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B.Sc



PREFACE

Kashmir, North Western part of India, has a long history at its back. People of Kashmir, who live in the lap of nature feel proud of it. These people have felt misrule of various kings but it is fact that most of the kings have good governance and the valley inhabitants were very comfortable during their rule.

Kashmir has remained centre of culture. Sanskrit was the centre medium of their education. Many authors have written many valuable books in different languages. Famous historian, poet Pandit Kalhan has written history of Kashmir with RAJTARNGNI as its title. Others who also wrote about Kashmir in those days were Abinav Gupta, Khemender and Bilhan. All of them have written with different titles but all of them were having central point in Shivism. But Jonerja has given references of history also. Pt. Kalhan has collected all possible material relating to his writings. He visited those places, made thorough investigation and after getting full satisfaction, start writing.

Rajtarangni got international recognition When Dr. Mark Aurl Stein translated this book in English language in 1889 A.D. He visited all those places mentioned by Kalhan in his book, made thorough research and after that started translating the book. That is how the book got international recognition, as history book. Dr Stein was helped by some eminent Kashmir Scholars like Pt. Mukund Ram Shastri, Pt. Harbhat Shastri and Pt. Govind Koul.

Rajtarangini has been translated in various languages. In 16th century king of Kashmir Zainulabdin (Budshah) ordered for its translation in Persian language, the book was translated in Persian language with the title of Bihawal Asmeer. Empror Akbar also ordered Abdul Kadir Albdoomi to re-write the book in soft language, which he accomplished within a situplated time. Abul Fazal has also given reference of Rajtarangini in his book 'Ain-Akbari'. Empror Jahangir also, during his rule, got Rajtaragni written in soft Persian language by Hyder Malik.

Jogesh Chander Dutt. has translated "Rajtarangni in English with the title "Kings of Kashmir" in the year 1892 A.D. Ranjit Sitaram Pandit (Brother-in-law of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru) also translated the book in English 1892 A.D. The Book was later on published by Sahitya Akademy. J&K Art Culture and languages translated it in three parts. In first part there are four Tarangs of original script, S/Sh Arjun Dev Majboor, Bashir Bashar and Moti Lal Saqi translated the first part / S/Sh Zafar Muzaffar, Syed Rasool Pampar and Muzaffar Ahmad Khan translated 2nd part containing 5th, 6th, 7th tarang of the original. Third & final part containing 8th Tarang was translated by Sh. Bashir Bashir. They translated it in Nistalikh (Kashmiri).

Many other writers also made Kashmir as their basis of writing among them are "Valley of Kashmir" by Lawrence, Hassan's Behristain-i-shahi "Culture and political History of Kashmir" by P.N.K. Bamzai. "Focus on Jammu and Kashmir" by Aseer Kashtwari and Wali Mohd. "Jammu -Kashmir Ladakh" by Parvez Dewan "Budism in Kashmir" by Dr. Sarla Khosla. "Kashmir Hindu Shrine" by C.L.Gadoo.

I have also tried to write Kashmir History in Simplified manner. I made Neelamat Puran and Rajtarangni the basis of my writing. To make it easier for the readers, I presented important events in Story formation. Firstly, the book has been written in Dev Nagri with the title Darayein Kashmir ki but after understanding that most of the people are not well versed in this language. I requested Er. Vikas Razdan to translate, the book in English Language Mr. Razdan is an I.T. Engineer by profession but writing is his passion.

Before writing this book I have taken help from various literal books prominent among them are Dr. Stein's Translation; Ranjit Sitaram's translation; translation of Neelmat Puran by Ved Kumari Ghai, Dr Sarla Khosla's Buddhism in Kashmir. I am also indebted to Peer-zada. Mohd. Ashraf (Dy. Director J&K State Archivez Repository) who has helped me a lot while collecting the writing material. I have been helped by him for photo collection also. I am also thankful to Mir Zaffar Iqbal (Contractor) Er. Irfan Nowsheri and Ashutosh Koul who is Associate Creative Director in bollywood for their personal contribution in helping me all along.

I am thankful to Sh. Raman Mattoo (Ex. M.O.S. J&K State) for making first editing of English Version of the book.

I am also very thankful to Dr. Roshan Saraf, who is doctor by profession but multilingual writer, poet and above all singer of repute, who has made last editing of English Version of the book.

I am thankful to all of them who on one pretext or the other tried to help me in accomplishing this task, otherwise it was impossible to complete it. Among them is Sh. M.K. Koul (Socio Political activist) Sujeet Chikan Koul (Agriculture Officer) Smt. Ratna Dhar (Hindi Expert) Usha Bhat (Educationist) & Smt. Renu Dubey (Educationist).

I bow my head before Dr. Ratan Lal Shant, who not only raised me very high by writing foreward of Hindi Version but also guided me I am highly greatful to Sh. Surinder Ambardar, who has consented to write, forward for my English Version. Publisher of this book Sh. Sunil Gupta has taken no time, while accepting my proposal of publishing the book. My indebitness remains half way unless I will not show my regards to Sh. Gokul Dembi Renowned artist of great caliber who has designed front and back page of the book, which was later edited by Ashutosh Koul.

I bow before that man who has remained always "Path Pradarshak" to me. I consider him as my elder brother. It is he, who prompted me to write on the history of Kashmir. This special person is no body else than Sh. Avtar Krishan Dewani, who has remained Director finance and also

worked as head of some educational institutions, where enormous changes have been recorded.

Lastly, my thankfulness will remain half way, if I will not thank my wife Santosh Koul, with the core of my heart. It is fact, without her contribution, I would have not been able to reach to my destination.

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