Ramani Kanta Sharma who was a powerful Tantrika. The philosophy of Tantra can uproot the poison tree of caste-ism and communalism.



Sexual harassments and scandals

Tantra gives the highest position to women. It forbids all harms to them. Even women can become Spiritual Guides(Gurus). Tantra Says-

**“WOMAN IS THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE
THE UNIVERSE IS HER FORM;
WOMAN IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD
SHE IS THE TRUE FORM”.**

Virgin worship (Kumari Puja) of Tantra has much impact upon our society. Prostitutes are much honoured. The soil of the floor of the house of a prostitute is a necessary article for Durgapuja, the greatest Tantric festival.

Sexual harassment and sexual scandals are common to modern India. The cult of virgin worship, Tantra Yoga and the position given to women in Tantra are antidotes to these socio-cultural ills.

National disintegration

Our country is Matribhumi. We worship her with the mantra ‘Vande Mataram’. The whole atmosphere is saturated with this mother idea. This is the contribution of the Tantrikas, the Mother - Worshippers of our Mother India. Shaktipithas built on the pieces of the body of Sati form the concept of Mother India. In the song ‘Vande Mataram’ Mother India is identified with the Tantric Goddesses- Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Tantra’s basic principles can remove the germs of national disintegration sown in the mind of some reactionary forces.

Legendary figures, National Leaders and Tantra

Lord Rama worshipped Tantric Goddess Durga to win the battle of Lanka and kill Ravana. Lord Krishna advised Arjuna to chant the hymns of Tantric Goddess Durga and to please her to win the battle.

Raja Rammohan Roy, Father of Modern India, was a great Tantrika scholar and Tantric practitioner. Sri Ramakrishna, spiritual guide of Swami Vivekananda, was a great Tantrika. Rishi Aurobinda was a Tantric Yogi. Netaji Subhas Chandra learnt some methods of Tantra from Tantric Yogi Bardacharan Majumdar. Swami Pranabananda, founder of the international philanthropic organization Bharat Sevashram Sangha, was a Tantra Yogi.

Observation

A person can apply Tantra to his/her life for self-progress & self-development. Tantra makes a person self-confident, physically strong, mentally balanced, self-controlled and self-willed. It helps a person to overcome fears, tensions, terrors, phobias and anxieties.

Many Indians and the foreigners rush to the Tantrikas to get their problems solved. But most of them fall prey to false Tantrikas. Those Tantrikas do much harm to Tantra.

Misconceptions about Tantra grow in the mind of people.

Tantra is mainly blamed for Pancamakara, Satkarma and Bali. Detailed scientific explanations about these are found in my book “Tantra- its relevance to modern times”. The readers may find the book in Google books, Amazon books and other websites.

Conclusion

False notions and misconceptions about Tantra make critics frown, scholars shrink, readers bewilder, researchers hawk, intellectuals lament, philosophers disgust, moralists curse, pseudo-Tantrikas gloat, pseudo-secularists sneer, atheists snort and layman simper. In spite of its rich cult, it is still much neglected, openly blamed and unjustly outranked.

The proper study of Tantra texts, scientific explanations of Tantra texts and proper application of Tantric therapy may remove all the misconceptions and false notions about Tantra.

Tantra can be applied under the guidance of real Tantrasadhakas. Modern science and technologies have made man omnipotent and omniscient. Its victorious form is felt everywhere. But modern science suffers from many deficiencies. Here lies the greatest role of Tantra. Only Tantra with science and science with Tantra can make up all deficiencies and solve all the unsolved problems of mankind.

In conclusion I may quote John Woodroffe-

“Siddhi, the visible fruit of the Tantra Shastra, is the outcome of its natural potency. Whether you or I believe it or not, Tantra Shastra will, when applied as directed by itself, bear visible fruit. The combined determination of lakhs of persons such as you or I will not avail to prevent that. Relying on the strength of its own arms, Tantra does not recognise the efficacy of anything, call it reasoning or evidence, judgement or inference..... Reasoning, argument and inference may be work of other Shastras, but the work of Tantra is to accomplish superman and divide events by the force of its own Mantras.”•

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