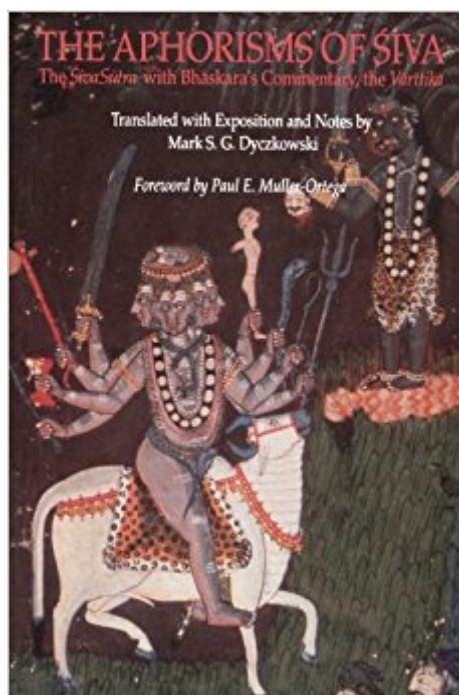




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The Aphorisms Of Siva: The Siva Sutra With Bhaskara's Commentary, The Varttika (Suny Series In Tantric Studies)



Synopsis

The Shiva Sutra was revealed to Vasugupta by Shiva in order to counter the effects of dualism. This revelation initiated the hermeneutics of syntheses and exegesis climaxed by the great Abhinavagupta. The Shiva Sutra is the most important scripture in the Trika system of Kashmir Shaivism. As a book on yoga, it explains the nature and cause of bondage and the means to liberation from bondage. Bhaskara is in the direct lineage of Vasugupta. To Bhaskara's commentary, Mark Dyczkowski has added his translation of an anonymous commentary as an aid to understanding Bhaskara's interpretation. This anonymous writer also serves as a bridge between Ksemaraja's and Bhaskara's commentaries, drawing from both. The commentary on each sutra is thus in three layers. Bhaskara's commentary is first, followed by the anonymous commentary, after which Dyczkowski adds his own exposition and compares Bhaskara and Ksemaraja. Ksemaraja's commentary, the Vimarsini, has been translated by Jaideva Singh and published by SUNY Press under the title Siva Sutra.

Book Information

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Mark S. G. Dyczkowski took his first degree at Banaras Hindu University and then his doctorate at Oxford. He is presently associated with Sampurnananda Sanskrit University in Varanasi. He is the author of The Doctrine of Vibration: An Analysis of the Doctrines and Practices of Kashmir

Shaivism; The Canon of the Saivagama and the Kubjika: Tantras of the Western Kaula Tradition; and The Stanzas on Vibration: The Spanda Karika with Four Commentaries.

The philosophy of Kashmir Shaivism was born in the 9th century when Lord Shiva revealed the 77 aphorisms which have come to constitute the Shiva Sutras to the sage, Vasugupta in a dream. Sri Vasugupta was then instructed to seek out a specific rock on Mahadev Mountain. When Vasugupta struck the rock, it is said to have turned over, revealing the Shiva Sutras inscribed upon the rock. The rock, called Shankaropala, is still located at the original site, although the aphorisms can no longer be found inscribed there. The book "Aphorisms of Shiva" by Mark Dyczkowski is a translation of the Shiva Sutras with a commentary from Bhaskara, an early sage of Kashmir Shaivism hailing from the lineage of Sage Vasugupta himself. It also features another anonymous commentary. Many generations removed from Vasugupta, a brilliant Master from this same lineage, named Abhinavagupta, wrote the master work of Kashmir Shaivism, the Tantraloka. In a monumental feat of scholarship and penetrating insight, Abhinavagupta rendered the works of these early proponents of Kashmir Shaivism into a cohesive whole which included all the eminent Tantric traditions of the time and region. Abhinava's foremost disciple, Kshemaraja went on to write a commentary on the Shiva Sutras, following the inclusive style of his Guru, that has been widely translated in our own era. In his "Aphorisms of Shiva", Professor Dyczkowski additionally compares the commentary representative of the early stream of Kashmiri Shaivite teaching to that of the later "Trika" system first expounded by Abhinava and furthered by Kshemaraja. While it isn't the most easily-understood of philosophical pursuits, its depth is immeasurable and its rewards are bountiful. Studied diligently, especially in conjunction with a spiritual practice and under the direction of a teacher who can help illumine the experience which the tradition points to, the "Shiva Sutras" can help uncover the most vast of treasures. If this path calls to you, I encourage the study of Professor Dyczkowski's "Aphorisms" in particular.

Another brilliant book on Kashmir Shaivism by scholar/practitioner Mark Dyczkowski.

Bhaskara's commentary is enlightening! Sadaa"saya Mark Dyczkowski's presentation is superb. If you are interested in Kashmir Shaivism, this book is a must have. Very inspiring. Thanks for another brilliant work, Mark!

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