

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A RESEARCH venture is always a product of teamwork and in this context the claim to be the sole original 'author' does not denote more than a 'signatory' status. A student and researcher of Mahāmāheśvara Śrī Abhinavaguptapādācārya learns more of his intellectual limitations and in this process becomes more humble. But this is the key, as the Masters have stated, to *pratyabhijñā* (re-cognition) of the real self. It must have been the fruits of some *adrṣṭa* (= *adrṣṭa/avijñāpti* unseen merits of actions), and the blessings of my teachers that inspired me to become a student of an ocean-like text *Śrī Tantrāloka*. In the gloss of the Master himself:

"vitatastantrāloko vigāhitum naiva śakyate sarveḥ";

(that not everyone can dive into the depth of the *Tantrāloka*.)

[TS I.1]

I take this opportunity to put on record my most sincere sense of reverence and gratitude to my teacher and research guide Prof. Kapil Kapoor. With his remarkable insights and observations, he nurtured in us an interest, love and honour for the intellectual traditions of India. In this sense, he has been both our *sikṣā* and *dikṣā* Guru. It would be an ever-illuminating experience for all those who have got the opportunity to attend his lectures, as student or researcher, and I believe it is going to stay with us through the passage of time. We feel committed to learn more, take forward and disseminate the amount of knowledge contained in our intellectual traditions.

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And finally, I submit to the absolute will of Parameśvara:

*āṅgikaṃ bhuvanam yasya vācikaṃ sarvavāṅgmayam/
āhārya candratārādi tam numah sātvikam śivam//*

" The movement of whose body (*āṅgika*), is the world,
whose speech (*vācika*) the sum of all verbal discourses,
Whose vestaments (*āhārya*) are the moon and stars,-
to that pure Śiva (*sātvika abhinaya*) I bow!"

[Nandikeśvara: *Abhinayadarpaṇa*, 1.1].

// iti //


(RAJNISH KUMAR MISHRA)