

कामेश्वर सिंह बिहार हेरिटेज सिरीज—4

KALYANI KOSH
(A MAITHILI - ENGLISH DICTIONARY)

कल्याणी कोश
(मैथिली-अंग्रेजी शब्द कोश)

संपादक
पं० गोविन्द झा

महाराजाधिराज कामेश्वर सिंह कल्याणी फाउन्डेशन

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1999

हेतुकर झा

संपादक

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwara Singh
(1907—1962)



Maharani Adhirani Kama Sundari (*alias* Kalyani) Devi
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FOREWORD

Maithili is a distinguished language of quite a large number of people of north India and the southern part of Nepal Tarai. It has a long and well-known history. Quite a number of luminaries of Maithili beginning from Vidyapati in the fifteenth century to Baidyanath Mishra "Yatri" of the present era are known for having excelled in the art of making poetry of classic, immortal value. The past generations are witness to an illustrious graph of creativity of scholars who enriched the store of Maithili literature a great deal. Its value could not remain hidden from the sight of such Western scholars as Colebrooke, Aime Martin and others in the beginning of colonial rule. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Grierson, a great orientalist, devoted considerable time to bring it to the notice of scholars of Indian languages at the international level. He collected a number of words, folk songs (including those of Vidyapati), and also made effort for preparing a grammar of Maithili. His name deserves to be remembered for his contribution to the cause of Maithili at a time when it required the services of scholars for its development on modern track.

Gradually, the scholars of Mithila began to realize their obligation in this context. Halli Jha, a great grammarian, took up the task of preparing a grammar of Maithili in the last decade of the nineteenth century. With the beginning of the present century, journals and magazines began to be brought out in Maithili. Simultaneously, the need of a dictionary was also felt. Soon, Bhavanath Mishra prepared *Mithila Shabda Prakash* in seven parts, of which the first one was published in 1914. Subsequently, Deenbandhu Jha also published one dictionary that had been compiled by him. After independence, Jayakant Mishra made an ambitious project in this context. A few parts of his comprehensive dictionary have so far come to light. Govinda Jha, who is the compiler and editor of the present dictionary, *Kalyani Kosh*, prepared one Maithili-Maithili dictionary which was published by Maithili Academy, Patna. Besides, attempts were also made by a few other scholars before in this context which deserve attention of those interested in the study of Maithili lexicography. However, the scholars working on Mithila, particularly from the points of view of history and social sciences, often looked for a bilingual (Maithili-English) dictionary and finding that there was none available so far, did not hesitate to point out the deficiency of Maithili in this context.

For this Foundation, it is really a matter of pride to publish *Kalyani Kosh* and, thus, take a step towards making up the said deficiency of Maithili. It has been compiled and

edited by a renowned scholar of Maithili, Govinda Jha. He brought his final draft of the manuscript of Maithili-English dictionary to the notice of the Foundation about five years back. The Board of Trustees of Foundation decided to consider it for publication under the *Kameshwara Singh Bihar Heritage Series*. However, it was also felt necessary by the Board that a group of scholars should be requested to review it and suggest ways of making it more comprehensive. Subsequently, an advisory body was formed consisting of Damodar Thakur, Karunakar Jha, Mohan Bharadwaj, Guneshwar Jha and Bhim Nath Jha. This advisory committee commenced its work in 1995, and, then, it took about a year to give a final shape to the draft for publication. The members of the said committee made a sincere and concerted effort under the guidance of Damodar Thakur for increasing not only the number of words, but the quality of this dictionary. The Foundation shall ever remain indebted to all them.

The final draft of *Kalyani Kosh* was sent to press in 1996. Considering the nature of task, it was decided to proceed patiently and be satisfied with the quality of jobs done by the press at successive stages before printing. Under the circumstances, its publication took relatively a long time. Since the Foundation has limited resources, it was not possible to do any thing more in this context.

Needless to say, the debt to Govinda Jha is too great to be expressed in words. In spite of being quite old in age, he worked tirelessly in the mean- time for making *Kalyani Kosh* as comprehensive and useful as possible. However, no dictionary of a living language can ever be claimed to be the final one. Its preparation requires continuous exercise of word collection and compilation. So, *Kalyani Kosh* is not presented as having a complete stock of words. In fact, there are reasons to believe that innumerable words of the different corners of the society and territory of Mithila remain yet to be incorporated in it. However, one may have the satisfaction of bringing out one of at least benchmark value that can make the task of the lexicographers of future quite easy.

Ashok Kumar helped in correcting proofs, Rajesh Agrawal and his assistants of Alekhan worked hard while printing the *Kalyani Kosh*. I am thankful to all of them.

HETUKAR JHA

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