PREFACE

auh satyam sivam sundaram tapahsiddha-vigraham
yogisvaram yogirajain yugacaryam namamyaham
acaryain prapavain devain tasutosin varapradam
namami saccidanandam 'sripavananda-vigraham

My birth and nurture in a pure Sākta family and the indelible marks of the influence of my revered mathematician father Late Paresh Chandra Datta on my philosophical thought and the way of my living compelled me to long for the finding out of the mysteries of Tantra during my student’s life. My long cherished desire that was dormant and coiled in the deep of my heart for a long time suddenly sprang up at the call of the Divine Mother through Her devoted son Professor (Dr.) Rajendra Nath Sarma, M.A., Ph.D., D. Litt., Миmāṁsā-Vyākaraṇa Shāstri, former Head of the Department of Sanskrit, and senior most Professor at present, Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University. My first meeting with Dr. Rajendra Nath Sarma who is an eminent Sanskrit Scholar, erudite Pandit, prominent Sanskritist and distinguished teacher, in the land of Mother Kāmākhyā and in spite of his busy schedules, his instant, spontaneous and kind consent to be my Guide in research work on Tantra, seemed to me to be the noble design of Mother Kāli. Being thrilled and encouraged by his consent, I ventured to visit different libraries for studies and the Tantric centers for personal experience about the Tantric Cult. The present thesis is the outcome of the blessings of the Divine Mother, perfect supervision of my revered Guide Prof. (Dr.) Rajendra Nath Sarma, spontaneous offers of help from all corners and my strenuous attempts.

Tantra is a pre-historic cult and an ancient literature. In spite of Tantra’s rich cult and vast literature, Tantra is still much neglected, bitterly criticized and ruthlessly attacked. Misconceptions about Tantra make critics frown, scholars shrink, readers
bewilder, researchers hawk, intellectuals roar and philosophers disgust. It is also correct that the want of proper appreciation, actual abuse of its injunction, dread of some spiritual practices, impact of Western Civilization are mainly responsible for the mass ignorance about Tantra that once illumined the whole of Indian intellectual and spiritual horizon.

The aim of this thesis is to present a clear idea about Hindu Tantra, to refute all the charges made against Tantra, to show its utility by citing the examples of the 'Siddhis’ shown by the legendary figures of Tantra in the scientific centuries and to find out the relevance of Tantra to modern times. Hence I have placed all the essential elements and related topics of Tantra in ten chapters of this thesis.

I am quite aware of the probable shortcomings in the thesis. However, I believe:

`sūrpavaḍa dōṣaṃutsṛpja gupāṁ gṛhaṇti śādhavaḥ`

Parimal Kumar Datta