

Abstract

The beliefs of Yantra, spread throughout this region have been developed for a long time. According to ancient Yantra manuscripts, small Buddha images and inscriptions we can declare that Yantra systems began to be made hundreds of years ago. When its system has been analyzed we find that most of Yantra are based on Mahayana philosophy, including important teachings such as Sunyata, Trikaya and Mandala. Though ancient Mahayana Buddhism has now vanished from this region, its influence still exists especially in the Yantra system.

At the present time, many old manuscripts are preserved so that we can study from some of them. We find that some practices in Yantra systems are the same as in the high meditation of Mahayana, such as staring at the mantra letter. According to the Patamung treatise, the practitioner must create the inner Yantra by staring and writing the Yantra many times. Moreover, it contains many important concepts of Mahayana Buddhism, particularly the five Buddhas and Sunyata. Nowadays people are rarely interested in studying Yantra systems. People use only their forms. They are unable to understand the philosophy of Yantra and neglect the mental practices which are the most important aspects of this system.

However, it is possible that the relating of Yantra to supernatural power was only a stratagem of the ancient instructors to preserve important concepts. At least some people may understand and gain advantages which are hidden beneath the supernatural elements. Research may discover the development and the essential contents of Yantra.