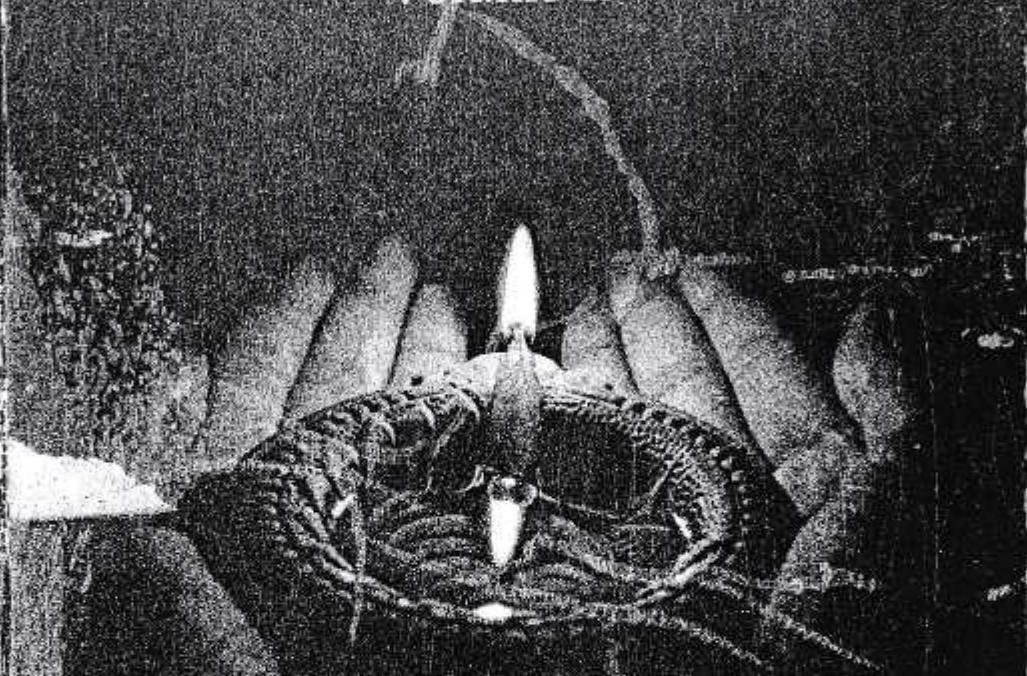


ACADEMIA

A Multidisciplinary Book

Volume II



Edited by
Moumita Roy
Rajib Sarkar

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&

Rajib Sarkar

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The History of the Concept of Thought and Consciousness about Nature in Seventeenth-Eighteenth Century Bengal: A Historical Analysis

Rajib Sarkar

Abstract: *Literature, across the globe, has always transcended the barriers of languages and genres and India is no exception to that. And among all the Indian languages, Bengali literature, perhaps, has the most myriad genres and sub-genres that has enriched Indian literary diasporas, around the world. Bengali literature refers to the body of writings in the Bengali language which has developed from a form of Prakrit or Indo-Aryan language. It may be categorised into three major temporalities viz. Ancient, Medieval and Modern. These different periods may be dated as: ancient period from 950 AD to 1350 AD, medieval from 1350 AD to 1800 AD and the modern one from 1800 AD to the present. Bengali literature has gifted the society numerous intellectuals. Drawing strings to the relation between environment and history in this article, I am trying to focus on 17th-18th Century Bengali literature to understand as how nature was perceived then.*

Keywords: Environment, Bengali Literature, Nature, Padavali, Mangal Kabya.

Environmentalism today demands, more than ever, serious consideration by various disciplines besides that of the natural sciences. As it's true that modern science, today, gravely elves in the depths of environmentalism to understand varied ambits; it's also undeniably true that it needs to synchronise with the many branches of social science to keep pace with this many faceted and much debated arena of environmentalism. Nature, environment and natural calamities are thus no longer a patent of 'science' but expand to other disciplines- the discipline of history, with its facts and theories, being one of the most crucial among these.

The term 'environment' lexically encompasses anything and everything. But if we associate the term with us -the human beings-it generally indicates the lithosphere, the hydrosphere and