

Under Erasure:

The Attempted Expunction of the *Kāfir Bodh* and the *Avali Silūka* from the modern Nāth canon.

In 1942 Pitambar Datt Barthwal edited a volume of texts attributed to members of the Nāth *sampradāy*. Named the *Gorakhbānī*, Barthwal combined the songs and poetry of these yogis into one seminal book that effectively created the Nāth canon and a basis for a modern Nāth identity. What is particularly interesting; however, is the curious manner in which two little known Nāth works, the *Kāfir Bodh* and the *Avali Silūka*, were deleted from Barthwal's original manuscript. Evidence in subsequent editions of the book shows that Barthwal had originally intended to include these songs in his work, however by their first publication they had been expunged from his text. This paper will examine evidence of the original inclusion of these compositions in the *Gorakhbānī*, their removal in subsequent printed editions, and the songs themselves. It aims to demonstrate how Islamic characteristics extant in earlier manuscripts came to find themselves 'under erasure' within Barthwal's modern Nāth canon.