

a slight colouring in the direction of the spirants /x/, /ç/, /ϕ/, from the back, front and round vowels /a/, /i/, /u/ preceding it. Before the three sibilants /ç(ṣ), ṣ, s/, the *Visarga* would assimilate to them; and under certain conditions, e. g. when it occurred after the vowels /i, u/, it became a frank /r/ (from an earlier modification which was /z/). Examples of the *Visarga* are : रामः /ra:mah = ra:maa/, हरिः /harih = harii/, साधुः /sa:dhuh = sa:dhuu/; नमः शिवाय = /namaç çiva:ja/, वृद्धः पृथिवर्षः /vr̥ddhaṣ ṣaṣṭivarṣaa/, सुमनः सन्तु /sumanas santu/; ज्योतिः + एतु /jjo:tir e:tu/, गुरुः + उवाच /gurur uva:ca/.

In a practical transcription in the alphabet of the I. P. A., the *Visarga* may be rendered by /h/. Thus instead of /de:vaa, harii, manuu, çri:i, mune:ç, bho:ç/, we might conveniently write /de:vah, harih, manuh, çri:h, mune:h, bho:h/. It should be noted that only in Bengal and Assam the unvoiced /h/ value of the *Visarga* has been retained in pronouncing Sanskrit. Throughout the greater part of India, the *Visarga* has been altered to a fully voiced /h/, i.e./ɦ/, followed by a repetition of the preceding vowel: e. g. /de:vəɦə, hariɦi, manuɦu, çri:ɦi, mune:ɦe, bho:ɦo/. In my opinion, it is better to avoid this present-day pronunciation of extending the *Visarga* into an additional syllable with a voiced /ɦ/ followed by the preceding vowel. But the habit is so deeply ingrained amongst Sanskrit scholars throughout the greater part of India that it would be very difficult to change this modern pronunciation.

Further, *Visarga* before the consonants /k, kh/ becomes a voiceless velar spirant, /x/: this sound is known to Sanskrit grammarians as *Jihvāmūlīya* or "Tongue-root Sound". Before the labial sounds of /p, ph/, *Visarga* becomes a bi-labial unvoiced spirant, /ϕ/; this bi-labial spirant pronunciation of *Visarga* is known as *Upadhmanīya* or the "Blown-upon Sound". Examples—ततः किम् /tatah kim = tataxkim/, पुनःपुनः /punah punah = punaϕ punah/.

CONSONANTS

We now come to the consonants of Sanskrit. These are dealt with below.

In the case of the Sanskrit aspirated stops, which are quite characteristic sounds of the language, it is to be noted that the aspiration after the voiceless stop is voiceless, and that after voiced stop is voiced: so that the broad notation /gh, ṅh, ḍh, dh, bh/ always stands for /gɦ, ɳɦ, ɖɦ, dɦ, bɦ/.

In the arrangement of the consonants in the Sanskrit alphabet, the various points of articulation have been taken as the basis, and they have