

The Trichotomous Theme : A Ritual Category in Hindu Culture

SAMARENDRA SARAF

Contents :

Trichotomy: Its Pervasive Nature and Antiquity

A. Vedic Thought

1. The Trichotomous Division of Vedic Literature
2. The Mystic Sound: *Om*
3. The *Gāyatrī*
4. The *Yajña*
5. Upaniṣadic Cosmology
6. Trimorphic Classical Conception of *Sāhitya*

B. Post-Vedic Thought

1. The Śākta Literature
 2. The Vedānta
 3. Philosophy of *karma*
 4. The Sāṃkhya
 5. The Yoga
 6. Complex of Hindu Worship
 7. Hindu Astrology
- Conclusion

The author wishes to express his indebtedness to Mr. Chandra Shekhar Awasthi who had taught him philosophy years ago, and who has ever been a constant source of encouragement to him. Mr. Awasthi has seen the manuscript through, and has benefited the author with his sound suggestions.

To Dr. Biswanath Bhattacharya the author owes another one third of his indebtedness. The author has fruitfully discussed with him the Samskrita hymns only to dig out their apt connotations, besides discussions on the Tāntrika liturgy and its metaphysical base. Dr. Bhattacharya has further generously offered to check the transliteration part.

Panḍita Lakṣmī Nārāyaṇa Dvivedī, Nyāyācārya, has offered his valued guidance to the author in the initial stage of writing this paper, for which he expresses his thanks to the learned Panḍita.