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## In Memoriam

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## IN MEMORIAM

In 1990-91, as Nepal bore witness to the passing of an old government and the birth of a new one, she also experienced the passing of three cultural treasures.

We wish to dedicate this triple issue three ways to a triple gem of Nepal scholarship. All three gave their lives over to the advancement of Nepal Studies in magnanimous fashion.

### **Thakur Lal Manandhar**

Thakur Lal Manandhar pioneered the field of classical Newari linguistics. He opened the doors to Newari language study for the international community, and published a long-awaited Newari-English dictionary enabling new scholarship in classical Newari language and literature. His selfless dedication to teaching and research will be missed by us all.

### **Prem Bahadur Kansakar**

Prem Bahadur 'Kasa' dedicated his life to freedom of expression, and overcoming suppression of culture and the arts. His early efforts with underground classical drama schools blossomed with his major triumph of founding a grass roots community library, Asha Saphukuti Archive, in 1987, resulting in one of the best manuscript resource libraries in the subcontinent of South Asia. Prem Bahadur will be remembered best for his greatest success and gift to Nepal, his involvement of the local communities in their own self-preservation, and building of self-esteem.

### **Paramananda Vajracharya**

Paramananda Gurujū of Sankhu once greeted a group of visiting government officials and ministers of the old regime from Kathmandu. He prepared for the visit by hanging up a varied collection of animal skins on the outside of his house facing the street. When the dignitaries came by they suddenly stopped and inquired about the strange display. He said, "Yes, I have a deer skin, a tiger skin, a leopard skin, etc. but there's only one I don't have: a human skin! I'd would really like to get a human skin. Can you help me find one?!" Paramananda often welcomed and assisted scholars in Sankhu. He facilitated access to otherwise closed communities, and worked constantly toward diplomatic negotiation of mutual trust for mutual benefit between insiders and outsiders and across religious and ethnic boundaries. A cloth trader and Buddhist priest in Tibet in his youth, a tailor, composer, bhajan master, vajra master, and servant of Khadga Yogini, Paramananda, endowed with the charismatic powers of Nasa: Dya:, inspired Nepalis and non-Nepalis alike with his humor, wit, and sword-cutting wisdom of a Bodhisattva.

Like Nasa: Dya:, the triadic God of performance, charisma and success, these three will live on as three sources of inspiration for future scholars of Nepal's culture.