WAKHI LANGUAGE

Book 1

WAKHI CULTURE ASSOCIATION
PASSU, GOJAL, HUNZA, NORTHERN AREAS GILGAT PAKISTAN
THIS BOOK DEALS
WITH THE RECOGNITION
OF WAKHI LETTERS

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FOREWORD

Each language has its own identity and entity and is often based and structured on a certain grammatic form. As such, the Wakhi language also has its own identification and formation. The word itself, Wakhi, is derived from the word Wakhan, which means the inhabitants of Wakhan. This is because Wakhi originated in Wakhan Badakhshan and Central Asia, but as its inhabitants migrated to upper parts of Hunza — Gojal, some parts of Ghizer district and Broghol valley of Chitral, it spread to these other areas as well.

The Wakhi language is considered to be part of an ancient Iranian branch of Aranian languages, although it has been influenced by other languages. Examples of words used in other languages are: In English — leg (leng) arms (Urm); Persian-Zanakh, Gosh (Gish), Sar and dast. However, a thorough research has never been undertaken to show the extent to which these languages have contributed to the formation of Wakhi.

The Wakhi language has not been written and read amongst traditional Wakhi speakers, who have been illiterate. However, recently effort is being made to introduce and familiarize the young generation of Wakhi speakers with its formation and usage. One such person to make this effort is D.L.R. Lorimar, the first English Linguist to produce a Wakhi vocabulary book written in Roman Script, based upon exclusive research on the Wakhi language.

Another person to have made a recognizable effort is Mr. Ahmed Jami Sakhi, who wrote an article based on the research of Dr. Namus, and Dr. Allama Nasir-ud-din Nasir Hunzai on alphabets for Shina and Broshaski languages spoken in the Indus valley surrounding Gilgit. This article was given to the Gojal Students Union in Karachi for publication in their newly created magazine Wakh, whose purpose is to introduce and familiarize the lay person with wakhi dialect.

Further, Dr. George Budguss, Professor of Oriental Languages from Mainz University in the Federal Republic of Germany, took the initiative to produce an improved version of a vocabulary book on Wakhi. This profound work has enlightened many young Wakhi speakers and has given them an incentive to not only acquaint themselves with the Wakhi language, but to develop a closeness with the people of this race.
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3 trui
4 tsebur
5 Panz
6 sad
7 hub
8 haṭ
9 naw
10 das