NOTES & TOPICS

KALACHAKRA TANTRA

The learned paper by Bishwanath Banerjee makes it clear that Kala-
chakra Tantra made its advent in India two decades before the birth of Atisha Dipankara (982 AD). This Tantra was thus already known in
India when Atisha was a monk in Vikramaśila or Nalanda and was repu-
tedly visiting Suvannadvipa. There is therefore, no question of Atisha
having not known or preached Kalachakra Tantra in central Tibet in
the last ten years of his life (1044-1054 AD). This article should set at
rest the recent controversy raised by some scholars that Atisha was
not aware of Kalachakra Tantra. The undersigned was shown (1996)
the spot in Tsag Yarpa where Atisha had given sermons on Kalachakra
Tantra for a number of days. The Kadampa (and later Gelugpa) tradi-
tion that Atisha was the principal figure expounding Kalachakra
Tantra in Tibet, no doubt, record a historical fact.

THE DALAI LAMA'S ADDRESS

The Dalai Lama's Address (15 June 1988) and the Washington Con-
gressional Announcement (21 September 1987) of His Holiness. The
Dalai Lama are reproduced below from official releases in this
number of the Bulletin.

The two documents are recorded on the individual responsibility of
the undersigned. This record here is not on account of the great
importance of the documents in the present context but for their
contents relating to past history and civilization of Tibet.

In the Strasbourg Address, The Dalai Lama traces the beginning of
the Tibetan Nation to 127 B.C. The Dalai Lama also affirms that
"religion constitutes Tibet's national identity." The same sentiments
were expressed earlier in the Congressional Announcement of 21
September 1987.

The undersigned proposes to contribute in the next issue of the
Bulletin his own findings as a student of history on the two state-
ments of His Holiness.

- NIRMAL C. SINHA

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