

# The *Tantrāloka* of Abhinavagupta Annotated Translation of the 13th āhnikā with the Commentary of Jayaratha (Part 1)

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This article contains an annotated translation of a part of the 13th āhnikā of the *Tantrāloka* of Abhinavagupta with the commentary of Jayaratha.

The *Tantrāloka*, “Light on the Tantras”, is the most important work on Śaivism of Abhinavagupta, the great Kashmirian Philosopher of 10-11th Century. This work is conceived as a complete manual on the Non-dualistic Śaivism, based on the *Mālinīvijayottara-tantra*.

The structure of the *Tantrāloka* consists of the fourfold *upāya* (‘means’), which are *anupāya*, *sāmbhava-upāya*, *śākta-upāya* and *āṇava-upāya*. Apart from the first introductory chapter, Chapters 2 to 5 are consecrated to the *anupāya*, *sāmbhava-upāya* and *śākta-upāya* respectively. The rest of the work treats the *āṇava-upāya*.

Chapters 6 to 12 deal with the *āṇava-upāya* for the advanced disciples who can practise without the help of the teacher (guru). Chapters from 15 onward, which can be considered as the second part of the *Tantrāloka*, treat the rituals which the guru bestows to disciples. The Chapter 13, which introduces this second part, describes the theoretical problems concerning the grace (*anugraha*) of the God Śiva.

This divine grace becomes manifest in the descent of divine energy (*śaktipāta*). It is only through the *śaktipāta* that the liberation from the *saṃsāra* is possible. Various theories, beginning with the Sāṃkhya, concerning the cause of bondage and liberation are refuted in the first

part of this chapter and then the established theory of the non-dualistic Śaivism is given. Only the verses 1 to 52 are translated and annotated with the commentary of Jayaratha in this part 1.