

STATEMENT - I

Lalitā-sahasranāma is the gem of Tantrasāstra, as it eulogies Śakti, an important member of the Hindu pentheon. Again it is the SaubhāgyaBhāskara<sup>1</sup> which illumines the LS by lucid and detail expression of each and every name of the Goddess Lalitā. Thus its position is raised higher than other Sahasranāmas. In the LS. itself it is said "among the texts on Sahasranāmas, ten Sahasranāmas on Goddesses viz. Gaṅgā, Bhavānī, Gāyatrī, Kālī, Lakṣmī, Sarasvatī, Rājarājesvarī, Bālā, Śyāmalā and Lalitā are leading ones. But the LS is the best among these texts on Sahasranāmas<sup>2</sup>.

LS is the key to open the treasure of the knowledge pertaining to the Tantrasāstra. Almost all the fundamental doctrines of Śakta philosophy are described in it. So it can be the best guide for those who are desirous to know the fundamentals of Tantrasāstra.

A complete study of the Lalitā-sahasranāma is not done so far. It is attempted here for the first time in the light of Bhāskaraṛāya's commentary viz. SaubhāgyaBhāskara. Here an attempt

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1. It is the commentary on the LS written by the eminent scholar on Tantra viz. Bhāskaraṛāya, pub. by Nirnayasagara Press, Bombay, 1919.

2. Lalitā-sahasranāma, III, st.70-71.

is made to present the various aspects like Kundalinī, Nirguna Brahman, Parāsakti (i.e. primordial energy) etc. of the Goddess, with a view to enlightening the devotees for their spiritual advancement. Thus it is perhaps the first comprehensive and critical study of the Lalitā-sahasranāma.

STATEMENT - II

The present study is done with the help of Bhāskararāya's learned and extensive commentary viz. SaubhāgyaBhāskara. I have also arranged topicwise the thousand names of the Goddess Lalitā and a critical study is presented for the first time. Thus the work attempts to present in short the fundamentals of Śākta philosophy.

I have studied all the available works written on the IS in different languages and also the other relevant works on Tantrasāstra so that my study of the text is complete. I am indebted to all the scholars whose works are listed in the bibliography.