



# TANTRA IN BENGAL

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*A Study in its Origin,  
Development and Influence*

S.C. Banerji

SECOND REVISED & ENLARGED EDITION

MANOHAR

# Tantra In Bengal A Study In Its Origin Development And Influence

**J Dewey**



## **Tantra In Bengal A Study In Its Origin Development And Influence:**

**Tantra in Bengal** Sures Chandra Banerji, 1977 *Studies on Tantra in Bengal and Eastern India* Madhu Khanna, 2023-02-20 This book explores the tantric concept of Shakti or the principal female cosmic entity and her pilgrimage sites. It offers a first hand view of the multidimensional ways in which Shakti asserted its supremacy over existing Vaishnava and orthodox Brahmanical traditions in post mediaeval Bengal and India. The interdisciplinary chapters pave the way to understanding the intra textual relationships between philosophical and conceptual ideas in literary texts and their oral transmission. Divided into three thematic sections: Cult, Inclusiveness, Shakti, Pithas and the Kta Philosophy, the book invites readers to explore a contested area of scholarship from unique perspectives offering rich insights into the nature of negotiations between diverse religious streams. It also urges readers to examine the many innovative approaches and theoretical models on the goddess culture of East India. The book is of interest to students and scholars of religious textual studies, anthropology, pilgrimage studies, comparative religion, Sanskrit and Bengali languages, regional studies, South Asian cultures, goddess traditions and cultural history of mediaeval Bengal.

**The Ethnography of Tantra** Carola E. Lorea, Rohit Singh, 2023-11-01 This is the first collection of essays to approach the topic of Tantric Studies from the vantage point of ethnography and lived religion, moving beyond the centrality of written texts and giving voice to the everyday life and livelihoods of a multitude of Tantric actors. Bringing together a team of international scholars whose contributions range across diverse communities and traditions in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Himalayan region, the book connects distant shores of Tantric scholarship and lived Tantric practices. The contributors unpack Tantra's relationship to the body, ritual, performance, sexuality, secrecy, power, hierarchies, death, magic and healing, while doing so with vigilant sensitivity to decolonization and the ethics of fieldwork. Through diverse ethnographies of Tantra and attention to lived experiences and life stories, the book challenges normative definitions of Tantra and maps the variety of Tantric traditions, providing comparative perspectives on Tantric societies across regions and religious backgrounds. The accessible tone of the ethnographic case studies makes this an ideal book for undergraduate or graduate audiences working on the topic of Tantra.

**Reframing India in World History** Lavanya Vemsani, 2024-12-13 *Reframing India in World History* breaks the stereotypical portrayal of India based on misconstrued historical theories. Prevalent constructions of Indian history are tinged with colonial historical frameworks and presentation. It is important to understand India for what it is in the past based on self-determined frameworks derived from Indian history to reclaim India's place in the world history. Based on new evidence-based research, Lavanya Vemsani explores patterns of civilization that are indigenous to India to investigate its history from the beginning to the present. This book covers topics central to a comprehensive understanding of the nation, including a discussion of long-held cultural notions, civilization continuity and the historical crises deriving from conquests and colonization.

**Singing to the Goddess** Rachel Fell McDermott, 2001 This collection presents 145 brief Bengali lyric poems

dedicated to the Hindu goddesses Kali and Uma These poems were written from the early 18th century up to the contemporary period They represent the Bengali tradition of goddess worship Saktism *Tantra in Practice* David Gordon White, 2018-06-26 As David White explains in the Introduction to *Tantra in Practice* Tantra is an Asian body of beliefs and practices that seeks to channel the divine energy that grounds the universe in creative and liberating ways The subsequent chapters reflect the wide geographical and temporal scope of Tantra by examining thirty six texts from China India Japan Nepal and Tibet ranging from the seventh century to the present day and representing the full range of Tantric experience Buddhist Hindu Jain and even Islamic Each text has been chosen and translated often for the first time by an international expert in the field who also provides detailed background material Students of Asian religions and general readers alike will find the book rich and informative The book includes plays transcribed interviews poetry parodies inscriptions instructional texts scriptures philosophical conjectures dreams and astronomical speculations each text illustrating one of the diverse traditions and practices of Tantra Thus the nineteenth century Indian Buddhist Garland of Gems a series of songs warns against the illusion of appearance by referring to bees yogurt and the fire of Malaya Mountain while fourteenth century Chinese Buddhist manuscripts detail how to prosper through the Seven Stars of the Northern Dipper by burning incense making offerings to scriptures and chanting incantations In a transcribed conversation a modern Hindu priest in Bengal candidly explains how he serves the black Goddess Kali and feeds temple skulls lentils wine or rice a seventeenth century Nepalese Hindu praise poem hammered into the golden doors to the temple of the Goddess Taleju lists a king's faults and begs her forgiveness and grace An introduction accompanies each text identifying its period and genre discussing the history and influence of the work and identifying points of particular interest or difficulty The first book to bring together texts from the entire range of Tantric phenomena *Tantra in Practice* continues the Princeton Readings in Religions series The breadth of work included geographic areas spanned and expert scholarship highlighting each piece serve to expand our understanding of what it means to practice Tantra **Dattātreya: The Immortal Guru, Yogin, and Avatāra** Antonio

Rigopoulos, 1998-04-02 This book presents the multi faceted Hindu deity Dattatreya from his Puranic emergence up to modern times Dattatreya's Brahmanical portrayal as well as his even more archaic characterization as a Tantric antinomian figure combines both Vaishnava Saiva motifs Over the course of time Dattatreya has come to embody the roles of the immortal guru yogin and avatara in a paradigmatic manner From the sixteenth century Dattatreya's glorious characterization emerged as the incarnation of the trimurti of Brahma Visnu and Siva Although Maharashtra is the heartland of Dattatreya devotion his presence is attested to throughout India and extends beyond the boundaries of Hinduism being met with in Sufi circles and even in Buddhism and Jainism via Nathism The scarce attention which most Western scholars of Indian religions have paid to this deity contrasts with its ubiquitousness and social permeability Devotion to Dattatreya cuts through all social and religious strata of Indian society among his adepts we find yogis Brahmins faqirs Devi worshippers untouchables thieves and

prostitutes This book explores all primary religious dimensions myth doctrine ritual philosophy mysticism and iconography The comprehensive result offers a rich fresco of Hindu religion as well as an understanding of Marathi integrative spirituality precisely this complexity of themes constitutes Dattatreya's uniqueness **Maṇḍalas and Yantras in the Hindu**

**Traditions** Gudrun Bühnemann, 2021-11-15 In recent years maṇḍalas have attracted much interest among a wider public The main focus of such interest has been directed toward Tibetan maṇḍalas specimens of which have been included in numerous publications But maṇḍalas are found across a wide spectrum of South Asian religious traditions including those of the Hindus and Jains Hindu maṇḍalas and yantras have hardly been researched This book attempts to fill this gap by clarifying important aspects of maṇḍalas and yantras in specific Hindu traditions through investigations by renowned specialists in the field Its chapters explore maṇḍalas and yantras in the Smṛti Pāraśaraiva and Kṛta traditions An essay on the vṛstupurūṣa maṇḍala and its relationship to architecture is also included With 13 colour plates **Tantric Visions of the Divine Feminine** David

Kinsley, 2023-07-28 The Hindu pantheon is rich in images of the divine feminine deities representing a wide range of symbolic social and meditative meanings David Kinsley's new book documents a highly unusual group of ten Hindu tantric goddesses the Mahavidyas many of whom are strongly associated with sexuality and violence What is one to make of a goddess who cuts her own head off or one who prefers sex with a corpse The Mahavidyas embody habits attributes or identities usually considered repulsive or socially subversive and can be viewed as antimodels for women Yet it is within the context of tantric worship that devotees seek to identify themselves with these forbidding goddesses The Mahavidyas seem to function as awakeners symbols which help to project one's consciousness beyond the socially acceptable or predictable Drawing on a broad range of Sanskrit and vernacular texts as well as extensive research in India including written and oral interpretations of contemporary Hindu practitioners Kinsley describes the unusual qualities of each of the Mahavidyas and traces the parallels between their underlying themes Especially valuable are the many rare and fascinating images he presents each important to grasping the significance of the goddesses Written in an accessible engaging style Kinsley's book provides a comprehensive understanding of the Mahavidyas and is also an overview of Hindu tantric practice The Hindu pantheon is rich in images of the divine feminine deities representing a wide range of symbolic social and meditative meanings David Kinsley's new book documents a highly unusual group of ten Hindu tantric goddesses the Mahavidyas many of w

**Passionate Enlightenment** Miranda Shaw, 2022-06-07 The now classic exploration of the role of women and the feminine in Buddhist Tantra The crowning cultural achievement of medieval India Tantric Buddhism is known in the West primarily for the sexual practices of its adherents who strive to transform erotic passion into spiritual bliss Historians of religion have long held that this attempted enlightenment was for men only and that women in the movement were at best marginal and subordinated and at worst degraded and exploited In *Passionate Enlightenment* Miranda Shaw argues to the contrary and presents extensive evidence of the outspoken and independent female founders of the Tantric movement and

their creative role in shaping its distinctive vision of gender relations and sacred sexuality Including a new preface by the author this Princeton Classics edition makes an essential work available for new audiences     **Surprising Bedfellows** Sushil Mittal,2003-01-01 Surprising Bedfellows Hindus and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern India argues that religious and cultural identities in medieval and early modern India were marked by fluid and constantly shifting relationships rather than by the binary model of opposition that is assumed in so much scholarship Building on the pioneering work of scholars such as Cynthia Talbot and Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya these chapters seek to understand identity perception through romances historical documents ballads and historical epics inscriptions and even architecture The chapters in this volume urge readers to reconsider the simple and rigid application of categories such as Hindu and Muslim when studying South Asia s medieval and early modern past It is only by doing this that we can understand the past and perhaps help prevent the dangerous rewriting of Indian history     **Ibss: Anthropology: 1978** International Committee for Social Science Information and Documentation,1990-12-31 First published in 1981 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company     **India**

**and Beyond** Dick van der Meij,2013-09-13 First published in 1997 The International Institute for Asian Studies IIAS is pleased to introduce a new series Studies from the International Institute for Asian Studies This present volume India and Beyond Aspects of Literature Meaning Ritual and Thought contains more than 30 contributions from well established scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds These essays are in honour of one of the founding fathers of the IIAS Frits Staal Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and South Asian Languages University of California at Berkeley This volume is edited by Dick van der Meij editor of the Indonesian Netherlands Cooperation in Islamic Studies Programme at Leiden University

**Finding God through Yoga** David J. Neumann,2019-02-07 Paramahansa Yogananda 1893 1952 a Hindu missionary to the United States wrote one of the world s most highly acclaimed spiritual classics Autobiography of a Yogi which was first published in 1946 and continues to be one of the best selling spiritual philosophy titles of all time In this critical biography David Neumann tells the story of Yogananda s fascinating life while interpreting his position in religious history transnational modernity and American culture Beginning with Yogananda s spiritual investigations in his native India Neumann tells how this early global guru emigrated to the United States in 1920 and established his headquarters the Self Realization Fellowship in Los Angeles where it continues today Preaching his message of Hindu yogic philosophy in a land that routinely sent its own evangelists to India Yogananda was fueled by a religious nationalism that led him to conclude that Hinduism could uniquely fill a spiritual void in America and Europe At the same time he embraced a growing belief that Hinduism s success outside South Asia hinged on a sincere understanding of Christian belief and practice By universalizing Hinduism Neumann argues Yogananda helped create the novel vocation of Hindu yogi evangelist generating fresh connections between religion and commercial culture in a deepening American religious pluralism     **Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism** Christian K. Wedemeyer,2014-05-06 Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism fundamentally rethinks the nature of the

transgressive theories and practices of the Buddhist Tantric traditions challenging the notion that the Tantras were marginal or primitive and situating them instead both ideologically and institutionally within larger trends in mainstream Buddhist and Indian culture. Critically surveying prior scholarship, Wedemeyer exposes the fallacies of attributing Tantric transgression to either the passions of lusty monks, primitive tribal rites, or slavish imitation of Saiva traditions. Through comparative analysis of modern historical narratives that depict Tantrism as a degenerate form of Buddhism, a primal religious undercurrent, or medieval ritualism, he likewise demonstrates these to be stock patterns in the European historical imagination. Through close analysis of primary sources, Wedemeyer reveals the lived world of Tantric Buddhism as largely continuous with the Indian religious mainstream and deploys contemporary methods of semiotic and structural analysis to make sense of its seemingly repellent and immoral injunctions. Innovative semiological readings of the influential Guhyasamaja Tantra underscore the text's overriding concern with purity, pollution, and transcendent insight, issues shared by all Indic religions, and a large-scale quantitative study of Tantric literature shows its radical antinomianism to be a highly managed ritual observance restricted to a sacerdotal elite. These insights into Tantric scripture and ritual clarify the continuities between South Asian Tantrism and broader currents in Indian religion, illustrating how thoroughly these radical communities were integrated into the intellectual, institutional, and social structures of South Asian Buddhism.

### **Mother of My Heart, Daughter of My Dreams**

Rachel Fell McDermott, 2001. This text chronicles the rise and subsequent fortunes of goddess worship, Saktism, in the region of Bengal from the middle of the 18th century to the present. McDermott places the advent of the Sakta lyric in its historical context.

Doctoring Traditions Projit Bihari, 2016-10-14. Like many of the traditional medicines of South Asia, Ayurvedic practice transformed dramatically in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With *Doctoring Tradition*, Projit Bihari Mukharji offers a close look at that recasting, upending the widely held yet little-examined belief that it was the result of the introduction of Western anatomical knowledge and cadaveric dissection. Rather, Mukharji reveals what instigated those changes: a number of small technologies that were introduced in the period by Ayurvedic physicians, men who were simultaneously Victorian gentlemen and members of a particular Bengali caste. The introduction of these devices, including thermometers, watches, and microscopes, Mukharji shows ultimately led to a dramatic reimaging of the body. By the 1930s, there emerged a new Ayurvedic body that was marked as distinct from a biomedical body. Despite the protestations of difference, this new Ayurvedic body was largely compatible with it. The more irreconcilable elements of the old Ayurvedic body were then rendered therapeutically indefensible and impossible to imagine in practice. The new Ayurvedic medicine was the product not of an embrace of Western approaches but of a creative attempt to develop a viable alternative to the Western tradition by braiding together elements drawn from internally diverse traditions of the West and the East.

*Historical Dictionary of the Bengalis* Kunal Chakrabarti, Shubhra Chakrabarti, 2013-08-22. The Bengali-Bangla-speaking people are located in the northeastern part of South Asia, particularly in Bangladesh and two states of India: West Bengal and Tripura.

There are almost 246 million Bengalis at present which makes them the fifth largest speech community in the world. Despite political and social divisions they share a common literary and musical culture and several habits of daily existence which impart to them a distinct identity. The Bengalis are known for their political consciousness and cultural accomplishments. The Historical Dictionary of the Bengalis provides an overview of the Bengalis across the world from the earliest Chalcolithic cultures to the present. This is done through a chronology, an introductory essay, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 750 cross-referenced dictionary entries on politicians, educators, and entrepreneurs, leaders of religious and secular institutions, writers, painters, actors, and other cultural figures, and more generally on the economy, education, political parties, religions, women, and minorities, literature, art, and architecture, music, cinema, and other major sectors. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the Bengalis. *A history of Indian literature* Teun Goudriaan, Sanjukta Gupta, 1981

**The Rādhā Tantra** Mans Broo, 2016-10-26 The Rādhā Tantra is an anonymous 17th century tantric text from Bengal. The text offers a lively picture of the meeting of different religious traditions in 17th century Bengal since it presents a version of the famous Vaiṣṇava story of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. This book presents a critically edited text of the Rādhā Tantra based on manuscripts in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, as well as an annotated translation. It is prefaced by an introduction that situates the text in its social and historical context and discusses its significance. The introduction also looks at the composition and metrics, vocabulary and grammar, and contents and doctrine of the text. It also includes a discussion of the extensive intertextualities of the Rādhā Tantra as well as the sources used for this edition. The Sanskrit text in Roman transliteration following the standard IAST system is then presented, followed by an English translation of the text. This book will be of interest to scholars of South Asian Religion, Tantric Studies, and Religious History.



Tantra In Bengal A Study In Its Origin Development And Influence: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the captivating narratives that have charmed audiences this year. Tantra In Bengal A Study In Its Origin Development And Influence : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids absorbing storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This mesmerizing coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and suspenseful novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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### **Tantra In Bengal A Study In Its Origin Development And Influence Introduction**

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