



*The* FOURTEEN ŚIVA-SŪTRAS  
REVEALED to PĀṆINI as the  
FOUNDATION of SANSKRIT GRAMMAR

—*—*  
SARVAMANGALA FOUNDATION

*Translation by Āchārya Vidyābhāskar*

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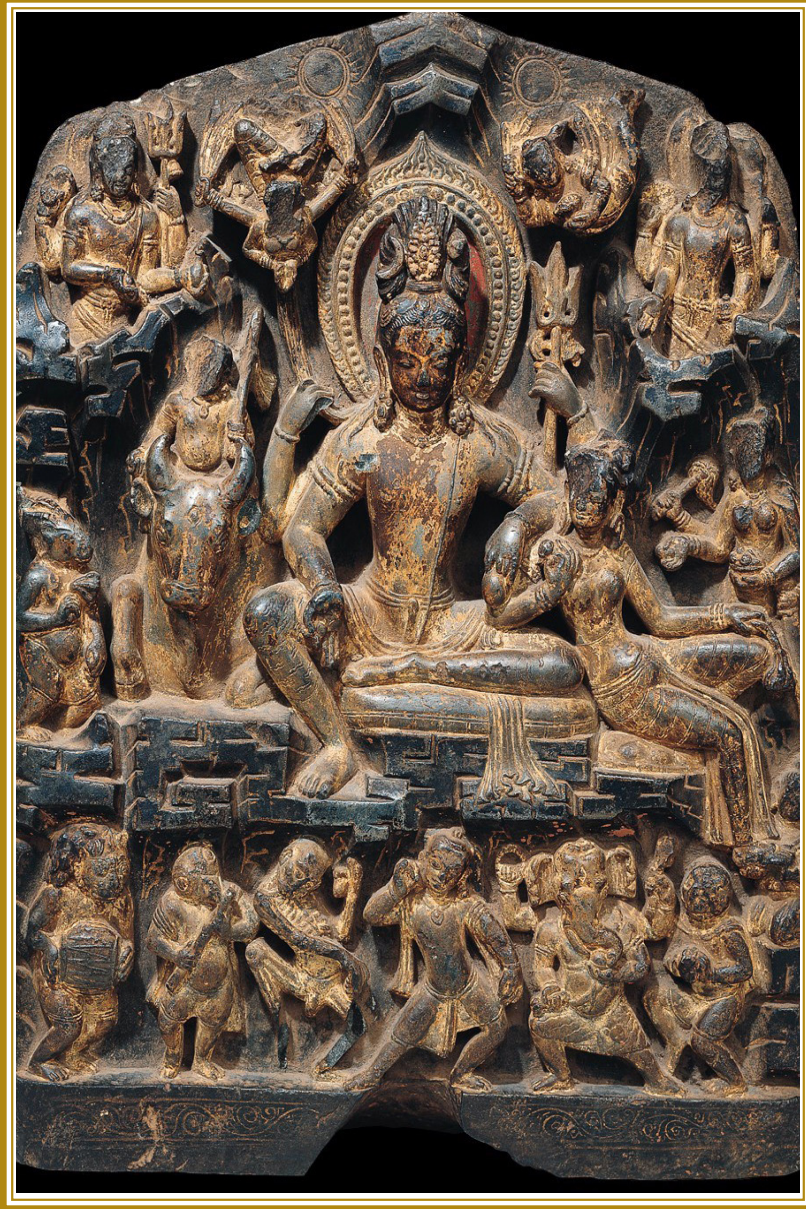


चतुर्दशशिवसूत्राणि

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## चतुर्दशशिवसूत्राणि

### The FOURTEEN ŚIVA-SŪTRAS REVEALED to PĀṆINI as the FOUNDATION of SANSKRIT GRAMMAR



#### LORD ŚIVA WITH DEVĪ, NANDĪ AND HIS RETINUE

The Fourteen Śiva-Sūtras emerged from Śiva's ḍamaru drum and were heard by Pāṇini.

Ancient Himalayan relief of Lord Śiva and retinue © Himalayan Art Resources

- 1 नृत्तावसाने नटराजराजो ननाद ढक्कां नवपञ्चवारम् ।  
ताण्डवनृत्य के समाप्त होने पर नटराज शिव ने चौदह बार डमरू बजाया ।  
nṛttāvāsāne naṭarājarājo nanāda ḍhakkāṃ navapañcavāram  
Upon completing his Tāṇḍava dance, Śiva Naṭarāja, the king of the kings of dancers, played his Ḍamaru drum fourteen times
- 2 उद्धर्तुकामः सनकादिसिद्धान् एतद्विमर्शे शिवसूत्रजालम् ॥  
सनकादि ऋषियों के उद्धार के लिये इस प्रकार चौदह शिवसूत्रों की ये जालरूपिणी वर्णमाला प्रकट हुयी ।  
uddhartukāmaḥ sanakādisiddhān etadvimarśe śivasūtrajālam  
With a desire to uplift all the Siddhas such as the Youthful Kumāras Sanaka and so forth. This is the web of the Śiva-Sūtras that I shall elucidate.

The young Pāṇini, a low-performing student at Takṣaśilā University, underwent a visionary experience of Śiva dancing. He experienced a sudden increase in intelligence or *buddhi* as a result. Based on the fourteen Sūtras that emanated as sounds from Śiva's drum, he composed the 3959 rules of Sanskrit grammar. His immortal work has eight chapters or *aṣṭa adhyāyāḥ*, and is thus known as the *Aṣṭādhyāyī*. His schoolmate Vararuci Kātyāyana, who earlier used to make fun of Pāṇini for his mediocre intelligence, later wrote some important remarks on Pāṇini's Sanskrit grammar. These additional remarks are known as the Vārtikas of Vararuci Kātyāyana.

- 1 अ इ उ ण्  
a i u ṅ
- 2 ऋ लृ क्  
ṛ ḷ k
- 3 ए ओ ङ्  
e o ṅ
- 4 ऐ औ च्  
ai au c
- 5 ह य व र ट्  
ha ya va ra ṭ
- 6 ल ण्  
la ṅ
- 7 ज म ङ ण न म्  
ña ma ña ṅ na m
- 8 झ भ ञ्  
jha bha ṅ
- 9 घ ढ ध ष्  
gha ḍha dha ṣ

- 10 ज ब ग ङ द श्  
ja ba ga ḍa da ś
- 11 ख फ छ ठ थ च ट त व्  
kha pha cha ṭha tha ca ṭa ta v
- 12 क प य्  
ka pa y
- 13 श ष सर्  
śa ṣa sa r
- 14 ह ल्  
ha l

इति माहेश्वराणि सूत्राणि ॥  
iti māheśvarāṅi sūtrāṅi

These are the Sūtras that emerged from Maheśvara, the Great Lord.

## प्रयोग

### HOW *they* ARE USED

- 1 The first purpose of the Sūtras is to provide a simple and powerful entry point to learning Sanskrit grammar.
- 2 The second and primary purpose is to make possible the creation of cryptic abbreviations known as Samjñās. At the end of each Sūtra, there is a ‘marker’ called the ‘it-marker’. By applying this marker, entire groups of vowels and consonants can be grouped together.

## प्रयोग

### HOW *they* ARE USED

#### FIRST EXAMPLE

The first Sūtra ends with the marker **ṇ**. The preceding vowels a, i and u can be collectively designated through the simple abbreviation **aṇ**, which represents the group of vowels from a up to the marker ṇ. The technical term **aṇ** thus means ‘the vowels a, i and u’.

#### SECOND EXAMPLE

The second Sūtra ends with the ‘marker’ **k**. The preceding vowels i, u, ṛ and ḷ can be collectively designated through the simple abbreviation **ik**, which represents the group of vowels from i up to the marker k. The technical term **ik** thus means ‘the vowels ṛ and ḷ’.

#### THIRD EXAMPLE

Using the marker at the end of the second Sūtra, the five vowels a, i, u, ṛ and ḷ are collectively designated through the simple abbreviation **ak**.

PRAYER *to*  
GODDESS SARASVATĪ *to*  
INCREASE *our* INTELLIGENCE



**GODDESS SARASVATĪ, THE SANSKRIT LANGUAGE PERSONIFIED**

*Ancient Painting of the Goddess in the Roshan Sabavala Collection, Mumbai, India © Himalayan Art Resources*

PRAYER *to* GODDESS SARASVATĪ  
*to* INCREASE *our* INTELLIGENCE

ॐ नमस्ते शारदे देवि काश्मीरपुरवासिनि ।  
त्वामहं प्रार्थये नित्यं विद्यादानं च देहि मे ॥

om namaste śārade devi kāśmīra-pura-vāsini  
tvām ahaṁ prārthaye nityaṁ vidyā-dānaṁ ca dehi me

Om Obeisance to you, O Goddess Śāradā,  
You who are like the Full-Moon in Autumn,  
You who dwell in the Region of Kaśmīr!  
I ever beseech you:  
Grant me the gift of knowledge!

