

Notes & Topics

ON TANTRA

In Vol. 1, No. 2 we started a symposium on the Tantras : the different systems and their contents, their origins and affinities, with an introductory paper by Professor Nalinaksha Dutt.

Dutt in concluding said : 'These two parallel conceptions in the Hindu and Buddhist Tantric systems brought about the coalescence of the two systems in South-East Asia. In India particularly it is one of the many causes for the merging of Buddhism in Hinduism leading ultimately to the disappearance of Buddhism from India'.

Lama Anagarika Govinda in his article in Vol. II, No. 1 said : "By confusing Buddhist Tantrism with the Saktism of the Hindu Tantras a basic misconception has been created which up to the present day has prevented a clear understanding of the Vajrayana and its symbolism, in iconography as well as in literature, especially that of the Siddhas".

Mr. Marco Pallis, writing under his Buddhist name of Thubten Tenzin, says in the present issue (p. 22) . "the representation of non-duality in the guise of a merging of male and female conjugal love, as well as the variously characteristic yogic practices connected therewith, is enough to prove the fundamental kinship between the Hindu and Buddhist Tantra and that despite some important divergencies as to detail".

We expect to present a few more contributions on the various issues and facets of the Tantra.

In note 6 of his article (p. 29) Marco Pallis refers to Dr. S. B. Dasgupta. This very distinguished scholar passed away untimely on 21 July 1964. It is proposed to cull some extracts from his writings after we have obtained necessary permission from those who hold copy right.

NCS