



Mark Dyczkowski was born in London in 1951. His father Polish and mother Italian. Growing up in London, at a young age he discovered the East and India and was profoundly inspired by its religions and culture. He deeply experienced the beauty of Indian music and began learning sitar when he was 14. At the age of 17 when he finished school, suffering the traumas of adolescence, impelled by a deep inner urge he went to India to find a guru. The encounter with his guru and the initiation he received from him completely transformed him. He lived in his guru's ashrams for six months. The Mahatmas observed this young man's enthusiasm and curiosity and one of them suggested that he come to India to study. So in 1970 he enrolled at Benares Hindu University in Varanasi. There he studied at the feet of pandits, Sanskrit, Indian philosophy, Tantra and Kashmiri Shaivism. With even greater enthusiasm he took to learning North Indian classical music. In 1974 when he had completed his MA in Indian Philosophy and Religion, he went back to England to join Oxford University. There he studied for a doctorate in Kashmiri Shaivism under the guidance of Prof. Sanderson. In 1976 he went to Kashmir where he had the good fortune to sit and study at the feet of Swami Laksmanjoo, from whom he received initiation. His thesis was completed in 1979 and was later published as *The Doctrine of Vibration*.

In 1980 he returned to India and has lived there ever since, returning to Europe for 3-4 months each year. He continued his studies in Kashmir Shaivism, Sanskrit and Indian classical music. By 1992 he had published *The Stanzas of Vibration, The Aphorisms of Shiva, The Canon of the Shaivagama and the Kubjika Tantras*. During the 1980s he started travelling to Nepal, drawn by its very rich Tantric culture and the presence there of very many old and rare Tantric manuscripts. There he discovered the existence of the Goddess Kubjika, a very powerful and extremely secret Tantric deity, who absorbed his attention for the following twenty years. Kubjika is the Trika goddess Maalinii and much of her Mantras and even scriptures are drawn from Trika Tantras.

In 1987 Mark set up an office in Benares where five people typed fulltime from the Sanskrit manuscripts of the Tantras of the goddess Kubjika and those of other related schools, including Trika, Krama, Bhairava and Siddhaanta, he had brought from Nepal. This resulted in a work in 14 volumes which contained an edition of a section of the Tantra of the Churning Bhairava and an extensive study. Then he returned fulltime to his study of music and picked up again another thread that had connected his work and practise for decades: the Tantraloka of the great 11th century Kashmirian master, Abhinavagupta.

In 2007 he began to teach Kashmir Shaivism regularly. Inspired by his master, Swami Laksmanjoo and the works of great scholars he had learned from: Professor Alexis Sanderson at Oxford and, in Benares, Hemen Chakravarti, Vrajavallabha Dvidvedi and Vagish Shastri (with whom he studied Sanskrit grammar). He learned sitar from Omir Bhattacharya, Dr Gangrade and Buddhaditya Mukherjee and vocal from Pashupatinath Mishra.

Mark Dyczkowski's book, *The Doctrine of Vibration* has been reprinted dozens of times, both in its American and Indian editions. It has served as an introduction to Kashmir Shaivism for tens of thousands of people. At present he is preparing a translation and extensive study of the Tantraloka by Abhinavagupta. Mark has offered sitar recitals and workshops in many countries in Universities and other institutions. He gives lessons at his home in Varanasi. They are filmed and uploaded onto his website anuttaratrikakula.com. Mark is well respected in academic circles as a scholar, just as he is loved in spiritual circles.