

SUNITI KUMAR CHATTERJI *

SAMSKṚTA - DIG - VIJAYA

(The World-Conquest of Sanskrit)

At the Second World Conference of Sanskrit which was held in Turin in Italy during 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of June 1975, Professor Suniti Kumar Chatterji spoke on the subject of *Samskr̥ta-Dig-Vijaya* or « the World-Conquest of Sanskrit ». He had prepared a longish paper on the subject running up to 186 pages or sheets in type. As this would be quite a big monograph, it would not be suitable for printing along with the other papers read or discussed at the Conference. The paper has as its peroration, and as a gist of the whole subject, some thirty Sanskrit verses composed by the author, with an English rendering. This peroration or epilogue, as being germane to the subject-matter of the paper, to be too long, and which will be published in due course as a separate book.

*Āryāṇāṃ piṭṛ-bhūr āsīt purōttarakurōḥ parē /
Kāukasaṃ girim ullaṅghya prāptās tē dhāma vāi navam // 1 //*

The fatherland of the Aryans in olden times was beyond the land of Uttara-Kuru. After crossing the Caucasus Mountains, they reached a new abode.

Uttara-Kuru = Central Asia, present Russian and Chinese Turkestan (Sin-kiang).

*Tigrā-Suprātu-nadyōr vā antar-vēdī yad ucyatē /
tat-Āsura-Bavērubhyaḥ prāptavantaḥ kalāṃ bahum // 2 //*

The land between the two rivers, *Tigrā* or the *Tigris* and *Suprātu* or the *Euphrates*, which is called the *Doab* or Mesopotamia of the *Tigrā*

* National Professor of India in Humanities, President of the *Sahitya Akademi* (Indian National Academy of Letters), President of the International Phonetic Association, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Calcutta, etc., etc.

or *Tigris* and *Suprātu* or *Euphrates* — there the Aryans received many arts from the *Asura* or Assyrian and the *Bavēru* or the Babylonian peoples.

Tigrā = old Persian *Tigra*, from Assyro-Babylonian *Diglat*, which became in Old Arabic *Diglāh*, and Modern Arabic *Dijlāh* = Greek *Tigris* taken from the Old Persian. *Suprātu* = Old Persian *Ufrātu* = Assyro-Babylonian *Puratu*, whence Arabic *Furāt*. The Greek *Euphratēs* was taken from the Old Persian *Ufrātu*. *Asura* = *Ashshur* = Assyrian. *Bavēru*, as in the Pali *Jātaka* and other Indian works, is from the Old Babylonian *Babilu*, taken over through the Iranian.

Chāndasasya hi yā mūlam Ārya-Vāg vai pra-Vāidikī /
prāpya sā Bhārataṃ Varṣaṃ rūpaṃ jagrāha Saṃskṛtam // 3 //

The Aryan speech, which was the Pre-Vedic (*pra-Vāidikī*) source of the *Chāndasa* or the Speech of the Vedic poetry, took a new form, that of Sanskrit, when it was established in the land of India.

Niṣādāir Dramidāis cāpi Kirātāih pari-varḍhitā /
sā Saṃskṛtābhīdhā bhāṣā dēva-bhāṣā-padaṃ gatā // 4 //

This language, which came to be known as Sanskrit, attained to the position of a *Dēva-bhāṣā* or the Language of the Gods, when it was developed and extended by the pre-Aryan *Niṣāda* or Austric (i.e. Kol and Munda), *Dramiḍa* or *Dramiḍa* (i.e. Dravidians) and by the *Kirāta* (or the Indo-Mongoloid) peoples.

vidyā-vāibhava-sampannā sāhitya-kalayānvitā /
maṇḍalē sarva-bhāṣāṇām āsīt sā cakravartinī // 5 //

This Sanskrit language, then endowed with the glorious wealth of her Knowledge and possessing the Art of Literature, became the Queen within the circle of all languages.

Vālmīki-Vyāsayōḥ kīrttir yadīyē mūrdhni vartatē /
ṛṣibhir bahubhir yāsīt kavibhiḥ sēvitā sadā // 6 //

The artistic creations of *Vālmīki* and *Vyāsa* are established at her head: this language was always cultivated by numerous sages (*Ṛṣis*) and poets.

maṇḍitā yōgibhiḥ siddhāir bhaktāir lōka-hitāiṣibhiḥ /
ācāryāih paṇḍitāih sadbhīr yā ca nītā 'mṛtaṃ padam // 7 //

It was also adorned by *Yogis*, by *Siddhas*, and by devotees (*Bhaktas*), who always worked for the good of men; and this language was also established in a status of immortal glory by its great scholars (*Ācāryas*), by its learned men (*Paṇḍitas*), and by its saints (*Sants*).

sarvēbhyō bhūmi-putrēbhyō jātāḥ santi hi yē 'mṛtāt //
niḥśrēyasasya lābhāya diśantī vividhān pathaḥ // 8 //

This language was also showing the various ways for the attainment of the Supreme Good for the benefit of all sons of the soil (*bhūmi-putras* or aborigines) also, who are indeed the offspring of the Immortal.

vi-nihsr̥tā Bhāratāt sā bhūtvā samskr̥ti-vāhinī //
Ṛṣi-Buddha-Jinācāraṇi tatānākhila-kṛṣṭiṣu // 9 //

This language then became a great bearer of civilization, and emerged out of India and spread the ideas of the *Ṛṣis*, the *Buddhas*, and the *Jinas* among all nations.

gambhīrā lalitā vāṇī puṣpa-vajra-svarūpiṇī //
dhr̥tā śirasi yatnēna sarvāir bhū-lōka-vāsibhiḥ // 10 //

This language is profound, it is soft and sweet, and it embodies the beauty of the flower and the strength of the thunder; and all dwellers of different lands received this speech with great honour on its head, as it were.

Siṃhalē 'bhijagāmātha dakṣiṇaṇi navam ālayam //
Kambuḷēṣv atha Campāyāṇi Rāmaṇyēṣu ca sarvataḥ // 11 //

This Sanskrit language received a new home in the South, in the Island of *Siṃhala* (Ceylon); and elsewhere also among the *Kambujas* (= the land of Cambodia), in *Champā* (i.e. Cochin-China), and among the *Rāmaṇyas* (= Pali *Rāmañña* i.e. *Rmeñ* or *Mon* people and its homeland — South and Central Burma and South Siam).

ēvaṇi vasanti yē prācyāṇi su-durdharsāḥ Kirātajāḥ //
Śyāma-Brahma-samākhayātā Dāi-Mranmā-samjñakā hi yē // 12 //

And also the powerful peoples of *Kirāta* or Mongoloid origin, who live in the eastern land and are known as the Siamese and the Burmese (*Śyāma* and *Brahma*) and whose own names are *Dai* (or *Thai*) and *Mranmā* (or *Myanma* or *Byamma*) respectively.

Rāmaṇya-Kambujēbhyaś ca yāir labdhōttarakālataḥ //
Samskr̥tā Prākṛtā giś ca, Bhāratīyā 'pi samskr̥tiḥ // 13 //

From the *Rāmaṇya* or *Mon* and *Kambuja* or Cambodian peoples these Burmese and Siamese at a later period learned the Sanskrit and Prakrit languages and obtained their Indian civilization.

agnēyē vidyatē kōṇē sāgarō dvīpa-śōbhitaḥ //
tatra nītā rarājāiṣā bhāsā rājñīva Bhāratī // 14 //

In the *Agni-kōṇa* or South-Eastern corner of Asia there is the sea, beautiful with its islands — the Indonesian area: there the Indian language Sanskrit was taken and established as a queenly speech.

sēvitāsic ca Barhinyāṇi Svarnadvīpē tathānyataḥ //
Yavadvīpē Balīdvīpē pūjitā ca viśēṣataḥ // 15 //

Sanskrit was cultivated in *Barhīṇī* (=Borneo) and also in *Svarṇa-dvīpa* (= Sumatra). The language was specially honoured in the islands of Java and Bali.

adhunāpy arcanā-rītir bahusō dṛśyatē janāiḥ /
Syāmādi-prācya-dēśēṣu dēśē dvīpamayē 'pi ca // 16 //

Even now at the present day people can see the great honour shown to Sanskrit in the countries of the East, like Siam etc. and in the land of the islands in the sea.

Āsiyāyās tathā madhyē yē yē dēśā bhavanti vāi /
Āry-Ānāryā janās tatra sīta-pitādi-varṇataḥ // 17//

Within the heart of the continent of Asia there are many lands where other peoples, both Aryan and non-Aryan, and white as well as yellow in colour, have their abode.

tēsāṃ madhyē Bhāratīyā yē 'bhavan Ārya-bhāṣiṇaḥ /
Kustanaṃ nagaraṃ tatra sthāpayitvā 'vasan purā // 18 //

Those Indians who spoke the Indian Aryan language went in the past to live among them, and they established the city of *Kustana* (= Khotan) and settled there.

dharmaṃ saṃsthāpayāmāsus tatra tē Buddha-dēśitam /
ēvaṃ Brāhmaṇ ca Bāuddhañ ca vacanaṃ su-prati-ṣṭhitam // 19 //

They established there the religion as preached by Buddha, and both Brahmanical and Buddhist lore were firmly set up.

janēṣūdīcya-dēśēṣu tadābhūc citra-kīrttiṣu /
prasāraḥ Saṃskṛtēr nō vāi prēyasē śrēyasē 'pi ca // 20 //

In this way among the various peoples of the *Udīcya* or the Northern Lands who had great cultural work to their credit, there was an extension of our Indian civilization, both for their material and spiritual benefit.

abhūt kṣētram asāu dēśaḥ kṛṣṭināṃ saṃgamasya vāi /
Bhāratasya ca Cīnasya Parśōś ca Yavanasya ca // 21 //

That country became a great area for the mixture of various peoples — the peoples from India, China, *Parśu* or Iran and Greece. (The land of *Serindia*=Ancient Central Asia, where the peoples and cultures of India, China, Persia and Ionia or the Yavana countries met.)

janās tatrā 'vasan yē 'pi Śakās ca Sulikās tathā /
Āryānāṃ Yavanānāñ ca Rṣīkā jñātayaś ca yē // 22 //

The peoples who dwelt there were the *Sakas* (Scythians) and the *Sulikas* (= Sogdian Iranians) as well as the *Rṣīka* (= the so-called Tokharians living in the cities of Kucha and Qara-shar), who are related to the Geeks, the Romans and the Western Europeans (rather than to the Aryans of India and Iran).

*Kirāta-jātijā Bhōtās Turuṣkā Maṅgalās tathā /
Kōrayās ca Mahācīnā Yamatō-vaṃśajās ca vāi // 23 //*

The *Bod* (Indianized to *Bhōṭa*) or the Tibetan people, who are of Mongoloid origin; and the *Turuṣkas* (or Turkic peoples) and their relations the *Maṅgalas* (Mongols); besides the *Korai* (or the Korean people) and the people of Great China (*Ta-ts'-in* or *Mahā-cīna*); and the *Yamato* (or Japanese people).

*Kāivalya-dāyini bhāṣā sarvāir ētāih samāḍrtā /
anūditā kvacij jātā Cīna-Bhōṭānugāminī // 24 //*

All these nations honoured Sanskrit as the language which brought to them *Kāivalya* (i.e. knowledge of the Supreme Truth). In many places the Sanskrit language wats transformed by translations, following the spirit of both the Chinese and the Tibetan speech.

*Yavanēṣv api sā bhāṣā prasṛtā priya-darṣiṣu /
vidyābhyō jyōtiṣ-ādibhyō yāir āsit sam-alamṛkṛtā // 25 //*

Among the *Yavanas* or the Greeks, who were a nation of handsome men and women, the Sanskrit language also spread; and these *Yavanas* also in their turn adorned the Sanskrit language through the sciences like Astronomy.

*Ārabya-Pārasīkēṣu mānitā jñāna-dāyini /
gaṇitaṃ jyōtiṣaṃ sāstram ākhyānaṃ vāidyakaṃ tathā // 26 //*

Among the Arabians and the Persians, Sanskrit was accepted as a language which brought to them all Science and Arts — like Mathematics, Astronomy, certain other Sciences, Medicine, as well as stories and romances.

*tēbhya ētāni dattāni jñānaṃ cādhyātmikaṃ mudā /
jīva-Brahmāikatā prōktā Brahma-nirvāṇikā tathā // 27 //*

To these nations, viz. the Persians and the Arabs, the above sciences were bestowed, and spiritual wisdom as well — e.g. the idea of the Unity of the Human Soul and the Supreme, as well as the Absorption of the Human Soul into the Supreme Being (the Muslim Sufi Conceptions embodied in texts like *Ana-l-Haqq* i.e. « I am the Truth » or « I am God », and *Fanā-fi-llāh* or « Absorption into God »).

*ēvaṃ Pāścātya-khaṇḍē ca janā yē śakti-sādhakāḥ /
tēṣāṃ yē vaṃśajāḥ santi Pātālē janam-ējayāḥ // 28 //*

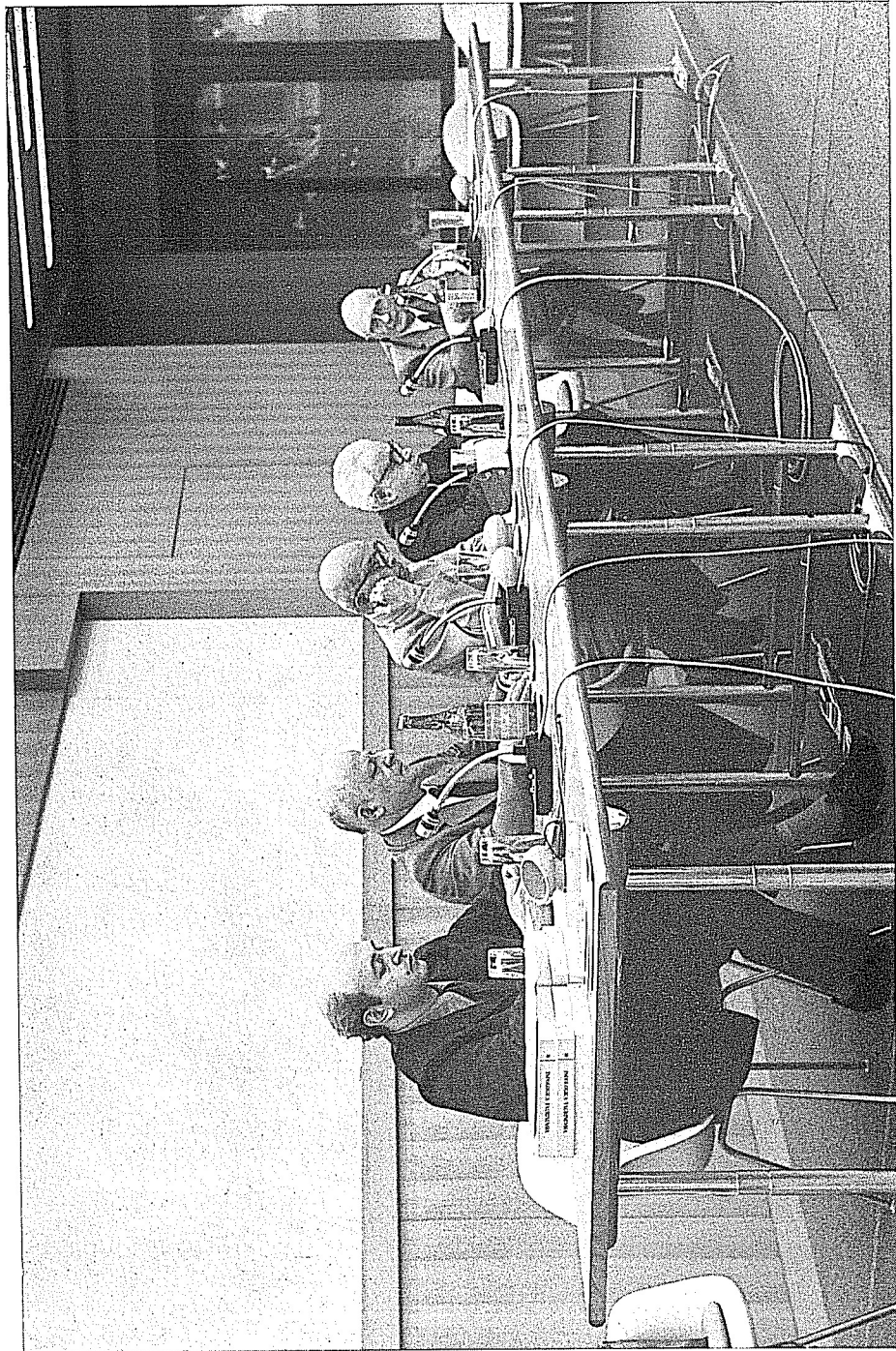
Further, the various nations of the West (Europe), who have been Seekers for Power, and other peoples who were descended from them, driving or conquering various other nations in *Pātāla* or the land of the Antipodes (i.e. America),

*vāg jyaṃ tāir gṛhītā 'pi bhavēt kālōpayōginī /
yōga-kṣēmasya satyasya śāśvatasya ca siddhayē // 29 //*

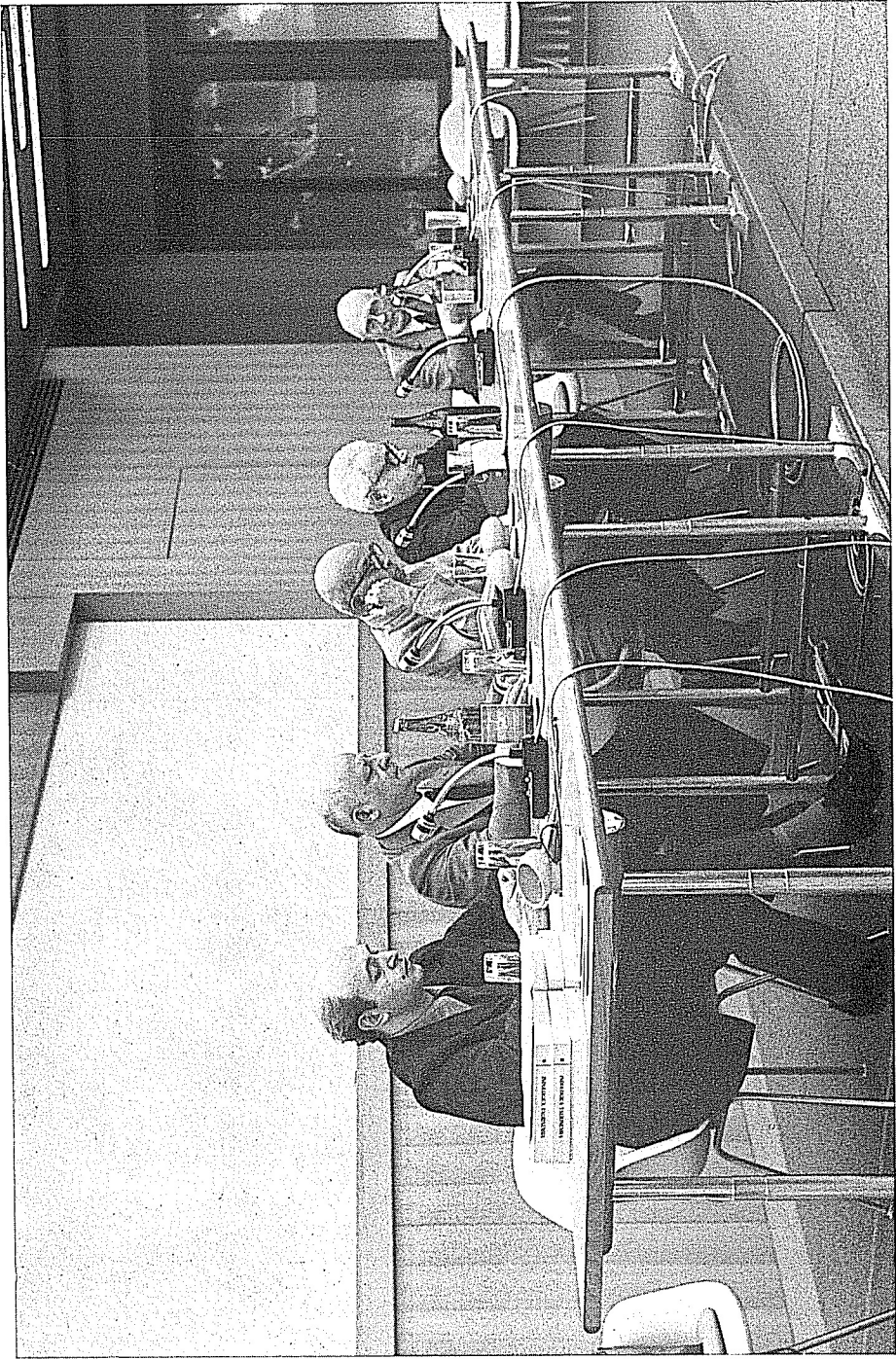
They too received the Sanskrit language which became suitable for their use in the present age; Sanskrit in their hands became the language which helped them to attain new things of value in their own culture and the benefits which they could find in their own Euro-American Civilization as well as in the realization of the everlasting Truth.

*samagra-jana-jātānāṃ hita-priya-vidhāyinī /
gīr iyaṃ Bhāratīyā sā sadāstu svasti-varādhinī // 30 //*

May this Speech of Indian origin, Sanskrit, which brings all that is good and is loved by men of the entire nations of the world, be always conducive to the well-being of the world.



Professors G. M. Bongard-Levin, O. Botto, V. Raghavan, L. Sternbach, J. Gonda.



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