

Translations



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At the Dawn of Creation

Translation and painting by *Arghya Dipta Kar



(This Excerpt is from a compilation of Nath Literature of Medieval Bengal cited in *Goraksha Padavali: The History of the Nath Tradition* edited by Baridbaran Ghosh. The Translator is also the painter of this episode. The original Bengali version of the text is included here as desired by the translator and painter for readers who follow both the languages to understand the efficacy of the linguistic as well as cultural translation.)

[অরে রে জ্যোতিষী ভাই! করহ বিচার
পুরুষ না নারী আগে সৃষ্টির মাঝার!

বায়ু বা বাদল কিছু নাই যেইখানো
মণ্ডপ রচিল যেথা স্তম্ভের বিহনো।
যাহা হ'তে উতপতি হয় সেই স্থানো
তথা নারী মায়া-শক্তি বলে বুধজনো।১

পিতা না জন্মিতে ছিল মাতার বসতি
বালিকা কুমারী বলে মাতার যে খ্যাতি।
পিতাকে করিল মাতা লালন পালন
পিতাকে করিল কোলে হিন্দোল দোলনা।২

ব্রহ্মা, বিষ্ণু, মহেশ্বর আমা হ'তে জাত
তিনের গৃহিণী বলে আমি পুনঃ খ্যাতি।
দুই হাতে মায়া মোর কে বুঝিতে পারে?
মাতা-পত্নী দুইরূপ একের ভিতরো।৩

(গোরক্ষ পদাবলী, নাথ সম্প্রদায়ের ইতিহাস: বারিদবরণ ঘোষ)]

Think over it, o brother astrologer, who came first? The Male or the Female?

Where there are no winds or clouds, there She created Her dwelling place without any pillar. Therefrom is born everything and the ultimate Source is known by the learned ones as Maya-Shakti, the Divine Feminine.

The Mother existed even when the Father had not come into being. Hence She is known to be the primordial Virgin Girl, though She is the progenitrix of all. The Mother alone nourished and brought up the Father, swinging Him on Her lap.

(Thus says the Great Goddess)

Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are born from me. Again I am known to be the female consorts of all three of them. My Maya operates in twofold ways. In one single being reside the Mother and the Consort.

About the Translator



Arghya Dipta Kar is an academic and a professional painter. His research is on Indic Studies and he loves painting the Mother Goddess Kali in her various forms. His paintings are often based on Puranic tales and myths and mythologies related to the Mother in the Tantrik tradition.