

STUDIES IN INDIAN AND INDO-INDONESIAN TANTRISM.
The Kuñjarakarnadharmakathana and the Yogatantra: by MAX
NIHOM. Vienna, 1994. Pages 222.

The present volume consists of three inter-related studies on Tantric Buddhism and Tantrism in general. Max Nihom says that Indian Buddhist Tantrism has suffered from an over emphasis on the importance of Tibetan sources. He selects an old Javanese printed text *Kuñjara Karnadharmakathana* for serious examination; it is a pre-Islamic text. The second chapter is on Indian Maṇḍalas and literary history in the Indonesian Archipelago. The conclusion drawn is that the fundamental text of *Yogatantras*, the *Tatvasangraha*, was not available in the Archipelago. The third chapter: 'A Vaiṣṇava Heaven, a Śaiva Hell and Buddhist Bliss: an Indological essay on Indo-Javanese Tantrism is mainly based on the text. It is argued that Tantric Studies, based on Buddhist Hindu sources, should be studied as part of Indian culture. This is a thoroughly academic research work of great excellence. The Bibliography is exhaustive.

K. KUNJUNNI RAJA

The Adyar Library Bulletin
59 (1995), 335f.