Chapter - I  THE EARLIEST NOTION OF SARASVATI AS A RIVER

1. General introduction ........................................ 1
2. The identification and location of the Sarasvati river ............................. 4
   i) Roth ........................................ 4
   ii) K.C. Cottopadhyāya ......................... 6
   iii) Max Müller ................................. 8
   iv) Divaprasad Das Gupta .................. 10
3. The geographical and historical data ........................................ 16
   i) The geographical facts ........................................ 16
      (a) Mountains ...................................... 16
      (b) Seas ........................................ 18
   ii) The historical facts ........................................ 22
      (a) The Bharatas ..................................... 22
      (b) The Kurus ..................................... 23
      (c) The Pūras ..................................... 25
4. Vinaśana or the disappearance of the Sarasvati ..................................... 26

Chapter - II  SARASVATI IN THE RGVEDA

1. Physical aspect of Sarasvati ........................................ 35
   i) The description of the limbs of Sarasvati ............................. 37
      (a) Suyamā ...................................... 39
      (b) Subhrā ...................................... 40
      (c) Supeśas ..................................... 41
   ii) The description of the beauty of Sarasvati ............................. 38
2. The mental aspect of Sarasvati ........................................ 42
   i) Dīyāvasuh ...................................... 42
   ii) Codayitrī sūrtānām ..................................... 44
   iii) Other references ..................................... 45
3. Social aspect of Sarasvati ........................................ 46
   i) Sarasvati as a mother ..................................... 46
      (a) Ambitamā ..................................... 47
      (b) Sīndhumātā ..................................... 47
      (c) Mātā .......................................... 48
II) Sarasvati as a sister
(a) Saptasvasā
(b) Saptadhātuh
(c) Saptathi
(d) Trisadhastha
(e) Svasṛ anyā rtāvari

III) Sarasvati as wife
(a) Virapatni
(b) Vranah patni
(c) Marutvatī

IV) Sarasvati as a daughter
(a) Pāvīravī

V) Sarasvati as a friend
(a) Marutsakhā
(b) Sakhyā
(c) Uttarā sakhibhyah

4. Main activities of Sarasvati

i) Sarasvati as the giver of wealth
(a) Sarasvati's breasts as 'sasāyah, ratnadā' and 'vasuvid'
(b) Rāyaś cetanti
(c) Āpo revatīh

ii) Sarasvati as giver of pleasure
(a) Mayobhuh (in plural 'mayobhuvah')

iii) Sarasvati as the bestower of offsprings

iv) Sarasvati as the giver of food
(a) Ayūsi
(b) Tasas

5. Special characteristics of Sarasvati

i) Vājiṃivatī
ii) Pāvekā
iii) Ghṛtācī
iv) Pārāvataśhni
v) Citrāyuḥ
vi) Hiranyakavartaniḥ
vii) Asurya
viii) Dharunamāyasi pūh
ix) Akavārī

6. The relation of Sarasvati with other gods and goddesses

i) Sarasvati with male divinities
ii) Sarasvati with female divinities
(a) The triad of the Vedic goddesses
Chapter - III  SARASVATI IN THE YAJURVEDA

1. Physical account of Sarasvati  ...  95
2. Some important epithets of Sarasvati  ...  97
   i) Yasobhaginī  ...  97
   ii) Navismatī  ...  98
   iii) Sudughā  ...  99
   iv) Jāgrā  ...  100
3. Sarasvati as a physician  ...  101
   i) Sarasvati and the Sautramani sacrifice  ...  101
   ii) Sarasvati and the Bhesaj sacrifice  ...  101
   iii) Sarasvati as a physician  ...  102
4. Sarasvati and Sarasvata  ...  107
5. Sarasvati as a milch-cow  ...  110

Chapter - IV  SARASVATI IN THE ATHARVAVEDA

1. Sarasvati and medical science  ...  113
2. Sarasvati and the ills caused by wealth  ...  115
3. Sarasvati and the work of protection  ...  117
4. Sarasvati and the divine strength of man  ...  120
5. Sarasvati and marriage  ...  123
6. Sarasvati and unity  ...  125
7. Sarasvati and agriculture  ...  125
8. The trinity of goddesses  ...  126

Chapter - V  SARASVATI IN THE BRĀHMANAS

1. Vāk and her introduction  ...  128
   i) The Rgvedic account  ...  129
   ii) The Brāhmanical account  ...  130
2. The legend of Vāk and the Gandharvas  ...  132
   i) The legend in the Aitareya-Brāhmaṇa  ...  135
   ii) The legend in the Satapatha-Brāhmaṇa  ...  136
3. Some important epithets of Sarasvatī
   i) Vaisambhalyā ... 138
   ii) Satyavāk ... 139
   iii) Sumrdikā ... 140

4. Sarasvatī and Sarasvān ... 141

5. Vāk and the problems concerning her in the Brāhmaṇas
   i) The way through which Sarasvatī went to be identified with speech ... 143
   ii) The cosmogonical Vāk legend in the Brāhmaṇas ... 145
   iii) The identification of Vāk with Sarasvatī ... 147
       (a) The Satapatha-Brāhmaṇa ... 148
       (b) The Gopatha-Brāhmaṇa ... 149
       (c) The Tāṇḍya-Mahābrāhmaṇa ... 149
       (d) The Aitareya-Brāhmaṇa ... 149
       (e) The Aitareya-Āranyaka ... 150
       (f) The Śāṅkhāyaṇa-Brāhmaṇa ... 150
       (g) The Taittiriya-Brāhmaṇa ... 150

Chapter - VI PLACE OCCUPIED BY SARASVATĪ IN THE PURĀNIC LITERATURE

1. The Purānic accounts for the origin of Sarasvatī ... 152
   i) The Brahma Vaivarta-Purāṇa ... 152
   ii) The Matsya and Padma Purāṇas ... 153
   iii) The Vayu-Purāṇa ... 154
   iv) The Brahmānda-Purāṇa ... 155

2. The colour of Sarasvatī ... 157
   i) White ... 157
   ii) Śyāma ... 159
   iii) Blue ... 160

3. The vehicle ... 162
   i) The swan ... 162
   ii) The peacock ... 163
   iii) The implication of the swan and the peacock ... 163

4. The image of Sarasvatī ... 166
   i) The prescription for the image of Sarasvatī ... 166
   ii) Face ... 168
   iii) The number of hands and the object held by them ... 172
   iv) The implication of the objects held in the hands 175
5. The physical aspect of Sarasvati (i.e., Sarasvati as a river)
   i) The origin of Sarasvati as a river ...
   ii) The sacred aspect of the Sarasvati ...
   iii) Some epithets of the Sarasvati ...

6. The marriage and spouse
   i) Sarasvati and Brahma ...
   ii) Sarasvati and Dharmaraja ...
   iii) Manu and Sarasvati ...
   iv) Sarasvati and Vishnu ...

7. The offsprings of Sarasvati ...
   i) Sarasvata ...
   ii) Svayambhuva Manu ...
   iii) Others ...

Chapter - VII REFERENCES TO SARASVATI BY SOME CLASSICAL WRITERS

1. Kālidāsa ...
   i) Sarasvati as synonymous with speech (vānī) ...
   ii) Relation of Sarasvati with Music ...
   iii) Sarasvati as poetess ...
   iv) Sarasvati as a river ...

2. Aśvaghoṣa ...

3. Bhaṭavī ...

4. Maṅga ...

5. Śrī-Harṣa ...
   i) Sarasvati as a river ...
   ii) Sarasvati as playing an important role in marriage ...
   iii) Sarasvati as the patron-deity of Kashmir ...

6. Bhavabhūti ...

7. Dandin ...

8. Subandhu ...

9. Bāṇa Bhaṭṭa ...
   i) The relation of Bāṇa's family with Sarasvati ...
   ii) Bāṇa's version of the legend of Sarasvati ...
   iii) Probable source of the legend
       (a) Sarasvati legend in the Mahābhārata ...
       (b) Sarasvati legend in the Purāṇas ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Rājaśekhara</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>215</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Kavyapurusa and Sahityavidyāvādhū</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>215</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) The source of the theme</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Sarasvatī as a river</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>218</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Bhartrhari</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mahākavi Bilhana</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Sarasvatī as speech</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Sarasvatī as the goddess of poetry and eloquence</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Abode of Saradā</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Some other allusion to Sarasvatī</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Kalhana</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix

SARASVATĪ AND HER CORRESPONDING NAMES IN THE GREEK AND THE ROMAN MYTHOLOGIES

1. Introduction | ... | ... | 225 |
2. Sarasvatī and Minerva (the Roman goddess) | ... | 226 |
3. Sarasvatī and the Greek Muses | ... | ... | 228 |
   i) The Rgveda and the conception of Muse | ... | 228 |
   ii) Similarity between Sarasvatī and the Greek Muses | ... | 230 |

Bibliography | ... | ... | 233 |