

guiding star. Today I am convinced that God speaks in the language and voice of "Panchas."

Alagu began to weep and the tears so shed washed away the soil of malice from their hearts. The withered creeper of friendship was again enlivened to grow up and blossom.

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#### A NOTE ON THE "REFORM OF THE NAGARI SCRIPT"

(by) N. V. Krishna Warrior

I had been following with considerable interest the discussion in the *Hindi Review on Reform of the Nagari Script*. As I happen to be the editor of the Hindi fortnightly *Yugaprabhat* published from the extreme South of India, what struck me most odd and unreal about this discussion was that the learned writers have paid scant attention to the future of the Nagari Script and its pressing needs. As and when Hindi becomes the official language of India, the Nagari Script will have to be the official script, and it should have added to it suitable signs to express all the recognisable phonemes in at least the fourteen major languages of India. Thus the reform of the Nagari Script becomes a matter of all-India importance. It cannot and should not be considered a matter to be settled by the Hindi-speaking people among themselves. Still to my knowledge, today no attempt is being made to associate linguists from outside Hindi areas with this work.

In addition to those of Sanskritic alphabet, among vowels short e and o and among consonants, the retroflex<sup>r</sup>a, zha (the

retroflex continuent ) la and na (the alveolar nasal) are found in the Dravidian languages of the South. There is also the peculiar conjunct 'tta' long alveolar plosive ) and the half-vowel 'u' in some of them. These must find immediate representation in the Nagari Script, if that script, is to be put into wider use. For 'la' we have already a sign in the Nagari, thanks to our Marathi brethren. But what about the others? From the time when Premchand began to print poems from other Indian languages in his periodical *Hans* this necessity was there; but nothing is done so far to evolve a few commonly accepted symbols for these sounds. Now looking through the *Bharatiya Kavita* published by such an august body as the Sahitya Akademy, one does not know whether one should laugh or weep at the sorry plight to which poems in the South Indian languages are brought, thanks to this glaring deficiency in the Nagari Script. This is a most urgent matter as far as the reform of the Nagari Script is concerned, still it is also to this that the least attention is being paid.

There is much to say about the changes proposed by the eminent contributors to the *Hindi Review*, which may be deferred for a more suitable occasion. Still one cannot but point out that the substitution of ऱि for ऋ and रय for ऋ will not be acceptable to the people of South India, where ऋ is pronounced quite distinctly from ऱि and रय is as removed from ऋ as two conjuncts can be. The Sanskrit Commission has stressed the need for standardisation of Sanskrit pronunciation throughout India and till a uniform code of pronunciation is evolved, it is better that words of Sanskrit origin should be written in the good old way.