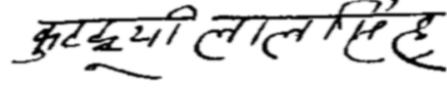


The Signature of Koot Hoomi in ML IV

In “The Orthography and Pronunciation of ‘Koot Hoomi’”¹ we have derived a Sanskrit orthography of the name, as kuthumi or kuṭhumi, written in devanāgarī as कुथुमि or कुठुमि.² There is however another source for the orthography of the name, in Mahatma Letter IV (Chronologically No. 5).³ KH’s signature is written there, besides in roman script, in devanāgarī:



The first thing we may notice looking at the signature, is that it is not a rendering of Sanskrit, but of a modern Indian language like Hindi, where the implicit a- or shwa-sound in consonants is dropped under specific circumstances. Without accounting for this shwa deletion, the signature would read kuṭhahūmī lālasīṅha. There are some peculiarities to the letters, probably due to the specific hand of KH, but if we interpret the signature, rendering it in standard devanāgarī, it is written कुठुमी लालसिंह, and, accounting for shwa deletion, it would read kuṭhūmī lālsīṅh in roman (IAST) transliteration.

There are three differences to what we have found earlier:

1. The ṭh sound in “Koot Hoomi” is not written using the single consonant ṭha, but using the two consonants ṭa and ha. Perhaps this might suggest a different origin than the Sanskrit kuthumi/kuṭhumi, contrary to the reference to the Viṣṇupurāṇa in The Theosophist.^{1,2}
2. The u-sound in “Hoomi” is long instead of short, making the accent shift to the syllable “Hoo”, in accordance with the common pronunciation.
3. The i-sound in “Hoomi” is long instead of short.

There are other signatures of KH in the Mahatma Letters in other interesting-looking scripts, and perhaps more information on the orthography and correct pronunciation is to be derived from those.

Notes

1. <http://prajnaquest.fr/blog/the-orthography-and-pronunciation-of-koot-hoomi/>
2. R. Ragoonath Row, “The Puranas on the Dynasties of the Moryas and the Koothoomi” in The Theosophist Vol. V No. 3 (December 1883), p. 99, later published in “Five Years of Theosophy” p. 482-484, and still later in CW VI, 40-42
3. The Theosophy Wiki: http://theosophy.wiki/en/Mahatma_Letter_No._5