

Sarasvatī in the *Sādhanamālā*

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Abstract

This study concentrates on *Sādhanamālā* no. 167, focusing on the iconographic features of Sarasvatī, the content composition, and characteristics of sādhana.

In the *Sādhanamālā*, the appearance of Sarasvatī is described as either with one face and two arms, or three faces and six arms.

The latter of sādhanas, which include no. 167, have common properties and characters. Since *Sādhana* no. 167 is extracted from "*Kṛṣṇayamāritantra*," it is conjectured that the other three-faced, six-armed Sarasvatī's sādhanas (nos. 161, 163) are based on the same tantric literature. It is written in no. 167, that every asserter can be defeated by memorization ($\sqrt{\text{dhr}}$). This attribute is related to Sarasvatī's eloquence skill ("弁才"). Sarasvatī is said to be the origin of the dhāraṇī goddess Jāṅgulī. Regarding *Sādhana* no.167, it may be assumed that the power of memory, which is the original function of dhāraṇī, and the function of Sarasvatī's speaking ability, are related.
