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AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL SANSKRIT

AN INTRODUCTORY TREATISE OF THE HISTORY OF CLASSICAL SANSKRIT LITERATURE

BY

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To the sacred memory of my parents.

PREFACE

The impetus to the writing of the present work came from my students at the Presidency College, Calcutta. The paucity of suitable text-books on the subject intended for Degree and Post-Graduate students of Indian Universities was felt by myself in my college life, and in writing this book I have always borne in mind the difficulties which our students feel in tackling the subject. The work, therefore, does not pretend to be very ambitious.

In the preparation of the book I have freely consulted the two monumental works of M. Winternitz and A. B. Keith. To them, therefore, I am under a deep debt of gratitude. I must also acknowledge my indebtedness to all those authorities whose works have been mentioned in the "References".

In preparing the press copy, my pupil, Professor Sarojendra-Sāhityaśāstrī, Kāvya-Purānatīrtha, M.A., has rendered invaluable service. Another pupil of mine, Mr. Taraknath Ghosal, M.A., has prepared the major part of the Index. My excolleagues, Professor Upendranath Ghosal, M.A., Ph.D., Professor Subodhchandra Sengupta, M.A., P.R.S., Ph.D., had the kindness, the former, to find out for me a few references, and the latter, to read a considerable portion of the work while in the My teachers, Mahāmahopādhyāya Haranchandra Shastri, press. Professor Sadananda Bhaduri, M.A., Ph.D., and Professor Somnath Maitra, M.A., have helped me much by offering valuable suggestions from time to time. I must also acknowledge the advice given so freely by my friend and colleague, Professor Taraknath Sen. M.A. Lastly, I must mention the deep interest which was taken by my cousin, Pandit Ashokanath Shastri, Vedantatirtha, M.A., P.R.S., in seeing the work through.

The occasion makes me remember, with deep and reverent

gratitude, those of my teachers at whose feet I had the privilege of studying the subject—the late Professor Rakhaldas Banerjee, M.A., of the Benares Hindu University, and Professor Nilmony Chakravarty. M.A., late Senior Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College, Calcutta.

I am thankful to my publishers, the Modern Book Agency, Calcutta, and to the authorities of the M. I. Press, Calcutta, for the kind interest they have taken in the printing and publication of my book.

Calcutta,

January, 1943.

Author

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABORI	Annals of the Bhan-	KL	$Kar{a}vyar{a}laar{n}kar{a}ra.$
	darkar Oriental Re-	KS	$Kar{a}masar{u}tra.$
	search Institute.	MB	$Mahar{a}bhar{a}sya.$
Ast	A ṛṭā $dhyar{a}yar{\iota}.$	Mbh	$Mahar{a}bhar{a}rata.$
Har	Harṣacarīta.	$N\iota r$	Nirukta.
HOS	Harvard Oriental	Rag	Raghuvain sa.
22075	Series	$R\bar{a}m$	$Rar{a}mar{a}ya$ ņa.
- A		RV	$\c Rgveda.$
IA	Indian Antiquary	$_{\mathrm{SBE}}$	Sacred Books of the
JRAS	Journal of the Royal		East, Oxford.
	Asiatic Society.	SD	$Sar{u}$ hityadarpa ya.
$K\bar{a}d$	Kādambarī (M.R.	SV	\acute{S} ı $\acute{s}upar{a}lavadha.$
	Kale. 2nd edition).	$V\bar{a}s$	$Var{a}savadattar{a}.$

ERRATA

Pp. 119 &c.	Line 1	For Chapter Six' read
		'Chapter Eight' and
		emend all subsequent
		chapter numberings
		accordingly.
P. 193	Line 13	For 'Sanmukhakalpa'
		read 'Sanmukhakalpa'.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL SANSKRIT

INTRODUCTORY

Α

ORIGIN OF INDIAN WRITING

The immemorial practice with students of Sanskrit literature has been to commit to memory the various subjects of their study, and this practice of oral tradition has preserved the ancient Vedic texts. This fact has led scholars to surmise that writing was perchance unknown in the earliest period of Indian civilization and that the later forms of the alphabet were not of pure Indian growth.

The earliest references to writing in Sanskrit literature are to be found in the *Dharmasūtra* of Vasiṣṭha, which, as Dr. Bühler thinks, was composed about the eighth century B.C. There are, however, some scholars who would like to assign a much later date to the work, viz., the fourth century B.C. There we obtain clear evidence of the widely spread use of writing during the Vedic

Introduction

Evidence of Vedic and Sütra works

period, and in Ch. XVI. 10, 14-15, mention is made of written documents as legal evidence. Further, the Astādhyāyī of Pānini contains such compounds as 'lipikara' and 'libikara' which evidently mean 'writer' [III. ii. 21]. The date of Panini, however, is not fixed. Professor Goldstücker wants to place him in the eighth century B.C., while the general body of scholars holds that his age is the fourth century B.C. In addition to the few references set forth above, it may be said that the later Vedic works contain some technical terms such as 'akṣara,' 'kāṇḍa,' 'paṭala,' 'grantha' and the like, which some scholars quote as evidence of the use of writing. But there are others who like to differ in their interpretations of these terms.

Evidence of Brāhmaņical works The aforesaid references do not help us much in determining the genuine Indian growth of writing, inasmuch as none of the works in which they are found can be safely dated earlier than the period of inscriptions. In the same way, evidences in the Brāhmanical works such as the Epics, the Purāṇas, the Kāvyas and the like, are of little or no help. Among them, the Epics are by far the oldest, but it is difficult to prove that every word of their text goes back to a high anti-

quity. One fact is, however, undeniable, viz. that the Epics contain some archaic expressions, such as, 'likh,' 'lekha,' 'lekhaka,' 'lekhana,' but not 'lipi,' which, as many scholars think, is after all a foreign word. This may suggest that writing was known in India in the Epic age.

There are two other facts which also suggest the same thing. It is believed that Evidence of the Aryans were in an advanced state of civilization—there was a high development of trade and monetary transactions, and that they carried on minute researches in grammar, phonetics and lexicography. Do not the above facts presuppose the knowledge of the art of writing among the ancient Indians? Nevertheless, one will have to adduce positive evidence, without which nothing can be taken for granted. So we turn to the Buddhist works.

There are quite a large number of passages in the Ceylonese Tipitaka, which bear witness to an acquaintance with writing and to its extensive use at the time when the Buddhist canon was composed. 'Lekha' and 'lekhaka' are mentioned in the Bhikkhu Pācittiya 2, ii and in the Bhikkhunī Pācittiya 49, ii. In the former, writing has been highly

praised. In the Jatakas, constant mention is made of letters. The Jatakas know of proclamations. We are also told of a game named aksarikā in which the Buddhist monk is forbidden to participate. This game was in all probability one of guessing at letters. In the rules of Vinaya, it has been laid down that a criminal, whose name has been written up in the King's porch, must not be received into the monastic order. In the same work, writing has been mentioned as a lucrative profession. Jātaka No. 125 and the Mahāvagga, I. 49 bear witness to the existence of elementary schools where the manner of teaching was the same as in the indigenous schools of modern India. All these references prove the existence of the art of writing in pre-Buddhistic days.

Piprāwā vase inscription The earliest written record is the Piprāwā vase inscription which was discovered sometime ago by Colonel Claxton Peppe. This inscription is written in Brāhmī character and is in a language which does not conform to any of the standard Prākrits. Some of the case-endings tend towards Māgadhī. No compound consonant has been written. They have been either simplified or divided

by epenthesis. No long vowel, excepting two 'e's, have been used. The inscription has been differently interpreted. According to some scholars, the relies that were enshrined were the relies of Buddha, while others maintain that the relies were those of the Śākyas, who were massacred by Virulaka, son of Prasenajit, King of Kośala. In any case the inscription belongs to the early part of the fifth century B.C.

Next in order of antiquity comes the Soligaura copper-plate which, as Dr. Smith thinks, may be dated about half a century prior to Aśoka. The characters of the document according to Dr. Smith are those of the Brāhmī of the Maurya period and his statements, according to Dr. Bühler, are incontestable as everyone of them is traceable in the Edicts. About the proper import

Sohgaura Copper plate

¹The English translation of Dr. Buhler's version is given below:

'The order of the great officials of Śrāvastī (issued) from (their camp at) Mānavasitikaṭa—"These two store-houses with three partitions (which are situated) even in famous Vainśagrāma require the storage of loads (bhāraka) of Black Panicum, parched grain, cummin-seed and Amba for (times of) urgent (need). One should not take (anything from the grain stored)."— IA. Vol. XXV, pp. 261—66.

of the inscription none is sure. Dr. Smith says that he cannot find out any meaning from it. The value of the inscription rests on the fact that it is an evidence for the assumption that in the third century B.C., the use of writing was common in royal offices and that the knowledge of written characters was widely spread among the people.

Inscriptions of Asoka, Nahapāna and Rudradāman

The inscriptions of Asoka, are found almost all over India and are written in two different scripts, viz., Brāhmī and Kharosthī. Two of these inscriptions—that of Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra, are written in the The rest are written in Brāhmi. latter. The language of early Indian inscriptions not Sanskrit, but vernacular, which is known as Prākrit. In the inscriptions of Aśoka, local varieties are to be found. Those in the north-western part of India incline more towards Paiśācī, than those found in the eastern part. It is interesting to note that all the Indian inscriptions from the earliest times down to the second century A.D., are in Prakrit. The earliest inscription in Sanskrit is the Nasik Cave No. X inscription of Nahapana, which was written, in all probability, in the year 41 of the Saka era, corresponding to 119 A.D. But there

are scholars who do not like to call this inscription the earliest in Sanskrit, and in their opinion the well-known Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman, dated 150 A.D., heads the list of Sanskrit inscriptions. Sanskrit gradually encroached upon Prakrit in the field of epigraphy and it was from the fifth century A.D., that Prakrit disappeared from the field of inscription.

As for the history of the two scripts, Brāhmi and Kharosthi, mentioned above, Dr. Bühler thinks that the latter was derived from the Aramaic or Phonician character used by the clerks of the Persian Empire. The north-western parts of India came under the Achemenian or Persian rule about the sixth century B.C. And it is in those parts of India that inscriptions and coins in Kharosthi character have been discovered. Dr. Bühler has taken sufficient pains to show how from some borrowed letters the full alphabet of the Sanskrit language came into being. There are some scholars who have gone so far as to suggest a meaning Thus it is held of the word Kharosthi. that the name Kharosthi has been derived from the shape of letters which generally resemble the lip of an ass. Professor Lévi

Kharoştbī

thinks that the word is derived from the name of the inventor, Kharoṣṭha, an inhabitant of Central Asia.

Brāhmī: South and North Semitic origin

There are several theories regarding the origin of the Brāhmī character. According to Dr. Taylor and others, the Brāhmī character was borrowed from a Southern Arab This theory has not gamed tribe. any popularity. The theory started by Dr. Weber and illustrated by Dr. Buhler is generally accepted. Dr. Weber was the first man to discover that some of the old Indian letters are practically identical with certain Assyrian letters and several letters in some inscriptions of the ninth and the seventh centuries B.C., found in Assyria. About onethird of the twenty-three letters of the North Semitic alphabet of that period is identical with the oldest forms of the corresponding Indian letters. Another one-third is somewhat similar, while the rest can with great difficulty be said to correspond to letters of the Indian alphabet. Dr. Bühler took advantage of this theory of Dr. Weber, and he next to show that as a proceeded result the prolonged contact between Indian merchants, mostly, Dravidans, and Babylonians in the eighth and the seventh centuries B.C., the former availed themselves of the opportunity to bring the Assyrian art of writing over to India, which later on was enlarged to suit the requirements of the Indian people. Nearly a thousand years later, this form of writing came to be styled as Brāhmī. It has been said that originally the letters were written from right to left, as a single coin has been discovered in a place named Iran, on which the legend runs from right to left. But as the Brāhmaṇas believed the right-hand direction to be sacred, they changed the direction and began to write from left to right.

According to Professor Rhys Davids, the Indian letters were developed neither from the Northern nor from the Southern Semitic alphabet, but from the pre-Semitic form current in the Euphrates valley. But this theory is not accepted on the ground that this supposed pre-Semitic form of writing has yet to be explored.

Sir Alexander Cunningham had wanted to derive each letter from the indigenous hieroglyphic, but his theory was discarded on the ground that no such hieroglyphic could be found in India. But the recent excavations at Mahen-jo-daro and Harappa

Pre-Semitic origin

Hieroglyphic origin have brought to light, an original Indian hieroglyphic, and a further examination of the theory once started by Sir A. Cunningham may be undertaken.

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 \mathbf{B}

VEDIC AND CLASSICAL INDIAN LANGUAGES—THEIR RELATIONSHIP

Introduction Indian tradition knows Sanskrit as the language of the gods, which has been the

dominant language of India for a period covering over four thousand years. Viewed from its rich heritage of literature, its fascinating charm of words, its flexibility of expression in relation to thought, Sanskrit occupies a singular place in the literature of the world.

The Sanskrit language is generally divided into Vedic and Classical. In the Vedic language was written the entire sacred literature of the Aryan Indians. Within this Vedic language several stages may be carefully distinguished, and in course of its transition from the one to the other it gradually grew modern till it ultimately merged in Classical Sanskrit. But when we pass on from the Vedic lyrics to the lyrics of Classical Sanskrit, we seem to enter a 'new world'. Not only are the grammar, vocabulary, metre and style different, but there is also a marked distinction in respect of matter and spirit. Thus the Classical Sanskrit period is marked by a change of religious outlook and social conditions. Vedic literature is almost entirely religious; but Classical Sanskrit has a 'profane' aspect as well which is not in any way inferior to the religious aspect. The religion in the Epic period has become different from

Vedic and Classical . difference in matter and spirit

what it was in the Vedic age. The Vedic Nature-worship has been superseded by the cult of Brahmā, Visnu and Śiva, and it is in the Epic period that we find for the first time the incarnations of Visnu who has come to be looked upon as the Supreme Deity. New gods and goddesses unknown to the Vedas have arisen, and Vedic gods have either been forgotten or reduced to a subordinate position. Indra is, indeed, the only god who still maintains high status as the lord of heaven. Vedic literature in its earlier phase was marked by a spirit of robust optimism; but Classical Sanskrit literature has a note of pessimism owing probably to the influence of the doctrine of karman and transmigration of soul. The naive simplicity of Vedic literature is strikingly absent in Classical Sanskrit where the introduction of the supernatural and the wonderful is full of exaggeration. So kings are described visiting Indra in heaven and a sage creating a new world by means of his great spiritual powers. The tribal organization of the state has lessened much in importance in the Epic period where we find the rise of many territorial kingdoms.

'In respect of form also Classical Sanskrit

differs' considerably from Vedic. Thus the four Vedas and the Brahmanas are marked with accents (udātta, anudātta and svarita) which only can help us in finding out the meaning of different words. Thus, for instance, the word 'Indrasatru' with one kind of accent will mean 'Indra as enemy', and the same word with a different kind of accent will imply 'enemy of Indra.' But in Classical Sanskrit literature, accent has no part to play.

(1) accent

Phonetically Vedic and Classical languages are identical, but grammatically (ii) grammar they differ. The change in grammar is not generally due to the introduction of new formations or inflections, but to the loss of forms.¹ In respect of mood, the difference between Classical and Vedic Sanskrit is specially very great. In the Vedas the present tense has besides its indicative inflection,

¹ Certain grammatical forms which occur in Vedic language disappear in Classical. Thus in declension a number of forms has been dropped :—(i) the nominative and accusative dual forms of '-a' stems ending in—ū, e.g., narū, (ii) the nominative plural form of '—a' stems ending in—āsaḥ, e.g., devāsaḥ, (iii) the instrumental plural form of '-a' stems ending in -ebhih e.g., devebhih, etc.

a subjunctive (requisition), optative (wish) and an imperative (command). The same three moods are found, though with much less frequency, as belonging to the perfect and they are also made from the aorists $(lu\dot{n})$ and the future has no moods. Classical Sanskrit, the present tense adds to its indicative an optative and an imperative. But the subjunctive (let) is lost in Classical Sanskrit. In the Vedic period no less than fifteen forms of infinitive were used² of which only one (tum) survives in the Classical period. Vedic Sanskrit differs from Classical Sanskrit in respect of the use of prefixes (upasaryas). Thus in Classical Sanskrit the *upasarga* must invariably precede the root and should form a part of it. But the use of upasargas was unrestricted in Vedic Sanskrit. It was used before the root and after it and was also sometimes separated from the root itself.³ Compounds of more than two words, which are rare in the Vedas and the Brahmanas, are frequent in Classical Sanskrit.

¹ adya jīvānā, śatam jīvāti śaradah, etc., as found in the Veda.

² Ast. III. iv. 9.

⁸ ā kṛṣṇena rajasā vartamāno, etc.

The aforesaid changes in respect of forms were mainly due to the efforts of grammarians who exercised considerable influence on the development of the language. The vocabulary also underwent many changes. It was largely extended by derivation, composition and compilation. Many old words that could not be found in Vedic literature came to be added in Classical Sanskrit and many new words were borrowed.

(iii) Vocabulary

Vedic language again differs from Classical with regard to the use of metres. Beside the principal seven metres of the Vedas (gāyatrī, uṣṇih, anuṣṭubh, bṛhatī, paṅkti, triṣṭubh and jagatī), Classical Sanskrit presents a limitless variety of metres.

(iv) Metre

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 \mathbf{C}

PRĀKRIT

Antiquity

The beginnings of the Prākrits go back to a period of great antiquity. Even at the time when Vedic hymns were composed, there existed a popular language which differed from the literary dialect. In the Vedic hymns, there are several words which cannot be phonetically other than Prākrit. Buddha and Mahavira preached their doctrines in the sixth century B.C., in the language of the people in order that all might understand them. The language of the Buddhist texts which were collected during the period between 500 B.C. and 400 B.C., was Māgadhī. The extant Buddhist texts of Ceylon, Burmaand Siam are in a form of popular language to which the name Pali has been given. There is difference of opinion amongst scholars regarding the place and origin of Pali. The only inscription, the language of which is akin to Pali, is the Hati-Gumpha inscription of Khāravela, dated the 160th year of the Maurya era.

Relation of Sanskrit to Präkrit Patanjali says that Sanskrit was a spoken language, but it was confined to the cultured section of the people. The popular dialect

of India was known by the general name of Prākrit. From the distribution of languages in Sanskrit dramas it appears that the masses while speaking Prākrit, could understand Sanskrit. It has been said in Bharata's Nātyašāstra that Prākrit and Sanskrit are different branches of one and the same language. In the earliest known forms of Prākrit, there are passages which can be easily translated into Sanskrit by the application of simple phonetic rules.

According to European scholars, Prākrit, which represents the Middle Indian period of the Indo-Aryan languages, may again be sub-divided into three stages: (1) Old Prākrit or Pāli, (2) Middle Prākrit, and (3) late Prākrit or Apabhramsa. They would like to say that if Prākrit had been a language derived from Sanskrit, Prākrit would have taken the name Sainskrta. Moreover, there are many words and forms in Prakrit which cannot be traced in Classical Sanskrit. If, however, by the word Sanskrit is included the language of the Vedas and all dialects of the old Indian period, it will be correct to assume that Präkrit is derived from Sanskrit. But the word Sanskrit is generally used to refer to the Panini-Patanjali language.

European view

Orthodox

Indian grammarians, however, would say that the name Prākrit is derived from the word prakrti, which means 'the basic form', viz., Sanskrit. Further, in Prākrit there are three classes of words, e.g., (i) 'tatsama'—words which are identical in form and meaning in both Sanskrit and Prākrit, e.g., dava, kamala, (ii) 'tadbhava' words that are derived from Sanskrit by the application of phonetic rules, e.g., ajjautta < āryaputra, paricumbia < paricumbya, and (iii) "deśin"—words that are of indigenous origin and the history of which cannot be accurately traced, e.g., chollanti, canga. A careful examination of Prākrit vocabulary reveals the fact that the majority of Prākrit words belong to the second class; words belonging to the other classes are comparatively small in number. The derivatives are in most cases the result of phonetic decay.

Varieties of Prākri The following are the more important literary Prākrits:—Mahārāṣṭrī, Śaurasenī, Māgadhī are the dramatic Prākrits, while Ardha-Māgadhī, Jaina-Mahārāṣṭrī, Jaina-Śaurasenī are the Prākrits of the Jaina canon. The last is the Apabhraniśa.

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D

WAS SANSKRIT A SPOKEN LANGUAGE?

A section of European scholars would believe that in spite of the vast extent of European Sanskrit literature, Sanskrit was never used in actual speech. It was a purely literary and artificial language and the language that was spoken even in ancient times was Prākrit.

But there are evidences to show that to all intents and purposes, Sanskrit was a living language and that it was spoken by at least a large section of the people. Etymologists and grammarians like Yāska and Pāṇini describe Classical Sanskrit as Bhāṣā—the speech, as distinguished from Vedic Sanskrit,¹ and it will not probably be incorrect to suggest that this description serves to draw out the

Orthodox

¹ Nir. I. iv. 5 & 7, II. ii. 6 & 7, Aşt. III. ii. 108, etc.

special character of Classical Sanskrit as a living speech. Moreover, there are many sūtras in the Aṣṭādhyāyī of Pāṇini which are meaningless unless they have any reference to a living speech.¹ Yāska, Pāṇini and even Kātyāyana have discussed the peculiarities in the usages of Easterners and Northerners.² Local variations are also noticed by Kātyāyana, while Patañjali has collected words occurring in particular districts.³ Patañjali again tells us that the words of Sanskrit are of ordinary life and describes an anecdote in which a grammarian converses with a charioteer and the discussion is carried on in Sanskrit.⁴

Extent of Sanskrit as a spoken language From all that has been said above, it is clear that Sanskrit was a living speech in ancient India. But the question which still remains to be discussed is whether Sanskrit was the vernacular of all classes of people in the society or of any particular section or sections. Patanjali says that the

¹ Aṣṭ. VIII. iv. 48, etc. Also Gaṇasūtras, Nos. 18, 20, 29.

² Nir. II. ii. 8. Aşt. IV. i. 157 & 160.

⁸ Cf. $V\bar{a}rttika$, "sarve deś $\bar{a}ntare$ " referred to in the $Paspaś\bar{a}hnika$, MB.

⁴ MB. under Ast. II. iv. 56.

the language spoken in the days of Panini could be mastered if it was heard from the learned Brāhmanas of the day (sista) who could speak correct Sanskrit without any special tuition. It is gathered from the Sundarakānda of the Rāmāyana that the language spoken by the twice-born castes was Sanskrit.² It is stated in the Kāmasūtra of Vatsyayana that men of taste should speak both in Sanskrit and the vernacular of the province, and this means that Sanskrit was not the spoken language of each and every section of the people in the society.3 Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller (seventh century A.D.), tells us that the language in which official debates were arranged, was Sanskrit and not any provincial dialect. The Pañcatantra informs us that the medium of instruction for the young boys of the ruling class was Sanskrit and not any vernacular.

We may draw from this the conclusion that Sanskrit was the vernacular of the educated people but it was understood in still wider sections. Our conclusions may find support from the evidence of the dramatic literature where we observe

Conclusions

¹ MB. under Aşt. VI. iii. 109. ² Rām. V. xxx. 18.

⁸ KS. iv. 20.

that Brahmanas, kings and ministers speak Sanskrit while women and all the common people use Präkrit, except that nuns and courtesans occasionally converse in Sanskrit. Uneducated Brahmanas are introduced speaking popular dialects. But it is highly significant that the dialogues between Sanskrit-speaking and Prakrit-speaking persons are very frequent and this suggests that in real life Sanskrit was understood by those who would not speak it themselves. This statement may be further corroborated by the fact that common people would gather to hear the recital of the popular Epics in the palaces of kings and in temples; they would not attend such functions unless they could understand the content of the recital.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE GREAT EPICS

A

RĀMĀYAŅA

The Indian tradition makes Vālmīki, the author of the Rāmāyaṇa, the first poet (ādikavi) who is reported to have deeply moved by the piteous wailings of the female curlew when her husband was killed by the dart of a forester. Vālmīki's feelings found an expression through the medium of metre, and at the bidding of the divine sage Nārada who brought messages from Brahmā he composed the immortal Rama-Epic which Prince tells $_{
m the}$ story of Rāma, the dutiful and devoted son of King Dasaratha of Ayodhyā, who was banished from his kingdom for fourteen years through the jealousy of his step-mother Kaikeyi who secured possession of the throne for her son Bharata. So Rāma and Sītā, his beloved wife, accompanied by the third prince Laksmana went to the forest. There the adventures of the banished prince, Sītā's abduction by Rāvana, King of Lanka, the help given to Rama

Origin and story

¹ Rām. I. ii. 15. Also, cf. Rag. XIV. 70.

by Hanumat, a chief of the monkeys, the destruction of Rāvaṇa and his party, the fire-ordeal of Sītā to prove her chastity—these and many other incidents have been described in all the glowing colours of poetry.

Character

The $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$ which is essentially a poetic creation has influenced the thought and poetry of later centuries in course of which new matters were added original composition. The work, in its present form and extent, comprises seven books and contains 24000 verses approximately. But it must be remembered that the text of the Epic has been preserved in three recensions, the West Indian, the Bengal and the Bombay, and curiously enough each recension has almost one third of the verses occurring in neither of the other two. Of the three, the Bombay recension is believed to have preserved the oldest form of the Epic, for here we find a large number of archaic expressions which are rare in the Bengal and the West Indian recensions. According to Professor Jacobi, Rāma-Epic was first composed in the the Kośala country on the basis of the ballad poetry recited by the rhapsodists. In course of time there naturally arose difference in the tradition of the recitations made by professional story-tellers, and this difference adequately explains the variations in the *three* recensions when they had been assuming their definite forms in the different parts of the land.

Internal evidence proves almost conclusively that the whole of the Rāmāyana as it is found to-day was not written at one time. It is said that of the seven books in the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yaya$, the last one and portions of the first are interpolations. In the first place, there are numerous passages in the genuine books which either make no reference to the incidents in the first book or contain statements which contradict those to be found in the first book. Secondly, in the first and third cantos of the first book we find two tables of contents, the first of which does not mention the first and the seventh books. Thirdly, the style and language of the first book do not bear comparison with that of the five genuine books (II -VI). Fourthly, the frequent interruption of the narrative in the first and the seventh books and the complete absence of any such interruption in the other five books cannot but suggest that the two books were

Spurious element

composed by subsequent poets of less eminence and talent than the author of the genuine books. Lastly, the character of the hero as drawn in the first and the seventh books differs from what we find in the remaining books. Thus in those two books Rama is not a mortal hero which he is in the other five books, but a divine being worthy of reverence to the nation.

Antiquity

It has been already observed that the original work of Valmiki assumed different forms as with years rhapsodists introduced into it newer elements. It is, therefore, very difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to fix any specified age for the whole poem. Dr. Winternitz says that the transformation of Rāma from a man to the Universal God through a semi-divine national hero, cannot but take a sufficient length of time. It should be noted, however, that not only the Rāma-legend but the Rāmāyana of Vālmīki also was known to the Mahābhārata which contains the Rāmopākhyāna in the Vanaparvan, of course, in a condensed form. the other hand, the poet or the poets of the Rāmāyana nowhere refer to the Bharatan story. These facts have led scholars like Professor Jacobi to presume a very early

existence of the Rāma-Epic¹ though it still remains a disputed point whether it was earlier than the original story of the $Mah\bar{a}$ bhārata, the passage in the Vanaparvan containing the reference to the Rāmāyaṇa, being absent in that very early form of the Bharatan Epic. Dr. Winternitz believes that "if the Mahābhārata had on the whole its present form in the 4th Century A. D., the Rāmāyana must have received its final form at least a century or two earlier."

From a study of Jataka literature it would appear that the stories of some of the Jatakas naturally remind us of the story of Buddhism the Rāmāyana though it must be admitted that we seldom observe any 'literal agreement' between the two. To cite an instance, the Dasaratha-jātaka relates the story of the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$ in a different way, where Rāma and Sitā are described as brother and sister. But it is highly significant that while the Jatakas give us innumerable stories of the demon-world and the animals,

¹ Scholars like Jacobi, Schlegel, M. Williams, Jolly and others point out that the Ramāyaṇa is earlier than the Mahūbhārata, because the burning of widows does not occur in it. but it is mentioned in the Mahābhārata.

they never mention the names of Ravana and Hanumat and the monkeys. It is not, therefore, improbable that prior to the fourth or the third centuries B.C., when the Buddhist Tipitaka is believed to have come into existence, the Rāmāyana in its Epic form was not available though ballads dealing with Rama were known to exist. Traces of Buddhism cannot be found in the Rāmāyana and the solitary instance where the Buddha is mentioned is believed to be an interpola-Dr. Weber, however, suggests that the Rāmāyana is based on an ancient Buddhist legend of Prince Rama. He thinks that the hero of the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yaya$, is essentially a sage in spirit and not merely a hero of war and that in Rama we observe the glorification of the ideal of Buddhist equanimity. Dr. Winternitz also approves of the idea of explaining the extreme mildness and gentleness of Rama by 'Buddhistic undercurrents.' But we must say that by thinking in this way Dr. Weber has ignored the fact that a poet like Vālmīki could easily draw his inspiration from his own heritage. Our con-

¹ Lassen on Weber's Rāmāyana (IA. Vol. III).

Greek influence

clusion, therefore, is that there was no direct influence of Buddhism on the Rāmāyana.

It is certain that there is no influence on the Rāmāyana as the genuine Rāmāyaya betrays no acquaintance with the Greeks. Dr. Weber, however, thinks that the Rāmāyana is based on the Greek legend of Helen and the Trojan But an examination of the contents of the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yaya$ shows that the expression yavana occurs twice in the passages of the Rāmāyana which are evidently interpolations.

> Allegorical interpretation of the Epic

Professor Lassen was the first scholar to give an allegorical interpretation of the Rāmāyana. In his opinion the Epic represented the first attempt of the Aryans to Southern India. According conquer Dr. Weber it was meant to account for the spread of Arvan civilization to South India and Ceylon.

Professor Jacobi gives us a mythological interpretation and says that there is no allegory in the Epic. Thus he points out that in the Raveda, Sita appears the field-furrow and invoked as the goddess of agriculture. In some of the Grhyasūtras Sita is the genuine daughter of the ploughfield and is a wife of Parjanya or Indra. In

Mythological interpre tation

the Rāmāyaṇa also Sītā is represented as emerging from the plough-field of Janaka. Rāma can be identified with Indra and Hanumat with the Maruts, the associates of Indra in his battle with demons. But we would only add that to read allegory or mythology in a first rate work of art is without any justification.

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MAHĀBHĀRATA

Dr. Winternitz describes the Mahābhārata as a whole literature and does not look upon it as one poetic production which the Rāmāyana essentially is. The nucleus of the Mahābhārata is the great war of eighteen days fought between the Kauravas, the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra and the Paṇḍavas, the five sons of Pandu. The poet narrates all the circumstances leading up to the war. In this great Kuruksetra battle were involved almost all the kings of India joining either of the two parties. The result of this war was the total annihilation of the Kauravas and their party, and Yudhisthira, the head of the Pandavas, became the sovereign monarch of Hastinapura. But with the progress of years new matters and episodes, relating to the various aspects of human life, social, economic, political, moral and religious as also fragments of other heroic legends and legends containing reference to famous kings, came to be added to the aforesaid nucleus and this phenomenon probably continued for centuries till in the early part of the Christian era the Epic gathered its present shape which is said

General character and story to contain a hundred thousand verses. It is, therefore, that the *Mahābhārata* has been described not only as a heroic poem, but also as a 'repertory of the whole of the bard poetry'. The Epic in its present form is divided into *eighteen* books with a supplement called the *Harivamsa*.¹

Gîtā

The famous $Sr\bar{\imath}mad\text{-}Bhagavadg\bar{\imath}t\bar{a}$ is a chapter of the $Bh\bar{\imath}smaparvan$ and contains eighteen sections. The $G\bar{\imath}t\bar{a}$ is a simplification in verse of the crude doctrines in Hindu philosophy and is a book specially meant for the dwellers of the society rather than for one who has renounced it. The book is no doubt one of the finest fruits of Indian philosophy and has gained world-wide recognition in the hands of philosophers. The theme of this book is the advice, given by $Sr\bar{\imath}$ -Kṛṣṇa for consoling depressed Arjuna, mainly dwelling on the doctrines of karman, $j\bar{\imath}ana$ and bhakti.

Three stages of the Epic It is extremely difficult for us to separate at this distant date the chaff from the real. However, in the first book of the $Mah\bar{a}bh\bar{a}$ -rata there is a statement that at one time

¹ It is not definitely known whether this division into eighteen books is purely traditional, there being a somewhat different form of division as surmised from the writings of Albērūnī.

the Epic contained 24000 verses while in another context we find that it consisted of 8800 verses. These statements may definitely lead one to conclude that the Epic had undergone *three* principal stages of development before it assumed its present form.

It is impossible to give in one line the exact date of the Mahābhārata. To determine the date of the Mahābhārata we should determine the date of every part of this Epic. In the Vedas there is no mention of the incident of the great Kuruksetra battle. In the Brahmanas, however, the holy Kuru-field is described as a place of pilgrimage where gods and mortals celebrated big sacrificial feasts. We also find the names of Janamejaya and Bharata in the Brāhmanas. also the name of Pariksit as a ruler of Kuru-land is found in the Atharvaveda. We find frequent mention of the Kurus and the Pañcalas in the Yajurveda. The Kāṭhakasamhitā mentions the name of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, son of Vicitravīrya. In the Sānkhyāyanafind the mention of *śrautasūtra* we war in Kuru-land which was fatal for the Kauravas. But the names of the Pandavas do not occur therein. The Grhyasūtra of Āśvalāyana gives the names of Bhārata and

Age of the Epic Mahābhārata in a list of teachers and books. Pāṇini gives us the derivation of the words Yudhiṣthira, Bhīma and Vidura and the accent of the compound Mahābhārata. Patañjali is the first to make definite allusions to the story of the battle between the Kauravas and the Pāṇḍavas. Although the Buddhist Tipiṭaka does not mention the name of the Mahābhārata, the Jātakas betray a slight acquaintance with it.

Literary and inscriptional evidence

Moreover, it is proved by literary and inscriptional evidence that already about 500 A.D., the Mahābhārata was no longer an actual Epic but a sacred book and a religious discourse. It was on the whole essentially different from the Epic as it is found to-day. Kumārilabhatta quotes passages from the Mahābhārata and regards it as a Smrti work. Both Subandhu and Bana knew it as a great work of art¹ and Bana alludes to a recital of the Mahābhārata.² It must be admitted on all hands that though an Epic Mahābhārata did not exist in the time of the Vedas, single myths, legends and poems included in the Mahābhārata reach back to the Vedic period. The Mahābhārata has also

¹ Vās. p. 37 & Har. p. 2.

² Kād. p. 104.

drawn many moral narratives and stories of saints from its contemporary 'ascetic-poetry'. An Epic Mahābhārata, however, did not exist in the fourth century B.C., and the transformation of the Epic Mahābhārata into our present compilation probably took place between the fourth century B.C. and the fourth century A.D. In the fourth century A.D., the work was available in its present extent, contents and character, though small alterations and additions might have continued even in later centuries.

To the strictly orthodox Indian mind, the Rāmāyaṇa appears to have been composed earlier than the Mahābhārata. Indians believe that of the two incarnations of the Lord, Rāma and Kṛṣṇa, the former was born earlier. Western critics do not attach any importance to this belief, for it is argued by them that the hero of the genuine portion of the Rāmāyaṇa which is older, does not appear as an incarnation but as an ordinary mortal hero. Professor Jacobi

Two Epics which is earlier?

¹ There are a few passages in the genuine books, e.g., the one in Bk. VI. where Sītā enters into the pyre, wherein Rāma is described as a divine being. Critics feel no hesitation in calling such passages interpolations.

also thinks that of the two poems, the Rāmāyaṇa is the earlier production, and he bases his theory on the supposition that it is the influence of the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yaya$ which has moulded the Mahābhārata into a poetic form. 1 Dr. Winternitz does not attach any real importance to this theory and criticizes it by saying that the Mahābhārata, even in its present form, retains several characteristics of older poetry while the poem of Vālmīki reveals such peculiarities as would place him nearer to the age of Court-Thus it has been pointed out that such expressions like "Bhişma spake" "Sañjaya spake" which the poet of the Mahābhārata, uses to introduce a character, are reminiscent of ancient ballad poetry.2 But in the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$ the speeches are introduced in verses and therefore in a more polished form. The theory of Professor Jacobi may be further contested on the ground that

¹ According to Mr. Hopkins, the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$ as an art-product is later than the $Mah\bar{a}bh\bar{a}rata$. (Cf. Cambridge History, I. p. 251.)

² The mixture of prose with poetry which we notice in the *Mahābhārata* is a fact that proves its antiquity. This view of Professor Oldenberg is not accepted by Dr Winternitz.

from a perusal of the two Epics, the reader will unmistakably carry the impression that while the *Mahābhārata* describes a more war-like age, the *Rāmāyaṇa* depicts a comparatively refined civilization.

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CHAPTER TWO

THE PURĀŅAS

Introduction The origin of the Purāṇas must be traced to that time of religious revolution when Buddhism was gaining ground as a formidable foe of Brāhmaṇic culture. Great devotees of Brāhmaṇic religion were anxious for the preservation of the old relics of Hindu culture, and Vyāsa, the great compiler, the greatest man of his time, was born to meet the demand of the age. The most important point to be remembered in this connection, is that the entire Vedic culture lies at the back-ground of the age of Buddhism and the Purāṇas.

Age

It was at one time believed by European scholars that not one of the eighteen Purāṇas is earlier than the eleventh century A.D. But this belief has been discarded on the discovery of a manuscript of the Skandapurāṇa in Nepal written in the sixth century A.D. Further, Bāṇabhaṭṭa in his Harṣacarita mentions that he once attended a recitation of the Vāyupurāṇa. Kumārila (750 A.D.) regards the Purāṇas as the sources of law. Śaṅkara (ninth century A.D.) and Rāmānuja (eleventh century A.D.) refer to the Purāṇas

as sacred texts for their dependence on the Vedas. The famous traveller Alberūnī (1030 A.D.) also gives us a list of the eighteen Purānas.

The word Purāṇa means 'old narrative.' In the Brahmanas, the Upanisads and the Antiquity Buddhist texts, the word is found to be used in connection with Itahāsa. Some scholars hold that the Puranas mentioned in these places do not refer to the works we have before us. But the references found in the *Dharmasūtras* of Gautama and Āpastamba (works belonging in all probability to the fifth or the fourth century B.C.) suggest that there were at that early period works resembling our Puranas. The close relationship between the Mahābhārata and the Puranas is another point in support of the antiquity of the latter.) The Mahābhārata which calls itself a Purana, has the general character of the latter, and it is not highly improbable that some integral parts of the Puranas are older than the present redaction of the Mahābhārata. The Lalitavistara not only calls itself a Purana but has also much in common with the Purāṇas. (The Vāyupurāṇa is quoted literally by the Harivamsa. The genealogical survey of all the Puranas reveals

the fact that they generally stop with the accounts of the Andhra Bhrtya and Gupta kings and that later kings like Harşa are not mentioned. So it may be suggested that the Puranas were written during the rule of the Gupta kings. On the other hand, the striking resemblance between the Buddhist Mahayana texts of the first century A.D., and the Purānas, suggests the fact that the latter were written early in the beginnings of the Christian era. The characteristics of the Purānas are also found in books like the Saddharmapundarīka and the Mahāvastu. Dr. Winternitz has, however, concluded that the earlier Puranas must have come into being before the seventh century A.D.

Character

According to Indian tradition every Purana should discuss five topics; (i) sarga—creation, (ii) pratisarga—the periodical annihilation and renewal of the world, (iii) vainsa—genealogy of gods and sages, (iv) manvantara—the Manu-periods of time i.e., the great periods each of which has a Manu (primal ancestor of the human race) as its ruler, and (v) vainsānucarita—the history of the dynasties the origin of which is traced to the Sun and the Moon. But all these five characteristics are not present in

every Purana, and though in some they are partially present, we notice a wide diversity of topics in them. Thus we find many chapters dealing with the duties of the four castes and of the four asramas, sections on Brahmanical rites, on particular ceremonies and feasts and frequently also chapters on Sankhya and Yoga philosophy. But the most striking peculiarity of all the Puranas is their sectarian character as they are dedicated to the cult of some deity who is treated as the principal God in the book. So we come across a Purana dedicated to Vispu, another to Siva and so on.

Unique is the importance of the Purāṇas from the standpoint of history and religion. The genealogical survey of the Purāṇas is immensely helpful for the study of political history in ancient India, and yet it is a task for the scholar to glean germs of Indian history, hidden in the Purāṇas. Dr. Smith says that the Viṣṇupurāṇa gives us invaluable informations about the Maurya dynasty. The Matsyapurāṇa is most dependable in so far as the Andhra dynasty is concerned, while the Vāyupurāṇa gives us detailed descriptions about the reign of Candragupta I. As the object of the Purāṇas was to popularize

Value

the more difficult and highly philosophical preaching of the Vedas through the medium of historical facts and tales, we naturally find in them Hinduism in a fully developed form. So the student of religion cannot pass it by. The Puranas are not also wanting in literary merit, and they abound in numerous passages which speak of the highly artistic talent of their makers.

Name and number The Puranas or the Maha-puranas, as we have them to-day, are eighteen in number, and there are also minor Puranas (Upapuranas) which all again number eighteen. The eighteen Maha-puranas are:—

- (1) Brahma, (2) Padma, (3) Viṣṇu,
- (4) Śiva, (5) Bhāgavata, (6) Nārada,
- (7) Mārkaṇḍeya, (8) Agni, (9) Bhaviṣya or Bhaviṣyat, (10) Brahmavaivarta, (11) Liṅga,
- (12) Varāha, (13) Skanda, (14) Vāmana,
- (15) Kūrma, (16) Matsya, (17) Garuḍa and
- (18) Brahmāṇḍa.

Devīmāhātmya The Devīmāhātmya which is popularly known as the 'Caṇḍī' or the 'Saptaśatī', is a section of the Mārkaṇḍeyapurāṇa. According to Dr. Winternitz, its date is not later than the sixth century A.D. The book which contains thirteen chapters and seven hundred mantras, is a glorification of the Primal

Energy (Adyā Śakti) who descends amongst all created beings from time to time to rid the worlds of their pestilence and killed in the past the demons Madhu-Kaiṭabha, Mahiṣāsura, Śumbha and Niśumbha among others. The book is recited in many religious functions of the Hindus.

The *eighteen* Upa-puranas which have been told by different sages are :—

(1) Sanatkumara, (2) Narasimha, (3) Vāyu, (4) Śivadharma, (5) Āścarya, (6) Nārada, (7) the two Nandikeśvaras, (8) Uśanas, (9) Kapila, (10) Varuṇa, (11) Śāmba, (12) Kālikā, (13) Maheśvara, (14) Kalki, (15) Devī, (16) Parāśara, (17) Marīci and (18) Bhāskara or Sūrya.

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¹ The above list of Upa-purāṇas given by Raghunandana is taken from the Śabdakalpadruma. Hemādri gives a different list.

Name & number of Upa-purāṇas

CHAPTER THREE

THE TANTRAS

Meaning, contents and classi-

The expression Tantra which generic name for works belonging 'Āgama', 'Tantra' and 'Samhitā', refers to theological treatises discussing the codes of discipline and worship among different sects of religion along with their metaphysical and mystical points of view. A complete Tantra generally consists of four parts, the themes treated of being (i) knowledge (jnāna), (ii) meditation (yoga), (iii) action $(kriy\bar{a})$ and (iv) conduct $(cary\bar{a})$. Though it is not possible to draw any special line of demarcation among Agama, Tantra and Samhita, still it is usual to refer to the sacred books of the Saivas by the expression Agama, while Tantra stands for the sacred literature of the Saktas and Sainhita for that of the Vaisnavas. The Sakta-Tantras are mainly monistic in character, while the Vaisnava-Tantras generally advocate dualism, or qualified monism. Saiva-Tantras are divided into three schools of monism, qualified monism and dualism.

The Tantras came to replace the Vedas

when in later times it was found that performance of a sacrifice according to Vedic rites was practically impossible owing to their rigid orthodoxy. Thus the Tantras prescribe easier and less complicated methods which would suit not only the higher classes but also the Śūdras and the feminine folk of the society who had no access to Vedic ceremonies. It would, therefore, not be wise to think that Tantric literature is opposed to Vedic literature, and this point would be made abundantly clear when it is found that the rigidly orthodox Vedic scholars write original works and commentaries on Tantras.

Relation to Vedic literature

The earliest manuscripts of Tantras date from the seventh to the ninth century A.D., and it is probable that the literature dates back to the fifth or the sixth century A.D., if not earlier. We do not find any reference to a Tantra in the *Mahābhārata*. The Chinese pilgrims also do not mention it. It is, indeed, certain that Tantric doctrine penetrated into Buddhism in the seventh and eighth centuries A.D. The worship of Durgā may be traced back even to the Vedic period.

Antiquity

The home of Āgamic literature seems to be Kāshmir, while that of Tāntric literature is Bengal. Samhitā literature,

Home

as it is known, originated in different parts of India, in Bengal, South India and the Siamese country.

Works on Āgama Among works belonging to Agamic literature of Kashmir the most important are the following:—

Mālinīvijaya, Svacchanda, Vijītānabhairava, rava, Ucchuṣmabhairava, Ānandabhairava, Mṛgendra, Mataṅga, Netra, Naiśvāsa, Svāyambhuva and Rudrayāmala.

Works on Pratyabhijñā Closely associated with Āgamic litertureis Pratyabhijñā literature. Some of the most important works of this literature are:

Śivadṛṭi of Somānanda (850-900 A.D.) Pratyabhijħākārikās of Utpala (900-950 A.D.) Mālinīvijayottaravārttika, Pratyabhijħāvimarśinī, Tantrāloka, Tantrasāra and Paramārthasāra of Abhinavagupta (993-1015 A.D.) and Pratyabhijħāhṛdaya of Kṣemarāja (pupil of Abhinavagupta).

Works on Samhitā Among works belonging to Samhitā literature the most important is the Ahirbudhnyasamhitā which was composed in Kāshmir in the fifth century A.D. Īsvarasamhitā, Pauṣkarasamhitā, Paramasamhitā, Sāttvatasamhitā, Bṛhadbrahmasamhitā and Jīnānāmṛtasārasamhitā are other well-known works of this branch of Sanskrit literature.

Among works belonging to Tantra literature, mention may be made of the following:—

Works on Tantra

Mahānirvāṇa, Kulārṇava, Kulacūḍāmaṇi, Prapancasāra (of Śaṅkara), Tantrarāja, Kālīvilāsa, Jňānārṇava, Śāradātilaka, Varivasyārahasya (of Bhāskara), Tantrasāra (of Kṛṣṇānanda) and Prāṇatoṣiṇī.

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CHAPTER FOUR

KĀVYA IN INSCRIPTIONS

Renaissance theory

Early in the beginnings of Sanskritic studies in Europe, Professor Max Muller propounded the theory of the 'Renaissance of Sanskrit literature', which remained highly popular for a considerable length of time. This theory, set forth with much profundity, sought to establish that Brahmanic culture passed through its dark age at the time when India was continuously facing foreign invasions. The earliest revival of this culture is to be found in the reign of the Guptas which is a golden page in the annals of Indian culture. In spite of all its ingenuity the theory has been generally discarded by recent researches and discovery. Evidences are now at our disposal to prove the falsity of the assumption and the inscriptions of the early centuries of the Christian era unmistakably show that the study and development of Sanskrit Kavya was never impeded.

Girnār inscription Thus the inscription of Rudradāman at Girnār dated 150 A.D., is written in prose in the full-fledged Kāvya style with conformity to the rules of grammar.

Though traces of epic licence can be found in the inscription, still the writer is a gifted master in the use of figures of speech. As an example of alliteration may be cited the phrase 'abhyastanāmno Rudradāmno'. Though there are long compounds still the clearness and the lucidity of the style is nowhere forsaken. What is more significant is that the author is conversant with the science of poetics and discusses the merits attributed by Dandin to the Vaidarbha style.

Still another inscription which is derivable from a record of Siri Pulumāyi at Nāsik is written in Prākrit prose. The date of this inscription is not far removed from the former. The author who is undoubtedly familiar with Sanskrit, uses enormous sentences with long compounds. Alliterations and even mannerisms of later Kāvyas are found in this inscription.

It may be, therefore, concluded that the works of Aśvaghosa, the great Buddhist poet, are not the earliest specimens of Sanskrit Kāvya. Either these earlier Kāvyas are now lost to us unfortunately, or authors like Kālidāsa have completely eclipsed the glory of their predecessors. Thus of the three

Nāsik inscription

Conclu-

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dramatists referred to by Kālidāsa, the dramas of only one are now known to us.

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CHAPTER FIVE

EARLY BUDDHIST WORKS IN SANSKRIT

The paucity of authentic landmarks in the domain of early Indian history is a stupendous stumbling block to the gateway to the study of the history of Sanskrit literature. A colossal darkness that envelops the period of Sanskrit literature in the beginnings of the Christian era, makes it extremely difficult, if not hopelessly impossible, to ascertain the age in which a particular writer lived and wrote his work. The chronology of Indian literature is shrouded in such painful obscurity that oriental scholars were long ignorant of the vast literature produced in Sanskrit, by Buddhist writers.

The thought of the Mahāyāna school of Buddhism was expressed in a language which was not Pāli, the extraordinarily rich and extensive religious literature of Ceylon and Burma, but which was partly Sanskrit and partly a dialect to which Professor Senart has given the designation Mid-Sanskrit, or which Professor Pischel likes to call the Gāthā

Introduction

Buddhist Sanskrit literature includes Mahāyāna and Hīnayāna works dialect.1 This literature of the Mahayana school is called Buddhist Sanskrit literature. But it should be mentioned in this connection that Buddhist Sanskrit literature is not synonymous with the rich literature of the Mahayana school alone, but it has a still wider scope including as it does the literature of the Hinayana school as well, inasmuch as the Sarvastivadins, a sect of the Hinayana school, possess a canon and \mathbf{a} fairly vast literature in Sanskrit. The Sanskrit canon, however, is not available in its entirety, but its existence is proved on the evidence of the several quotations from it in such works as the Mahāvastu, the Divyāvadāna and the Lalitavistara. This Sanskrit canon shows close affinity to the Pali canon, and it is suggested that both of them are but translations of some original canon in Magadhi, which is lost to us.

Mahāvastu : its date The most important work of the Hinayana school is the *Mahāvastu*, the book of the Great Events. This *Mahāvastu*, a book belonging to the school of the Loko-

¹It may be observed in this connection that the $N\overline{a}$ sik Cave inscription No. X of Nahap \overline{a} na is written in this dialect.

ttaravādins, a sub-division of the Mahāsānghikas, shows after the introduction, the following title: Āryamahāsānghikānām Lokottaravādinām madhyadesikānām pāthena vinayapitakasya mahāvastu ādi. This may furnish us with a clue to determine the date of its composition. In order to ascertain this it is to be found out when the Lokottaravādin sect of the Mahāsānghikas sprang up. In this connexion, it would be necessary to fix the date of Buddha's death. Scholars are divided in their opinions as to the exact year when Buddha died. Professors Max Müller and Cunningham make it 477 B.C., while Mr. Gopala Aiyer likes to fix it at 483 B.C. But more probable is Dr. Smith's theory according to which Buddha died in 487 B.C. It is said that Aśoka was coronated in 269 B.C., and that this coronation took place some two hundred and eighteen years after the death of Buddha. But, if the account of the Southern Buddhists is to be believed, this year was either 544 or 543 B.C. Now the opening lines of the fifth chapter of the Mahāvamsa will throw light on the age when the Mahasāṅghikas came into being.1 There it is

¹ Eko 'va theravādo so ādivassasate ahu aññā-

stated that during the first century after the death of Buddha, there was but one schism among the Theras. Subsequent to this period, other schisms took place among the preceptors. From the whole of those sinful priests, in number ten thousand, who had been degraded by the Theras (who had held the second convocation) originated the schism among the preceptors called the Mahāsānghika heresy. It is described in this connextion that as many as eighteen schisms rose and all of them in the course of a couple of centuries after the death of Buddha. But, the difficulty is that there is no mention of the Lokottaravadins in the *Mahāvamsa*. In the appendix of the translation of the Mahāvainsa, it has been said that the Lokottaravadins do not appear in the tradition of the Southern Buddhists. They are mentioned immediately beside the Gokulikas. In Rock hill 182, the Lokottaravadins are to be found

cariyavādā tu tato orain ajāyisum II Tehi sangītikārehi therehi dutiyehi te I niggahitā pāpabhikkhū sabbe dasasahassikā II Akams'ācāriyavādam Mahāsanghikanāmakam II

just in the place where the Gokulikas are expected. Moreover, in two other contexts, the Gokulikas and not the Lokottaravadins are mentioned. Thus, it is better to identify the two and in that case, the Lokottaravadins seem to have sprung up at least in the third century B.C. That being so, the *Mahāvastu*, which has been described to be the first work of their sect, could not have been written later than that period.

But a fresh difficulty makes its appearance. The Mahāvastu is not a composite whole. Different parts of it have been composed at different periods and this accounts for the unmethodical arrangement of facts and ideas in the work. Besides, the Mahāvastu is not a piece of artistic literature. It has rightly been called 'a labyrinth in which we can only with an effort, discover the thread of a coherent account of the life of Buddha.' The contents are not in the least properly arranged and the reader may come across the repetition of the same story, over and over again. But the importance of the work can never be undervalued in view of the fact that it has preserved numerous traditions of respectable antiquity and versions of texts occurring in the Pali canon.

The *Mahāvastu* has yet another claim to its importance, for in it the reader discovers a storehouse of stories. It is a truth that nearly half of the book is devoted to Jātakas and stories of like nature. Most of the narratives remind us of the stories of Purāṇas and the history of Brahmadatta may be cited as an instance. To conclude, the *Mahāvastu*, though a work of the Hīnayāna school, betrays some affinity to the Mahāyānistic thought. The mention of a number of Buddhas and the conception of Buddha's self-begottenness, are ideas associated with the Mahāyāna school.

Lalitavistara : its character The literature of the Mahāyāna school of Buddhism is extremely rich. Though originally a work of the Sarvāstivādin school attached to the Hīnayāna, the Lahtavistara is believed to be one of the most sacred Mahāyāna texts, inasmuch as it is regarded as a Vaipulyasūtra. That the work contains the Mahāyānistic faith may easily be inferred from the very title of the work which means 'the exhaustive narrative of the sport of the Buddha.' A critical study of the work reveals, however, that it is but a 'redaction of an older Hīnayāna text expanded and embellished in the sense of

the Mahayana, a biography of the Buddha, representing the Sarvāstivādin school. It is also a fact that the present Lalitavistara is not the work of a single author; it is rather 'an anonymous compilation in which both the old and the young fragments have found their places.' Such being the case, it is hardly proper to regard the work as a good old source for the knowledge of Buddhism. The reader finds in it the gradual development of the Buddha legend in its earliest beginnings. Hence, there is hardly any significance in the statement of Professor Vallée Poussin when he says that 'the Lalitavistara represents the popular Buddhism.' The book, however, is of great importance from the standpoint of literary history, inasmuch as it has supplied materials for the monumental epic of Aśvaghoṣa entitled the Buddhacarita.

To determine the date of composition of the work it would be necessary to bear in mind that the work is a Vaipulyasūtra. In the Vaipulyasūtras we find sections in a redaction of prose followed by one in verse, the latter being in substance, only a repetition of the former. The idiom of prose portions is a kind of Sanskrit; while that of

Date of Lalitavistara. Kern's view verses, Gathas, a veiled Prakrit somewhat clumsily Sanskritized as much as the exigencies of the metre have permitted. Professor Kern thinks that the prose passages are undoubtedly translations of a Prākrit text into Sanskrit. The question, therefore, arises: why and when has the original idiom been replaced by Sanskrit? It is known that in India it has been the common fate of all Prakrits that they have become obsolete whilst the study and practice of Sanskrit have been kept up all over the country, as the common language of science and literature, and also as a bond between Aryans and Dravidians. Now it may be asked, at what time then might Sanskrit have reconquered its ascendancy? Professor Kern suggests that it was in all probability shortly before or after the council in the reign of that great Indo-Scythian King Kaniska.

Nariman's view and conclusions Mr. G. K. Nariman, in his Literary History of Sanskrit Buddhism, says that it is an erroneous conception that the *Lalitavistara* was translated into Chinese in the first Christian era. Moreover, he doubts that the Chinese biography of Buddha, called the Phuyau-king, published in 300 A.D., is the second translation of our present text of the

Lalitavistara. On the other hand, he says that a precise rendering of the Sanskrit text was completed in Tibetan and produced as late as the fifth century A.D. It may, however, be noted here that Professor Kern has taken sufficient pains to prove that there is much that is of respectable antiquity in the work. Taking this factor into consideration its date may be assigned some time before the Christian era.

The most outstanding Buddhist writer in Sanskrit is Aśvaghosa. Round his date hangs a veil of mystery. Dr. Smith writes in his History of India: 'In literature, the memory of Kaniska is associated with the names of the eminent Buddhist writers Nāgārjuna, Aśvaghoṣa, and Vasumitra. Aśvaghoṣa is described as having been a poet, musician, scholar, religious controversialist, and zealous Buddhist monk, orthodox in creed, and a strict observer of discipline.' all evidences it may be Judged from concluded that Kaniska flourished in 78 A.D. Hence Aśvaghosa who adorned his court, flourished in the first century of the Christian era.¹

¹ In the chronological group generally accepted by numismatics, the Kanişka group succeeds the Kadphi-

Aśvaghosa:

The masterpiece of Aśvaghosa is his

Buddhacarita

Buddhacarita—the life-history of Buddha. From the account of I-tsing it appears that the Buddhacarita with which he was acquainted, consisted of twenty-eight cantos. ses group. But even this view has not the unanimous support of scholars. If, as some scholars hold, the group of kings comprising Kaniska, Väsiska, Huviska and Vāsudeva preceded Kadphises I, the coins of the two princes last named should be found together, as they are not, and those of Kadphises II and Kaniska should not be associated, as they are. Chief supporters of the view stated above are Drs. Fleet, Frank and Mr. Kennedy. Dr. Frank lays stress on the fact that Chinese historians as apart from Buddhist authors make no mention of Kaniska. But he himself answers the question when he holds that with the year 125 A.D., the source was dried up from which the chronicler could draw the information regarding the peoples of Turkesthan. Dr. Fleet connects Kaniska's accession to the throne with the traditional Vikrama Sainvat, beginning with the year 57 B.C. This view has been ably controverted by Dr. Thomas and discoveries of Professor Marshall totally belie its truth. Inscriptions, coins and the records of Hiuen Tsang point out that Kaniska's dominion included Gandhara. According to Chinese evidence, Kipin or Kāpiśa-Gandhāra was not under the Kusana kings in the second half of the first century B.C. Professors Marshall, Sten Konow, Smith and other scholars think that Kanişka's rule begins about 125 A.D. The evidence of Sue Vihār

Tibetan translation, too, contains the same number of cantos. But unluckily the Sanskrit text comprises seventeen cantos only, of which, again, the last four are of dubious origin. It is said that one Amrtananda of

inscriptions proves that Kaniska's empire extended as far as the Lower Indus valley; but the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman tells us that the dominions of the Emperor included Sindhu and Sauvīra. It is known that Rudradaman lived from A.D. 130 to A.D. 150. Under the circumstances, it is almost impossible to reconcile the suzerainty of the Kusana King with the independence of this powerful satrap (cf. Svayamadhigatam mahākṣati apanāma). From, Kaniska's dates 3-23, Vāsiska's dates 24-28, Huviska's dates 31-60, and Vasudeva's dates 74-98 it is almost evident that Kaniska was the originator of an era. But according to our evidence, no new era was in vogue about the beginning of the second century AD. Dr. R. C. Mazumdar is of opinion that the era started by Kaniska was the Kalachuri era of 248-49 A.D. But Professor Jouveau Dubreuil contends that it is not likely that Vāsudeva's reign terminated after 100 years from Kaniska's date of accession; for Mathura where Vasudeva reigned, came under the Nagas about 350 A.D It may be further mentioned that for the reason stated above we can hardly accept the theory of Sir R. G Bhandarkar who accepts A.D. 278, as the date of Kaniska's accession. According to Professors Ferguson, Oldenberg, Thomas, R. D. Banerjee, Rapson and others, Kaniska started the Śaka era commencing from 78 A.D.

the ninth century A.D. added these four cantos. Even the manuscript discovered by MM. Haraprasāda Śāstrin, reaches down to the middle of the fourteenth canto.

Professor Dubreuil does not accept the view as well on the following grounds. First, if the view that Kujula-kara-Kadphises and Hermaios reigned about 50 A.D. and that Kaniska founded the era in 78 A.D. is accepted, there remain only twenty-eight years for the end of the reign of Kadphises I and the entire roign of Kadphises II. But Kadphises II succeeded an octogenerian and it is not impossible that his reign was one of short duration. Professor Marshall says that Professor Dubreuil has discovered at Taxila a document which can be placed in 79 A.D. and the king, it mentions, was certainly not Kaniska. But Professor H. C. Ray Chaudhuri has shown that the title Devaputra was applicable to the Kaniska group and not to the earlier group. The omission of a personal name does not prove that the first Kusana king was meant. Secondly, Professor Dubreuil says that Professor Sten Konow has shown that Tibetan and Chinese documents prove that Kaniska lived in the second century A.D. But it is not improbable that this Kaniska is the Kaniska of the Āra inscription of the year 41 which, if referred to the Saka era, would give a date that would fall in the second century A.D. Po-t'iao may be one of the successors of Vāsudeva I. Professors Banerjee and Smith recognize the existence of more than one Vasudeva. Finally, Professor Konow has shown that inscriptions of the Kaniska era and the Saka era are not dated in

The Buddhacarita is really a work of art. Unlike the Mahāvastu and the Lalitavistara, it shows a systematic treatment of the subject-matter. Nowhere will the reader come across a confused or incoherent description. Throughout the work, the poet is very cautious about the use of figures of speech, and this abstinence from the superabundant employment of figures of speech has lent special charm to the merit of the work. Over and above this, the presentment of the miraculous in the Buddha legend has been done with equal moderation. Thus, in short, the work is an artistic creation. An account of the assemblage of fair and young ladies watching from gabled windows of high mansions, the exit of the royal prince from the capital, is followed by a vivid lifelike description of how he came in contact with the hateful spectacle of senility. The

A critical appreciation

the same manner. The learned scholar shows that the inscriptions of Kanişka are dated in different fashions. In the Kharoṣṭhī inscriptions, Kaniṣka follows the method of his Śaka-Pallava predecessors. On the other hand, in the Brāhmī inscriptions he follows the ancient Indian method. Is it then impossible that he adopted a third method to suit the local conditions in Western India?

ladies, when they came to know that the prince was going out of the city, rushed to the window, careless of girdles falling off from their bodies and the poet speaks of their faces as so many full-blown lotuses with which the palace was decorated. The poet shows high artistic craftsmanship in depicting how the prince overcame the lures of sweet ladies who made an attempt to divert his mind from the desire to bid good-bye to all the joys and comforts of the world and also in the description of the famous scene in which the prince, gazing on the undecked bodies of the ladies, locked in the sweet embrace of sleep, resolved to abandon the palace. No less artistically pathetic is the scene in which the prince takes leave of his charioteer and the conversation between the two is remarkable for the spirit of absolute disinterestedness towards worldly happiness, which is displayed by the prince. The poet is also an adept in the description of battles, and no one will forget the spirited picture of the contest of Buddha against the demon Mara and his monstrous hosts. Evidences are also discernible in the work to show that the poet was familiar with the doctrine of statecraft.

Aśvaghoṣa is the author of another epic, the Saundarananda, which has been discovered and edited by MM. Haraprasāda Śāstrin. This work also turns round the history of Buddha's life, but the central theme is the history of the reciprocal love of Sundarī and Nanda, the half-brother of Buddha, who is initiated into the order against his will by the latter.

Saundarananda

The third work of the poet is a lyrical poem, the *Gandīstotragāthā*, reconstructed in the Sanskrit original from the Chinese by A. von Staël-Holstein.

Gaņģīstotragāthā

Another work of the poet is the $S\bar{u}tr\bar{a}la\dot{n}k\bar{a}ra$, which undoubtedly is a later production than the Buddhacarita, inasmuch as the former quotes the latter. It is to be regretted that the Sanskrit original is not yet available; what we have is only the Chinese translation of the work. This $S\bar{u}tr\bar{a}la\dot{n}kara$ is a collection of pious legends after the model of Jātakas and Avadānas. This work, however, has furnished us with a clue to the existence of dramatic

Sūtrālan-

¹ Dr. Winternitz is of opinion that this work was written by Kumāralāta, a junior contemporary of Aśvaghoṣa. The work bears the title Kalpanāmanḍitikā or Kalpanālaikṛtikā.

literature even at the time Aśvaghoṣa. In the piece relating to Māra we have the recapitulation of a drama.

Sāriputraprakarana There is a positive evidence to show that Aśvaghoṣa was a dramatist as well and in this connection reference may be made to the momentous discovery of the concluding portion of a nine-act drama entitled the Śāriputraprakaraṇa which treats of the conversion of Śāriputra and his friend Maudgalyāyana. Among the valuable manuscript treasures in palm-leaf recovered from Turfan there is a fragmentary manuscript in which Professor Lüders found this drama which bore the name of Aśvaghoṣa as its author.

Mahāyānaśraddhotpādasūtra One more work attributed to the poet is the Mahāyānaśraddhotpādasūtra, a philosophical treatise on the basis of the Mahāyāna doctrine. Herein, as Professor Lévi remarks, the author shows himself as a profound metaphysician, as an intrepid reviver of a doctrine which was intended to regenerate Buddhism. It is believed that the author came of a Brāhmaṇa family and that he was later initiated into the doctrine of Buddhism.

¹ According to Dr. Winternitz this work has been wrongly ascribed to Aśvaghoşa.

At first, he joined the Sarvāstivādin school and then prepared for the Mahāyāna. It was at one time believed that Aśvaghoṣa was a pioneer in the field of Mahāyānism; but it is better to suppose that he was not the first to write a treatise on that subject, but was a strong exponent of it. For, it is undeniable that the Mahāyāna school developed long before Aśvaghoṣa.

Another work attributed to Aśvaghoṣa, is the Vajrasūcī. Here the author takes up the Brāhmaṇic standpoint and disputes the authority of sacred texts and the claims of caste, and advocates the doctrine of equality. In the Chinese Tipiṭaka Catalogue the work has been ascribed to Dharmakīrti.

Mātrcetā is the mystical name of a Buddhist-Sanskrit poet who, according to the Tibetan historian Tārānātha, is none other than Aśvaghoṣa. According to I-tsing, Mātrcetā is the author of the Catuśśata-kastotra and the Śatapańcaśatikanāmastotra, two poems in four hundred and one hundred and fifty verses respectively. Fragments of the Sanskrit original of the former have been discovered in Central Asia.

¹ Vide, Bunyiu Nanjio, Catalogue of the Chinese Translation of the Buddhist *Tipiṭaka*, No. 1303.

Vajrasūcī

Matrcetā: his works The poems show some artistic excellence. Another work attributed to him is the $Mah\bar{a}r\bar{a}ja\text{-}Kanikalekha.$

Āryacandra : Maitreyavyākaraņa Āryacandra belonging probably to the same period as that of Māṭrcetā, is known as the author of the *Maitreyavyākaraṇa* or the *Maitreyasamiti* which is in the form of a dialogue between Gotama Buddha and Śāriputra. The work, translated into various languages, seems to have been very popular.

Āryaśūra : Jātakamālā Very well-known is the name of the poet Āryaśūra, the author of the popular Jātaka-mālā, written after the model of the Sūtrā-laṅkāra. Among the frescoes in the caves of Ajantā, there are scenes from the Jātaka-mālā with inscribed strophes from Āryaśūra. The inscriptions belong to the sixth century A.D.; but as another work of the poet was translated into Chinese in 434 A.D., he must have lived in the fourth century A.D.

Saddharmapuṇḍarīka, Kāraṇḍavyūha, Sukhāvatīvyūha and Akṣobhyayvūha The Buddhist Sanskrit literature belonging purely to the Mahāyāna school has preserved a number of books called the Mahāyānasūtras which are mainly devoted to the glorification of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. The most important of

 $^{^1}$ F. W. Thomas : Matrcet \bar{a} and the Mah $\bar{a}r\bar{a}ja$ -Kanikalekha (IA. Vol. XXXII).

them is the Saddharmapundarīka written in the manner of the Puranas. The book which is a glorification of Buddha Sakyamuni, contains elements of quite different periods; for it is believed that Sanskrit prose and Gathas in mixed Sanskrit could not have developed at the same time. book was translated into Chinese between 225 A.D. and 316 A.D. The original, therefore, must have been composed not later than the second century A.D. Some scholars, however, like to give it an early date. But even Professor Kern has not been able to find out passages which may show any ancient thought. Another work is the Kārandavyītha preserved in two versions betraying a theistic tendency. It tains a glorification of the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara. It was translated into Chinese as early as 270 A.D. The Sukhāvatīvyūha in which is glorified the Buddha Amitābha, is one more important book in which the reader may find a longing for spiritual liberation. The Aksobhyavyūha which was translated into Chinese between 385 A.D. and 433 A.D., contains an account of Buddha Aksobhya.

The philosophical writings of Buddhist

Philosophical literature poets constitute no mean contribution to early Sanskrit literature. Among philosophical works belonging to the earliest Mahāyānasūtras mention should be made of the Prajhāpāramitās which occupy a unique place from the point of view of the history of religion. The Chinese translation of a Prajhāpāramitā was made as early as 179 A.D. Other philosophical Mahāyānasūtras are the Buddhāvatamsaka, the Gandavyūha, the Daśabhūmaka, the Ratnakūta, the Rāstrapāla, the Laihāvatāra, the Samādhirāja and the Suvanaprabhāsa.

Nāgārjuna : his works

The Mādhyamikakārikā which is a systematic philosophical work of the class with which we are familiar in the Brahmanic philosophical literature was written in a metrical form (in four hundred verses) by Nagarjuna whose name is associated with the Kusana King Kaniska. Nagarjuna known as the author of the also Akutobhaya, a commentary on his own work, which is preserved in a Tibetan translation. The Yuktisastikā, the Šūnyatāsaptati, the Pratītyasamutpādahrdaya, the Mahāyānavimsaka, the Vigrahavyāvartanī,

¹ Some think that $N\bar{a}g\bar{a}rjuna$ lived at the close of the second century A.D.

the Ekaślokaśāstra, the Prajňādaṇḍa and a few commentaries are his other works. There is another work the Dharmasaṅgraha, which passes as his composition.¹

In the Chinese translations (404 A.D.) of the biographies of Aśvaghosa and Nāgārjuna, there occurs the name of one Ārvadeva. His Catuśśataka is a work on the Mādhyamika system and is a polemic directed against the Brahmanic ritual. His other works are the Dvādašanikāyašāstra and the Cittavisuddhiprakaraya. Maitreyanatha, the real founder of the Yogācāra school, is the author of the Abhisamayālankārakārikās, translated into Chinese probably in the fourth century A.D. Ārya Asanga, the famous Maitreyanātha, student of wrote Yoqācārabhūmiśāstra besides a few works all preserved in Chinese translations. Vasubandhu Asanga, a strong adherent of the school, whom Professor Sarvāstivādin Takakusu places between 420 A.D. and 500 and to whom Professor Wogihara A.D. assigns a date between 390 A.D. and 470 A.D., wrote the Abhidharmakosa and the Paramārthasaptati to combat the Sānkhya

Aryadeva,
Maitreyanātha,
Arya
Asaṅga
and
Vasubandhu
Asaṅga:
their works

¹ The Suhrllekha is ascribed to Nāgārjuna. It contains no Mādhyamika doctrine.

philosophy. In his later life, when he is believed to have been converted into Mahā-yāna, he wrote the Vijnaptimātratāsiddhi.

Dignāga : his works Dignāga is the chief of the early philosophers who had made valuable contribution through his masterpieces, the Pramāṇasamuccaya and the Nyāyapraveśa. He lived probably in the fifth century A.D. To the same century probably belonged Sthiramati and Dharmapāla who wrote valuable commentaries on the Mādhyamika system.

Avadāna literature The vast field of Avadāna literature presents a good and sufficient specimen of Sanskrit writing by Buddhist poets. The word avadāna signifies a 'great religious or moral achievement as well as the history of a great achievement'. Such a great act may consist in the sacrifice of one's own life, but also may be confined to the founding of an institution for the supply of incense, flowers, gold and jewels to, or the building of, sanctuaries. Avadāna stories are designed to inculcate that dark (ignoble) deeds bear

¹ Later philosophical works, belonging to definitely identified schools of Buddhism, e.g., the works of Yasomitra, Candrakīrti, Śāntideva, Dharmakīrti, Dharmottara and others, will be treated in detail in a subsequent chapter on Philosophy.

dark (ignoble) fruits while white (noble) acts beget white (noble) fruits. Thus they are also tales of karman.

The Avadānakataka heads the list of works on Avadāna literature. It consists of ten decades each having a theme of its own. Another work, the Karmakataka, preserved only in the Tibetan translation, bears close affinity to the former. Yet another collection of stories in Tibetan (translated, of course, from original Sanskrit) is known in the world's literature as 'Dsanglun.'

A well-known collection of Avadāna literature is the Divyāvadāna. The book belongs broadly to the Hīnayāna school; but traces of Mahāyānistic influence may yet be discovered. The collection is composed of many materials and no uniformity of language is, therefore, possible. But the language is lucid, and true poetry is not wanting. The book has a great importance from the standpoint of Indian sociology. As regards the time of redaction, it may be said that as Aśoka's successors down to Puṣyamitra are mentioned and the word dīnāra is frequently used, a date prior to the second century A.D., can hardly be assigned to it.

Mention may be made of the Aśokāva-

Ayadānaśataka and Karmaśataka

Divyāvadāna Aśokāvadāna, Kalpadrumāvadānamālā,
Ratnāvadānamālā,
Dvāvimśatyavadāna
and minor
avadānas

dāna, the cycle of stories having for its central theme the history of Aśoka. Historically, these stories have little or no value. The work was translated into Chinese as early as the third century A.D. A passing reference may be made to the Kalpadrumāvadānamālā, the Ratnāvadānamālā and the Dvāvimšatyavadāna, the materials of which are drawn from the Avadānašataka. Three more works the Bhadrakalpāvadāna, the Vratāvadānamālā and the Vicitrakarņikāvadāna are known to us in manuscripts only.

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¹ A most extensive work on Avadāna literature is the *Avadānakalpalatā* of Ksemendra of the eleventh century A.D. The work has been written in the style of ornate Court-epics.

CHAPTER SIX

COURT-EPICS

Α

INTRODUCTION

Authoritative writers on Sanskrit rhetoric have given an exhaustive list of the characteristics of epic poems in Classical Sanskrit. These characteristics may be divided under two heads. Of them the essential characteristics, the more important, are based on the conception of the three constituents of poetry, viz., the plot (vastu) the hero (netr) and the sentiment (rasa). The plot of an epic must have a historical basis and should not be fictitious. The hero must be an accomplished person of high lineage and should be of the type technically called

¹ Generally the sentiments are eight in number, viz., \$\frac{srngara}{ara}\$ (erotic), \$hasya\$ (comic), \$karuṇa\$ (pathetic), \$raudra\$ (furious), \$vīra\$ (heroic), \$bhayānaka\$ (terrible), \$bībhatsa\$ (disgustful) and \$adbhuta\$ (marvellous). It is held by some that the \$\frac{santa}{anta}\$ (quietistic) was added later on by Abhinavagupta, the erudite commentator on Bharata's \$Natya\$\frac{astra}{astra}\$. This was perhaps added for representing the spirit of \$mahaprasthana\$ in the \$Mahabharata\$. It is even argued that Bharata has enumerated the eight sentiments for the drama only, and not for the epic.

Character istics : essential

Dhirodatta Delineation of various sentiments and emotions is the third characteristic.

Characteristics: non-essential

The non-essential characteristics which are formal and apply only to technique, are many in number. They demand (i) that the epic should begin with a benediction, salutation or statement of facts, (ii) that chapters or sections should bear the appellation sarga, (iii) that the number of cantos should not exceed thirty and should not be less than eight, (iv) that the number of verses in each canto should not generally be less than thirty and should not exceed two hundred, (v) that there should be descriptions of sunrise and sunset gardens, amorous sports pools and pleasure-trips and the like, (vi) that the development of the plot should be natural and the five junctures of the plot (sandhis) should be well-arranged, and (vii) that the last two or three stanzas of each canto should be composed in a different metre or metres.¹

¹ It is easy to find that these characteristics are not always present in every epic. The *Haravijaya* in *fifty* cantos, some cantos of the *Naiṣadhīyacarita* containing more than *two hundred* verses and the first canto of the *Bhaṭṭikāvya* having only *twenty-seven* verses, are examples to the point.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF COURT-EPICS

The name of Aśvaghoṣa has come down to us as one of the earliest known epic poets. An account of his two great epics the *Buddhacarita* and the *Saundarananda* has already been given in a preceding chapter.

Aśvaghosa

The next great epic poet is Kāhdāsa whose age can hardly be determined with any amount of precision. It is most deplorable that scholars differ widely in their opinions in fixing the age of this prince of Indian poets. The most popular theory of the day states that the poet flourished during the reign of Candragupta II (380 A.D.—415 A.D.), that his powers were at their highest during the reign of Kumāragupta I (415 A.D.—455 A.D.) and that he lived to see the reign of Skandagupta (455 A.D.—480 A.D.)¹

Kālidāsa : his age

The date of Kālidāsa is one of the most perplexing questions in the history of Sanskrit literature and the opinions of scholars, however ingeniously conceived, fail to give us definiteness and certainty. It is a fact to be regretted that India has not preserved the history of her greatest poet and dramatist. Tradition has been busy in weaving round the name of Kālidāsa many fictitious stories and it is almost impossible to

Kumārasambhava The Kumārasambhava of Kālidāsa is an epic in seventeen cantos of which the first eight are belived to be genuine. Mallinātha writes his commentary on the first eight

separate at such a distant date the historical fact from its rich colouring of fables. The traditional theory makes Kālidāsa a contemporary of the Vikrama Samvat, the initial year of which is 57 B.C. Among the chief supporters of this theory are the late Sir William Jones, Dr. Peterson, Principal S. Roy, and Mr. I. R. Balasubrahmanyam. Principal Roy has argued that the Bhītā medallion found near Allahabad by Dr. Marshall in 1909-10 A.D. pictures a scene which looks exactly like the opening scene of the $\hat{S}\bar{a}kuntala$. The medallion belongs to the Sunga period 185-73 B.C. Moreover, the diction and style of Kālidāsa definitely establishes him as a predecessor of Aśvaghosa who has made use of the description of Aja's entry to the capital found in the Raghuvainsa, and has borrowed Kālidāsa's words and style. But archæologists are of opinion that the scene found in the Allahabad Bhîtā medallion cannot be definitely proved to be identical with the scene in the Śākuntala. Professor Cowell in his edition of the Buddhacarita remarks that it is imitates Aśvaghosa and not vice Kālidāsa who Mr.Bālasubrahmanyam has based theory on the internal evidences found in Kālidāsa's Thus the epilogue of the Mālavikāgnimitra supports that Kālidāsa lived in the reign of Agnimitra, the son of Pusyamitra, of the first century B.C. system of law, specially that of inheritance, as found

cantos alone. There is also difference of opinion regarding the propriety of the theme of the later cantos. The theme of the epic is the marriage of Lord Siva and Umā and the

in the Śākuntala, points to the fact that the poet must have lived before the beginning of the Christian era. Moreover, there was one Vikramāditya in Ujjayınīnın the first century B.C., and Kalidasa's works indirectly allude to him, as the poet lived in his court.

Dr. Peterson has no particular argument to take his stand upon. He simply writes, "Kālīdāsa stands near the beginning of the Christian era if indeed he does not overtop it". Sir Willam Jones in his introduction to the $\hat{Sakuntala}$ advances no argument but accepts the B.C. theory.

Another theory places Kālidāsa in the sixth century A.D. The late MM. Haraprasada Sastrin, one of the supporters of this theory, has pointed out that the defeat of Himas by Raghu in course of his worldconquest, refers to the conquest of Hunus by Skandagupta (455 A.D.-480 A.D). And the terms Dignāga and Nicula, occurring in the Meghadāta, refer to the great teachers who lived before Kālidasa. Professor Max Müller, another adherent of this doctrine, has based his theory on the suggestions of Professor Fergusson who points out that the era of the Mālavas was put back to 56 B.C., and Yasodharmadeva Viṣṇuvardhana Vikramāditya who conquered the Hūnas in 544 A.D., commemorated his victory by starting the Malava era. But in doing so, he willingly antedated it by 600 years. Fergusson's theory (known

birth of Karttikeya who vanquished the demon Taraka. Scholars are of opinion that the work is one of the first compositions of the poet.

Raghu-

The Raghuvainśa, which is undoubtedly a production of a mature hand, deals with the life-history of the kings of the Iksvāku family in general and of Rāma in particular. the Korur theory), however, has been exploded by Dr. Fleet who pointed out by his researches that there was no Vikramaditya who achieved a victory over the Hunas in 544 A.D., and furthermore, that there was in existence an era known as the Mālava era long before 544 A.D. Thus the theory of Professor Max Muller is without any historical value. In this connection, mention may be made of his once popular and now discarded 'Renaissance Theory of Classical Sanskrit Literature'. which states that there was a revival of the Sanskrit learning and literature in the wake of the Gupta civilization and culture and that Kālidāsa was the best flower of this age.

It is, however, generally believed that Kālidāsa flourished in the reign of Candragupta II of the Imperial Gupta dynasty (380 A.D.—415 A.D.). But it has been argued that his best works were writen during the reign of Kumāragupta I (415 A.D.—455 A.D.). But some would like to suggest that the poet lived to see the reign of Skandagupta (455 A.D.—480 A.D.). It should be noted, however, that both Candragupta and Skandagupta held the title of 'Vikramāditya', while Kumāragupta had the title of 'Mahendrāditya'.

The epic which is composed in *nineteen* cantos, is the tale of Vālmīki retold with the mastery of a finished poet. It is said that the work fulfils to a considerable extent the conditions of Sanskrit epic poetry.

It is not difficult to surmise the date of Bhāravi as his name is mentioned along with Kālidāsa in the famous Aihole inscription of Pulakeśm II, dated 634 A.D. Bhāravi has to his credit only one epic, viz., the Kirātārjunīya which is based on the Mahābhārata. The poem describes how Arjuna obtained the Pāśupata weapon from Śiva. The work is in nineteen cantos and is written in an ornate style, though full of dignity of sense (arthagaurava) with occasional jingling of words.

Nowhere in the literature of the world can be found a single instance where poetry has been written with the sole object of illustrating the rules and principles of grammar. The Bhattikāvya or Rāvaṇavadha which is written in twenty-two cantos, is divided into four sections, viz., Prakīrṇakāṇḍa, Prasannakāṇḍa, Alaṅkārakāṇḍa and Tinantakāṇḍa. The poem is an epic depicting the life-history of Rāma from his birth up to the time of Rāvaṇa's death: The author of this

Bhāravi : Kirātārjunīya

Bhaṭṭi : Rāvaṇavadha

epic, Bhatti, must be distinguished from the great grammarian-philosopher Bhartrhari, popularly known as Hari. The author writes in his own work that he lived in Valabhi under one Śridharasena. History gives us four Dharasenas, the last of whom died in 651 A.D. It is, therefore, probable that Bhatti flourished in the latter half of the sixth and the first quarter of the seventh century A.D. It may be mentioned in this connection that Bhatti lived before Bhamaha, the great rhetorician who decries the poetic excellence of the Rāvanavadha. Though the work is a grammatical poem, still in more places than one the poet has given ample proof of his artistic talents. The second, tenth and twelfth cantos of the poem may be cited as instances.

Kumāraharana

Kumāradāsa, said to be the King of Ceylon from 517 A.D. to 526 A.D., is mentioned as a poet of remarkable talent by Rajasekhara. It is maintained by Dr. Keith that the poet knew the Kāsikāvrtti (650 A.D.), and was known to Vamana (800 A.D.). The theme of his poem, the Jānakīharaņa, in twenty-five cantos, is taken from the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$, as the

century A.D. The work is written in twentytwo cantos. The poet is a scholar of repute in the different systems of Indian philosophy and has a thorough command over grammar and lexicon. Though he does not show that power of poetical suggestion which distinguishes the writings of great Indian poets like Kālidāsa, his power of expression is singularly captivating. What strikes us as his defect is that he has a special liking for exaggerated statements in the form of poetic conceit.

 \mathbf{C}

LESSER EPIC POEMS

Jūmbavatīvijaya and Pātāla-vijaya: ascribed to Pāṇini—according to some, the two are the names of the one and the same book—not free from grammatical errors—the authorship is much disputed.

 $V\bar{a}raruca$ - $k\bar{a}vya$: lost to us.

Padyacūdāmaņi: ascribed to Buddhaghoşa (not later

than the fifth century A.D.).

Kunteśvaradautya: ascribed to Kālidāsa by Kşemendra.

Hayagrīvavadha: a lost work by Bhartṛmeṇṭha who flourished under Mātṛgupta of the sixth century A.D.—praised by Rājaśekhara.

Padmapurāṇa: by Raviṣeṇa of the seventh century A.D.—containing a glorification of Rṣabha, the first Tīrthakara.

Rāvaņārjunīya or, Ārjunarāvaņīya by Bhaumaka—written in twenty-seven cantos in the fashion of Bhaṭṭi—based on the strife between Kārtavīrya and Rāvaṇa.

- Harvainśapurāṇa · by Jinasena of the eighth century

 A.D.—in sixty-six cantos—describing the
 story of the Mahābhūrata in a Jinistic setting.
- Kapphauābhyudaya. by Śivasvamin, a Kāshmirian Buddhist, during the reign of Avantivarman of the ninth century A.D.—written in twenty cantos—based on a tale in the Avadānaśataka.
- Haravijaya: by Ratnākara, a Kāshmirian of the ninth century A D.—based on the slaying of the demon Andhaka by Śiva—written in fifty cantos—influenced by Bāṇa and Māgha.
- Rāghavapāṇḍavīya: by Kavirāja—mentioned by Rājaśekhara—probably of the ninth century A.D.
 —giving us the two stories of the Rāmāyaṇa
 and the Mahābhārata simultaneously through
 double entendre.
- $Mah\bar{a}pur\bar{a}\mu a$: by Jinasena and Guṇabhadra of the ninth century A D.—containing two parts, the $\bar{A}dipur\bar{a}\mu a$ and the $Uttarap\bar{u}r\bar{a}\mu a$.
- $P\bar{a}r\acute{s}v\bar{a}bhyudaya$: by Jinasena of the ninth century A.D. who has incorporated the entire $Meghad\bar{u}ta$ while relating the story of $P\bar{a}r\acute{s}van\bar{u}tha$.
- Kādambarīkathāsāra: by Abhinanda, son of the logician Jayantabhaṭṭa of the tenth century A.D.

- Yasodharacarita: by Vādirāja of the first quarter of the tenth century A.D.—written in four cantos.
- Kavırahasya: by Halāyudha of the tenth century

 A.D.—containing an eulogy of King Kṛṣṇa III

 —written after the style of Bhaṭṭi.
- Rāmacarita: by Abhinanda, son of Śatānanda of unknown date.
- $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yanama\tilde{n}jar\bar{i}$) by Kṣemendra of the eleventh and $Bh\bar{a}ratama\tilde{n}jar\bar{i}$ century A D.
- Yasodharacaritra: by Manikyasuri of the eleventh century A.D.
- $Harivilar{a}sa$: by Lolimbar $ar{a}$ ja of the eleventh century A.D.
- Srīkanthacarita: by Mankha—a Kāshmirian and a pupil of Ruyyaka of the twelfth century A.D. —written in twenty-five cantos—based on the tale of the destruction of the demon Tripura by Śiva.
- Śatruñjayamāhūtmya: by Dhaneśvara of the twelfth century A.D.—written in fourteen cantos—containing a glorification of the sacred mountain Śatruñjaya.
- Trisastisalākāpurusacarita: by Hemacandra of 1088-1172 A.D.—a highly important work, its seventh book being called the Jaina-Rāmā-yaṇa, the tenth entitled the Māhāvīracarita, containing the life-story of Mahāvīra, and its appendix-section, the Parisistaparvan, being a mine of fairy tales and stories.
- Dharmasarmābhyudaya: by Haricandra of unknown date—written in twenty-one cantos.

- Neminirvāṇa: by Vāgbhaṭa of the twelfth century

 A.D.—in fifteen cantos—dealing with Neminātha's life.
- Bālabhārata: by Amaracandra of the thirteenth century A.D.
- $P\bar{a}_{ii}qavacaritra$ and $\}$ by Devaprabhasūri of the $M_{ij}qavat\bar{i}caritra$ $\}$ thirteenth century A.D.
- Pārśvanāthacarita: by Bhāvadevasūri of the thirteenth century A.D.
- Harıvainsa: by Sakalakīrti and his pupil Jinadāsa of the fifteenth century A.D.
- Rasikānjana: by Rāmacandra of the sixteenth century A.D.—describing the two sentiments of love and asceticism through double entendre.
- Pāṇḍavapurāṇa: by Śubhacandra of the sixteenth century A.D.—also called the Jaina-Mahā-bhārata.
- Rūghavana i sadhī ya: by Haradattas ūri of unknown date.
- Rāghavapūn ļavī yayādavī ya: by Cidambara of unknown date.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

DRAMA

Α

ORIGIN OF SANSKRIT DRAMA

Orthodox view

The origin of Sanskrit drama is a most intèresting study in the history of Sanskrit literature and divergent views are found amongst scholars which can hardly be reconciled. It is an undeniable fact that Bharata's *Nātyaśāstra* is the earliest known book on Sanskrit dramaturgy. The third century A.D. is the generally accepted date of the Nātyaśāstra, and some scholars hold that the book is a compilation on the basis of an original work of the Sūtra-type. According to a legend found in this book, Brahmā created drama by taking passages for recitation from the Rgveda, songs from the Sāmaveda, gestures from the Yajurveda and emotions from the Atharvaveda. Thus a drama is known as the fifth Veda. From Siva and Pārvatī, Tāndava and Lāsya dances were obtained and Visnu gave the Riti. The same book also informs us that the dramas were enacted during the Indradhvaja festival where the sons and disciples of the sage Bharata together with Gandharvas and Apsarases took part in the play. The first two plays enacted were the Amṛtamanthana and the Tripuradāha both written by Brahmā himself.

There was a time when the theory of the Greek-origin of Indian drama found its adherents amongst scholars. The chief was Professor Windisch (1882) exponent who found many striking similarities between Greek and Sanskrit plays and based his theory on the ground that Indians were in touch with Greeks for a considerable period after the invasion of Alexander and that none of the extant Sanskrit plays belongs to a pre-Christian date. Thus to him the very classification into acts, the prologues and the epilogues, the way in which the actors make their entrance and exit, the term yavanikā, the theme and its manipulation, the variety of stage-directions, the typical characters like the Vidūsaka, Pratināyaka, etc.,—all smell of Greek origin. This theory was further corroborated by the discovery in the Sītābengā cave, of the Greek theatre in its Indian imitation.² But this theory has

Theory of Greek Origin

¹ The suggestion came from Professor Weber, but Professor Pischel vehemently repudiated it.

² On the antiquities of Ramgarh Hill, District of Sargujā—IA. Vol. II.

been rejected as the points of contrast are far too many. The absence of the three unities of Time, Space and Action in a Sanskrit drama brings it nearer to an Elizabethan drama than to a Greek drama where the three unities are essential. The difference in time between two acts in a Sanskrit drama may be several years (e. g., the *Uttararāmacarita* of Bhavabhūti where twelve years intervene between the incidents of the first two acts). Moreover, it is only in a particular act of a Sanskrit drama that the actions which happen in a single place are usually represented. Thus while the sixth act of the Śākuntala represents the scene at King Dusyanta's palace, the seventh act shows the scene at sage Marica's hermitage on the top of the Himālayas and the first part of it represents the king's aerial journey. As for the term yavanikā, most scholars think that it is of later introduction and it refers to Persian tapestries and not to anything Greek.

On the other hand, there are some scholars who want to determine the origin of Sanskrit dramas in the same manner in which Western scholars seek to explain the origin of European plays. So it has been argued that as the first Sanskrit play is stated

Origin of Sanskrit drama connected with vernal festivities

to have been produced at the Indradhvaja festival (which has a parallel in the May-pole dance in Europe), the origin of Sanskrit dramas is to be connected with the festivities of the spring after the passing away of the winter. But this theory is rejected as MM. Haraprasada Sastrin has pointed out that the aforesaid Indradhvaja festival comes off at the end of the rains.

Professor Ridgeway has connected the origin of Indian drama with the worshipping of dead ancestors. But the theory is inapplicable to the case of Indian Aryans whose ritual of the disposing of the dead has the minimum ostentation.

Ridgeway's

The Kṛṣna-worship is thought by some scholars to be the origin of Sanskrit plays. Thus the role which the Saurasenī Prākrit plays in a Sanskrit drama is easily explained. But this theory involves anachronism, as it remains to be proved that Kṛṣṇa dramas are the earliest Sanskrit dramas.1

Krsna-cult origin

Professor Pischel has set forth the theory that Sanskrit drama in its origin was a puppet-play. The stage-manager in a Sans- theory

1 It may be proved in the same way that the theories of the Vişnu-cult, Siva-cult or Rama-cult origin of Indian drama cannot be accepted.

krit drama is called Sūtradhāra (the holder of the string) and his assistant Sthapaka is to enter immediately after the stage-manager and is expected to place in proper position, the plot, the hero or the germ of the play. The puppets also are frequently mentioned in Sanskrit literature; they could be made to dance or move about and they could even be made to talk. Such a talking puppet, impersonating Sītā, is found in one of Rājaśekhara's plays. The episode of the Shadow-Sītā in Bhayabhūti's *Uttararāmacarita* is reminiscent of the old shadow-play in ancient India. But this theory cannot furnish sufficient explanation of Sanskrit drama in all its bearings, such as, the mixture of prose and verse in a Sanskrit play, as also the varieties of languages and the like.¹

Origin to be traced to the Vedic period Another theory on this subject states that the origin of Sanskrit drama should be sought in the Sanvāda-hymns of the Rgveda. These ballad hymns which are nearly twenty in number, are marked by a dramatic spirit.²

¹ Professor Hillebrandt'has argued that Professor Pischel's theory cannot be accepted as the puppet-play assumes the pre-existence of the drama.

² RV. I. 165, 170 and 179, III. 33, IV. 18, VII. 33, VIII. 100, X. 11, 28, 51—53, 86, 95 and 108, etc.

There are no specific ritualistic applications accompanying these Sainvāda-hymns and they seem to have been recited between the intervals of long sacrificial sessions (pariplava) for the satisfaction of the patrons of sacrifices. But whether the hymns were treated as ballads (as Professors Pischel and Geldner thought); or as regular ritualistic dramas with actual stage-directions action including singing and dancing (as held by Professor von Schroeder); or, finally as narrative stories with an admixture of prose to connect the poems into one whole, with a preponderance of dialogue (as maintained by Professor Oldenberg)—is still keenly disputed amongst scholars.1

It has been universally found that the growth of drama is intimately connected with royal patronage. And India is no exception. Bearing in our mind the existence of the ritualistic drama which marks the early beginnings of Indian plays we can boldly assert that Sanskrit drama is a product of the Indian mind which viewed life in all its various aspects and passed through many stages of development, being

¹ Professor Hertel has found a full drama in the $Suparvadhy\bar{a}ya$.

Conclu-

influenced by Jainism and Buddhism in its allegorical sphere or by any other foreign factor and yet maintaining its own peculiarity. No one theory, therefore, can adequately explain all its features and as such one should refrain from making a choice of any one of them.

В

CHARACTERISTICS OF SANSKRIT DRAMA.

Predominance of sentiment

According to Indian thinkers, the best of poets is a dramatist. drama evolved in all its aspects in particularly Indian atmosphere. Sanskrit dramatists with their inherent aesthetic sense gave more importance to the portrayal of the sentiment than to the character or the plot. Sanskrit dramas were, therefore, highly idealistic and romantic in their character. Though the best of Sanskrit dramas glow with occasional touches of realism, still the fact cannot be denied that the poetic value has never been sacrificed for direct delineation of action or character. Nevertheless we cannot say that

Sanskrit dramatists were totally indifferent to the action of a drama, and it has been said clearly that a drama must have five critical junctures of plot (sandhi), viz., mukha (opening or protasis), pratimuka (progression or epitasis), garbha (development or catastasis), vimarka (pause or peripeteia) and nirvahaya (conclusion or catastrophe). It has been the usual convention with Sanskrit poets that they select the Erotic, the Heroic or the Quietistic as the principal sentiment in a Nāṭaka (the type of major dramas) which is assisted by every other sentiment according to propriety. It needs to be added here that in the opinion of some thinkers, the aforesaid convention should not command any respect and any one of the nine sentiments may be the predominant sentiment in a Nataka.

A charge is often levelled by critics that Sanskrit drama is marked by an absence of tragedy; but it may be answered by saying that what is known as Vipralambha-śrngāra (love-in-separation) more than compensates for the comparatively rare 'Pathetic' which is the prominent sentiment in only one class of minor dramas. But it is a fact that Sanskrit dramas have never a tragic catas-

Absence of tragedy

trophe, and the reason is to be found in the conception that it mars the sentiment. Hence the representation of death, murder, war, revolution and anything indecorous which is a hiatus in aesthetic pleasure, has been prohibited on the stage.

Hero

Asthe interest in main Sanskrit drama lies in the creation of the sentiment, it is convenient for a dramatist to take a plot with a popular theme. The hero of the drama must be an accomplished person of high lineage and should belong to the Dhirodatta type. He must be a hero either of the earth or of heaven, and sometimes even we find in Sanskrit drama gods side by side with mortal men, and thus is given ample scope to the dramatist's imagination to create the appropriate romantic atmosphere.

Morality

Like every other branch of Indian literature, Sanskrit drama has also a religious basis and nothing violating the moral and religious code has been represented in Sanskrit drama.

CLASSIFICATION OF SANSKRIT DRAMAS

It must be said at the outset that the Sanskrit synonym for drama is Rūpaka and not Nāṭaka, the latter being a variety of the former which has a more comprehensive import. Authors on Sanskrit dramaturgy have classified Sanskrit dramas into two types: (1) the major (Rūpaka) and (2) the minor (Uparūpaka). The varieties of each type differ according to different authorities. The following is the list given by Viśvanātha in his Sāhityadarpaṇa of the varieties of the two types of Sanskrit dramas:

1. The major type: (i) Nāṭaka (e.g., Abhijňānaśakuntala of Kālidāsa) (ii) Prakaraṇa (e.g., Mālatīmādhava of Bhavabhūti) (iii) Bhāṇa (e.g., Karpūracarita of Vatsarāja) (iv) Vyāyoga (e.g., Madhyama-vyāyoga of Bhāsa) (v) Samavakāra (e.g., Samudramathana of Vatsarāja) (vi) Pima (e.g., Tripuradāha of Vatsarāja) (vii) Īhāmṛga (e.g., Rukmiṇīharaṇa of Vatsarāja) (viii) Aṅka or Utsṛṣṭikāṅka (e.g., Śarmiṣṭhāyayāti) (ix) Vīthī (e.g., Mālavikā) and (x) Prahasana (e.g., Mattavilāsa of Mahendravikramavarman).

Rūpaka & Uparūpaka

The minor type: (i) Natika (e.g., Ratnāvalī of Śrī-Harsa) (ii) Trotaka (e.g., Vikramorvasī of Kālidāsa) (iii) Gosthī (e.g., Raivatamadanikā) (iv) Sattaka (e.g., Karpūramanjarī of Rājasekhara) (v) Nātyarāsaka (e.g., Vilāsavatī) (vi) Prasthāna (e.g., Śringāratilaka) (vii) Ullapya (e.g., Devīmahādeva) (viii) Kavya (e.g., Yādavodaya) (ix) Prenkhana (e.g., Vālivadha) (x) Rāsaka (e.g., Menakāhita) (xi) Sanilāpaka (e.g., Māyākāpālika). (xii) Śrīgadita (e.g., Krīdārasātala) (xiii) Šilpaka (e.g., Kanakāvatīmādhava) (xiv) Vilāsikā (no work mentioned in SD.) (xv) Durmallikā (e.g., Bindumatī) (xvi) Prakaranikā (no work mentioned in SD.) (xvii) Hallīśa (e.g., Keliraivataka) and (xviii) Bhāṇikā (e.g., Kāmadattā).1

¹ The works, against which authors are mentioned, have now been published and are all available. The other works are only mentioned by the author of the $S\bar{a}hityadarpaṇa$ and are not actually known to exist at present.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SANSKRIT DRAMA

The Indian drama can be traced to the fifth or the fourth century B.C. Panini refers to dramatic aphorisms¹ and the Arthaśāstra of Kautilya, which is a book of the fourth century B.C., contains reference to the term Kuśilava, which may have an allusion to the twin sons of Rama or to the proverbially The Mahābhāsya, bad character of actors. to its reference dramas. the Kamsavadha and Balibandha, speaks of the painting of actors and of the three kinds of the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$ we find the In artists. mention of Naṭaka and the Mahābhārata refers to a wooden feminine figure.2 the Harivamsa, however, we find unmistakable reference to a full-fledged drama acted by Kṛṣṇa's descendants. But Dr. Keith looks upon all these evidences as mere references to pantomimes and not to pure dramas. He, however, admits that the dramas of Aśvaghoṣa and Bhāsa, the first extant dramas,

Introduction

² Mbh. III. xxx. 23.

are not the earliest specimens of Indian plays, inasmuch as they show much polish and exquisite finish. The earliest extant Sanskrit drama according to European scholars is the Śāriputraprakaraṇa of Aśvaghoṣa which was discovered sometime ago in Turfan in Central Asia.

Bhāsa : age and authorship

The Bhāsa-problem has in recent years been a most interesting topic for discussion in the history of Sanskrit drama. It has drawn the attention of many scholars widely differing in their opinions on the authenticity and authorship of the plays of Bhāsa. Credit goes to MM. Ganapati Sastrin who first published the thirteen plays of Bhasa in 1912. But for his editorship, the plays of Bhasa would have remained mere fictitious names. Bhāsa is mentioned by Kālidāsa, Bāna, Rājaśekhara and others. MM. G. Śāstrin, the editor, fixed the third century B.C. or earlier as the date for Bhasa; but European scholars would not agree on the evidence of Prākrit. They would like to place the author of these plays in the third century A.D.

Bhāsa's myriad-mindedness is well

¹Aśvaghoṣa has followed the rules of Sanskrit dramaturgy; the higher characters use Sanskrit, while others speak Prākrit.

reflected in the number of his plays and the variety of their themes. The style of Bhāsa is simple, at the same time forceful, and conforms to what is known as the Vaidarbha style. The initial characteristic of the dramas of Bhasa is action which never been sacrificed for poetry and poetic charm. In fact, the plays of Bhasa are really of dramatic value and qualities of a very high order. On the other hand, there are scholars who hold that the dramas in their present forms are not the composition of one and the same poet, but they are the composite product of the plagiarism of many scribes. Some scholars have gone so far even as to surmise the existence of a genuine Bhasa of whose works the extant plays are mere abridgement by the traditional players of Southern India (especially Kerala).

The thirteen plays of Bhāsa may be arranged under three heads according to the sources from which the plots have been taken:—(a) plots taken from the $R\bar{a}m\bar{a}yana$, (b) plots taken from the $Mah\bar{a}bh\bar{a}rata$, the Harivamsa and the Purāṇas, and (c) plots taken probably from the $Brhatkath\bar{a}$ of Guṇāḍhya and other popular sources.

Appreciation

Classification of Bhāsa's dramas Rāmāyaņaplays The Pratimā (Nāṭaka) which is the most popular of the Rāmāyaṇa-plays, is written in seven acts. The story starts from the death of King Daśaratha and ends with Rāma's return to Ayodhyā from Laṅkā. The second play, based on the Rāmāyaṇa, is the Abhiṣeka (Nāṭaka) in six acts. The subject-matter is the coronation of Rāma.

Mahābhārata-plays

The Madhyama-vyāyoga deserves mention first amongst the Mahābhārata-plays. This drama (Vyayoga) in one act amply testifies to the skill of the dramatist in depicting characters. The play is based on the tale of Hidimbā's love for Bhīma. The Dittaghatotkaca is also a drama (Vyayoga) in one act which describes Ghatotkaca appearing before the Kauravas immediately after the death of Abhimanyu, with the news that Arjuna is preparing for their punish-The Karnabhāra (Vyāyoga) also ment. contains one act, the story being how the armour and ear-rings of Karna are stolen by Indra. The story of *Urubhanga* (probably of the Anka type) in one act the fight between Bhima and Duryodhana ending in the breaking of the latter's thigh. The Dūtavākya is also a drama (Vyāgoga) in one act where Kṛṣṇa appears

ambassador to bring about reconciliation between the contending parties, the Kauravas and the Pandavas, and is ill-treated by Duryodhana who tries to entrap him without success. The Pañcarātra is a play (Samavakāra) in three acts. There the story Drona undertakes how sacrifice \mathbf{a} Duryodhana and seeks as fee the grant of half the kingdom to the Pandavas and Duryodhana promises on the condition that the Pandavas who were living incognito, should be found out within five nights. The Bālacarita is a drama (Nāṭaka) in five acts depicting the various incidents in the early life of Kṛṣṇa up to the death of Kanisa. plot seems to be derived from the Harivainsa and the Puranas describing Kṛṣṇa's life.

Indian critics claim Svapnavāsavadatta to be the best of Bhāsa's dramas where the poet has displayed his skill of characterization and the fine manipulation of the plot which has made the drama interesting up to the last. The play (Nāṭaka) contains six acts. The theme of the play is the marriage between Vatsarāja Udayana and Padmāvatī, the sister of King Darśaka, which was effected by Yaugandharāyaṇa, Udayana's minister, to serve a political

Brhatkatha-

purpose. To gain the end in view, Yaugandharayana spread the rumour that Vasavadatta the former queen of Udayana, had been burnt in a conflagration; but he actually kept her as a deposit to Padmāvatī. Pratijnāyaugandharāyana (Nāṭaka) in four acts is the prelude to Svapnavāsavadatta which depicts Yaugandharayana coming to Ujjayini and causing Vāsavadattā to escape with Udayana who was taken captive by Pradyota Mahāsena while the former was out a-hunting. The Cārudatta is an incomplete drama (Prakarana) in four acts on which Śūdraka seems to have based his *Mrcchakatika*. The theme is the love-story of Brāhmana Carudatta and courtezan Vasantasenā. The material for this drama was taken from popular stories. The Avimāraka is a play (Nāṭaka) in six acts, having for its theme the union of Princess Kurangī with Prince Visnusena alias Avimāraka. The plots of all the four dramas are said to have been taken from the Brhatkathā. and they can be traced to the Kathāsaritsāgara.

The date and authorship of the *Mṛccha-kaṭika* (Prakaraṇa) in *ten* acts is still a disputed point in the history of Sanskrit

Sūdraka : age and authorship

literature. According to some scholars. the drama was written by the poet Dandin who quotes a verse of the Mycchakatika in his Kāvyādarša.² But the recent discovery of the dramas of Bhasa shows that the verse is found in the Cārudatta and the Balacarita also, and it is highly probable that the drama was written just after the Cārudatta, nearly about the first century A.D. It is a point to be noted that though Kalidasa mentions Bhasa, Saumilla and Kaviputra, he does not say a word about Śūdraka. In the prologue of the Mrcchakatika the royal author has been described as master of various Sastras. He performed a horsesacrifice and in the one hundred and tenth year of his life entered into fire having made over the kingdom to his son. From this it is evident that either this portion of the text is an interpolation or that the real author was some one else. The name

¹ Vāmana is the earliest known writer to quote from the drama of Śūdraka.

² Professor Pischel first ascribes this play to Bhāsa and next to Daṇḍin. According to the orthodox tradition, Daṇḍin is the author of three works, the other two being, the Kārvyādarsa and the Dasakumāracarita.

of King Śūdraka is found in the Rājatarangiņī, the Kathāsaritsāgara and the Skandapurāṇa. In some of the manuscripts, Śūdraka has been described as a minister of Salivahana who subsequently became the ruler of Pratisthana. According to Konow, Śūdraka is to be identified with the Abhīra prince, Sivadatta. According to Dr. Fleet, Śūdraka's son Īśvarasena defeated the Andhras and established the Cedi era of 248-49 A.D. The play is a Prakarana in ten acts having the love-story of Carudatta and Vasantasena for its theme. It is a social drama with magnificient touches of realism. The characterization is of a high standard. The drama is highly suggestive on accountof its simple and dignified style.

Kālidāsa

Kālidāsa is acclaimed to be the best of Indian dramatists, whom Goethe has praised in the most fascinating terms. Superb characterization, study of human nature and wonderful mastery over the Sanskrit language have placed him in the forefront of Indian dramatists. Kālidāsa is not verbose like later Sanskrit dramatists, economy being the most remarkable feature of his technique. Though Kālidāsa is preeminently a poet of love, he can rise occa-

sionally to a tragic elevation. Every character of Kālidāsa's dramas has a core of personality which is sharply individualized. Though it is said that the dramas of Kālidāsa lacks action to some extent, yet they have a moral purity and a peculiar charm unsurpassed by any other Indian dramatist.

The Mālavikāgnimitra (Nāṭaka), undoubtedly an earlier writing of the dramatist, is written in five acts. It describes the lovestory of Mālavikā and Agnimitra, King of Vidiśā and founder of the Śuṅga dynasty. This drama, unlike the two others, is characterized by quick action. The jester is a veritable rogue and is far more intelligent than the jester in the Śākuntala. The female characters and the dancing masters are all productions of really great merit.

The second drama, the Vikramorvasīya shows remarkable development over the former in the manipulation of the plot, characterization and language, and there are scholars who think that it is the last of the three dramatic compositions of the poet. The materials for this drama, preserved in two recensions, northern and southern, have been taken from a Samvāda-hymn of the Rgveda. This drama (Trotaka) which is

Mālavikāgnimitra

Vikramorvašīva written in *five* acts, has for its theme the union of the earthly king Purūravas and the celestial nymph Urvaśī. The fourth act of this drama which is a soliloquy of the love-stricken and frenzied Purūravas, is a novel conception of the dramatist.

Sākuntala

The Abhijnānasakuntala or Śākuntala is the production of Kalidasa's maturer hand, which has gained world-wide recognition and the play has been translated into many European languages. The drama (Nataka) which is in seven acts, describes the union of Dusyanta and Sakuntala. The plot of this drama has been taken from the Mahābhārata, but the dramatist has introduced many noble innovations. The story is also to be found in the Padmapurana and the Pali Jataka collections. There are four different recensions of this drama, viz., Bengal, North-western, Kashmirian South Indian. According to Professor Pischel, the Bengal recension fully represents the original.

Harsa

Three dramas are ascribed to Harsa, King of Kanyakubja, who reigned from 606 A.D. to 647 A.D. He was the reputed patron of

¹ It is believed by some scholars that the author

Banabhatta who has glorified him in his Harşacarita. Harşa's style is not strictly classical, but his arrangement of plot is fairly satisfactory.

The Ratnāvalī is a drama (Nātikā) in four acts which deals with the story of the union of King Udayana and Ratnavali, daughter of the King of Ceylon.

Ratnávali

The *Priyadarśikā* is also a drama (Nātikā) in four acts having for its theme the union of Udayana and Priyadarsikā, Priyadardaughter of King Drdhavarman. In both these dramas we have not only a similarity of subject-matter and form but also a reminiscence of Kālidāsa's Mālavikāgnimitra.

The Nāgānanda is a drama (Nāṭaka) in five acts which describes the self-sacrifice of Jimūtavāhana, Prince of Vidyādharas.

Nāgānanda

Mahendravikrama flourished in the first quarter of the seventh century A.D. His Mattavilāsa is a farce (Prahasana) which describes the moral degradations of the dramatist's contemporary society.

Mahendravikrama Mattavilāsa

Bhavabhūti is the next great name

of these plays was Bana and not Harsa. Thus Professor Weber attributes Ratnāvalī to Bānabhatta while Professors Konow, Winternitz, Lévi and others accept Harsa's authorship.

Bhavabhūti

after Kālidāsa who is mentioned by Kalhana in his $R\bar{a}jatara\dot{n}gin\bar{\imath}$ as a poet in the court of Yasovarman, King of Kanyakubja whose probable date is 736 A.D. Vākpati also refers to Bhavabhūti in his Gaudavaha. As is evident from the prologue of the Mālatīmādhava, Bhavabhūti could not enjoy any popularity in his life-time. Nevertheless, Bhavabhūti displays a masterly skill in characterization, and his language is forceful. Though he is pre-emimently a poet of the Pathetic sentiment, he has excelled his great predecessor in the delineation of the Heroic and the Wonderful. Bhavabhūti is a follower of the Gauda style, while Kālidāsa is advocate of the Vaidarbha. Bhavabhūti amplifies his theme, while Kalidasa suggests it.

Mahāvīra. carita Three dramas are ascribed to Bhavabhūti of which the *Mahāvīracarita* is the earliest. The drama (Nāṭaka) is written in *seven* acts, depicting the heroic achievements of Rāma's early life. The plot is based on the *Rāmāyaṇa*, but the dramatist has introduced several significant innovations.

Mālatīmādhava The *Mālatīmādhava* is a Prakaraṇa in ten acts which deals with the love-story of Mālatī and Mādhava. According to some scholars, it is the latest of all his dramas.

The Uttararāmacarita is regarded as the best product of Bhavabhūti's virile pen, where the dramatist has shown his wonderful skill in delineating genuine pathos and describing the sublime and awful aspects of nature. The plot of this drama (Nāṭaka), which is written in seven acts, covers the later life of Rāma, beginning from the banishment of Sītā and ending in their happy re-union.

Uttararāmacarita

Višākhadatta . Mudrārākṣasa

The date of Viśākhadatta may be placed somewhere about 860 A.D., as the lunar eclipse mentioned in his drama Mūdrārākṣasa refers to the phenomenon of that date. The drama (Nāṭaka) is written in seven acts. The theme is a political intrigue between Rākṣasa, the minister of the Nandas and Cāṇakya, the great politician, who succeeded in overthrowing the Nandas and winning Rākṣasa to the side of Candragupta. The style of Viśākhadatta marks a distinct falling off from the lucid diction of Kālidāsa and the grandeur of Bhavabhūti. In fact, the style of Viśākhadatta is highly artificial.

Vāmana and Ānandavardhana quote from the work of Bhaṭṭanārāyaṇa who probably flourished in the eighth century A.D. His only drama (Nāṭaka) Veṇīsaṁhāra,

Bhattanārāyaņa : Veņīsamhāra written in six acts, is based on the story of the Mahābhārata. Bhīma kills Duḥśāsana and ties the braid of Draupadī with his blood. Ultimately he succeeds in killing Duryodhana also. Bhaṭṭanārāyaṇa is undoubtedly a remarkable craftsman among later Sanskrit dramatists; he is particularly adept in describing the Heroic sentiment. The first three acts of the Veṇīsaṃhāra are full of action, and the predominant emotion is enthusiasm (utsāha). The poet has also very successfully illustrated the manifold technicalities of Sanskrit dramaturgy in his drama.

Murāri : Anargharāghava No other later dramatist was able to dramatize successfully the Rāma-episode, after Bhavabhūti had written his masterpieces. Murāri who is not an exception to this rule, wrote his *Anargharāghava* sometime about the beginning of the ninth century A.D. The drama (Nāṭaka) is written in seven acts, and the style is clear.

Rājaśekhara : his plays Rājaśekhara was the reputed teacher of King Mahendrapāla of Kanauj (893-907 A.D.) Among his many works, Rājaśekhara has written four dramas. The Bālarāmāyaṇa is a drama (Nāṭaka) in ten acts, dealing with the life-history of Rama. The Bālabhārata is an incomplete drama (Nāṭaka) of which two

acts only are available. The Karpūramaūjarī, a play (Saṭṭaka) in four acts, is written in Prākrit. The Viddhaśālabhaūjikā is also a drama (Nāṭikā) in four acts. Rājaśekhara's style is highly artificial, but the dramatist himself claims to be a great poet.

The Candakauśika of Kṣemīśvara is a drama (Nāṭaka) in five acts. The author wrote this play for King Mahīpāla of Kanauj whose accession to the throne took place in 914 A.D. The plot of this drama is the famous story of King Hariścandra and sage Viśvāmitra. The style of this drama also is highly artificial.

Kşemīśvara : Caṇḍakauśika

Dāmodaramiśra wrote his Mahānāṭaka or Hanumannāṭaka in the eleventh century A.D. The drama is found in three recensions separately containing nine, ten and fourteen acts. The plot is based on the Rāmāyaṇa, and the dramatist shows considerable skill in versification.

Dāmodaramiśra : Mahānāṭaka

The date of the *Prabodhacandrodaya*, an allegorical drama, written by Kṛṣṇamiśra is the fourteenth century A.D. The characters of this drama are represented by such characters as Viveka, Manas, Buddhi, etc. This drama is a solitary instance where the Quietistic sentiment has been represented on

Kṛṣṇamiśra : Prabodhacandrodaya

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the stage. The drama (Naṭaka) contains six acts, and the style is simple.

\mathbf{E}

LESS IMPORTANT DRAMAS

Bhagavadajjukīya: by Bodhāyanakavi—sometime between the first and the fourth century A.D.—written with the purpose of throwing a fling against Buddhism—a Prahasana

in two acts.

 $Tar{a}pasavatsarar{a}jacarita$: by Anangaharṣa M $ar{a}$ trar $ar{a}$ ja—

Dr. Keith fixes the age of the Ratnāvalī as the upper limit of the work—based on a variation of the theme of Vatsarāja, Padmāvatī and Vāsavadattā.

Lokānanda : ascribed to Candra or Candraka(?)

who is identified with Candragomin, the grammarian, of the

seventh century A.D.

Udāttarāghava : by Māyurāja who appears to

have known Bhavabhūti and is referred to by Rājaśekhara.

 $Svapnadasar{a}nana$: by Bhīmaṭa—mentioned by R $ar{a}$ ja-

śekhara.

Dharmābhyudaya : by Meghaprabhācārya—a shadow

-drama of unknown date.

Karnasundarī : by Bilhana of the eleventh cen-

tury A.D.—a Nāṭikā.

DRAMA 115

Citrabhārata : by Kṣemendra of the eleventh century A.D.—a lost drama.

Prabuddharauhineya: by Rāmabhadra Muni of the twelfth century A.D.—in six acts.

Kaumudīmītrānanda: by Rāmacandra of the twelfth century A.D.—a Prakaraņa in ten acts.

Laṭakamelaka : by Śaṅkhadhara Kavirāja of the twelfth century A.D.—a Prahasana.

Mudritakumudacandra: by Yaśaścandra of the twelfth century A.D.—a Jinistic drama.

Nirbhayabhīmavyāyoga: by Rāmacandra, a prolific Jaina dramatist, belonging to the twelfth century A.D.

Kirātārjunīya, Rukmiṇīharaṇa, Tripuradāha Samudramathana Karpūracarita & Hāsyacudāmaṇi by Vatsarāja of the twelfth century A.D.—the first, a Vyāyoga; the second, an Ihāmṛga in four acts; the third, a Dima in four acts; the fourth, a Samavakāra in three acts, the fifth, a Bhāṇa and the sixth, a farce (Prahasana) one act.

Pārthaparākrama: by Prahlādanadeva of the twelfth century A.D.—a Vyāyoga.

Prasannarāghava: by Jayadeva (of Berar) of the twelfth century A.D.—based on the Rāmāyaṇa—a Nāṭaka in seven acts.

Harakelināṭaka : by Viśāladeva Vigraharāja of the twelfth century A.D.—partially preserved in stone.

** Kundamālā : ascribed to Dignāga—but according to some, written by Dhī-

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ranāga—quoted in the $S\bar{a}hitya-$ darpaṇa—not later than the thirteenth century A.D.

Dūtāngada : by Subhaṭa of the thirteenth century A.D.—a shadow-play.

Hammiramadamardana: by Jayasiinha of the thirteenth century A.D.—in five acts.

Moharājaparājaya: by Yaśahpāla of the thirteenth century A.D.—an allegorical drama in five acts.

 $V_1kr\bar{a}ntakaurava$ by E & $Marthilikaly\bar{a}na$: centracts

by Hastimalla of the thirteenth: century A.D.—in six and five acts respectively.

Pārvatīpariņaya : attributed to Bāṇa, but alloted to to Vāmana Bhaṭṭa Bāṇa of the fourteenth century A.D.

Saugandhıkūharana: by Viśvanātha of the fourteenth century A.D—a Vyāyoga.

Dhūrtasamāgama: by Kaviśekhara of the fifteenth century A.D.—a Prahasana.

Caitanya candrodaya: by Kavikarnapura of the sixteenth century A.D.

by Rūpagosvāmin of the sixteenth century A.D.—dealing with the attractive Kṛṣṇa legend —in seven and ten acts respectively.

Kainsavadha : by Sesakṛṣṇa of the seventeenth century A.D.—in seven acts.

 $J\bar{a}nak\bar{i}parinaya$: by Ramabhadra Dikşita of the seventeenth century A.D.

Mallıkāmāruta : by Uddaṇḍin of the seventeenth century A.D.—a Prakaraṇa.

DRAMA 117

Adbhutadarpana : by Mahādeva, contemporary of Rāmabhadra—in ten acts.

Hāsyārṇava by Jagadīśvara of unknown date—a Prahasana.

Kautukasarvasva : by Gopinātha of unknown date
—a Prahasana.

—a Tranasana.

Unmattarāghava : by Bhāskara of unknown date an Ahka.

Mādhavasādhana (and other plays) by Nṛtyagopāla Kaviratna of the ninteenth century A D.

Amaramangala: by Pañcānana Tarkaratna of the latter half of the ninteenth century A.D. and the first half of the twentieth century A.D.—in eight

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- (ii) Bhāratīyanāṭyer Vedamūlakatā.
- (iii) Bharatīyanāṭyer Pracīnatā (Māsik Vasumatī, B.S. 1345-46).
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CHAPTER SIX

LYRIC POETRY

Α

INTRODUCTION

Classical Sanskrit literature is highly rich in lyrical poetry. Though it is a fact that Classical lyric poetry has not produced many works of respectable length and size, yet none would deny that its merit is usually of a high order. Lyrical poets have often been successful in depicting the amorous feeling with a few artistic strokes, and their compositions can very well stand comparison with those of foreign poets. The range of lyrical literature in Sanskrit is very wide. It is not confined to the theme of love and amorous feeling only. It includes secular, religious, gnomic and didactic poems and thus offers a variety which is sufficient to remove monotony.

In all lyrical poems dealing with love, Nature plays a very important part. The intimate relation between Nature and Man has not in all probability found a more charming expression in any other branch of

Extent of Sanskrit lyrics

Nature in Sanskrit lyrics literature. The lotus and the lily, the Cakora the Cakravaka and the Cataka, all are inseparably connected with human life and love in its different phases.

Prākrit lyrics It is further to be noted that Prākrit literature is also highly rich in lyrical poetry. The Sattasai or Gāthāsaptasatī attributed to Sātavāhana is an outstanding work of this type. The book is a collection of seven hundred verses in Prākrit dealing with various phases of the sentiment of love. Bāṇa refers to this work in his Harṣacarita. Professor Macdonell wants to place it before 1000 A.D. If, on the other hand, Hāla or Sātavāhana, to whom the work is attributed, is taken as a king of that name of the Andhra dynasty, the work must be placed early in the Christian era.

 \mathbf{B}

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT OF LYRIC POETRY

Meghadūta

The name of Kalidasa stands high in the realm of Sanskrit lyrical poetry. There is no gainsaying the fact that his *Meghadāta* which has been unsuccessfully imitated

times without number by later poets, is the finest flower of Classical lyric poetry. The lyric has inspired poets like Goethe and Rabindranath who have lavishly bestowed their praise upon this magic personality in literature. Fancifully the poet makes a cloud the messenger of the message of love and admiration to the beloved of a banished Yakşa, who had been pining for him during the rainy season at Alaka. The work is divided into two sections known as the Purvamegha and the Uttaramegha. The poem is written in Mandakranta metre of gorgeous rhythm like the roar of a July cloud weary under the burden of its water. This is also quite in keeping with the sublime conception of love which, tinged with the burning colour of separation, resembles a black cloud with a silver lining. The stanzas containing the words of message are the most poignant and beautiful in literature and the lyric will ever stand impressed on our memory like a rainbow springing from the earth.

¹ Vedāntadeśika's Hainsasandeśa (of the thirteenth century A.D.) Rūpagosvāmin's Hainsadūta (of the fifteenth century A.D.) Krṣṇānanda's Padānkadūta (of the seventeenth century A.D.) are some of the more well-known Dūtakāvyas.

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The book has been translated into various European languages and Schiller's *Maria Stuart* owes its origin to it.

Rtusamhāra

The Rtusamhāra is the second lyric of Kālidāsa. It is a short poem in six cantos describing all the six seasons of the year. It is undoubtedly an earlier production of the poet and though Kālidāsa's authorship of this poem is doubted by many scholars, still we can find in it the aspirations of a budding poet.

Ghaţakarpara : Ghaţakarpara-kāvya Tradition makes Ghaṭakarpara one of the nine gems in the court of King Vikramāditya. The Ghaṭakarpara-kāvya after the name of the poet is written in twenty-two stanzas. It describes how a young wife in the beginning of the rains sends a cloud-messenger to her absent husband. The poem abounds in Yamakas (figure of speech) for which the author feels proud.

Bhartṛhari : three Satakas Bhartrhari has to his credit the three Satakas (collection of a hundred verses), viz., (a) the Śrigāraśataka (b) the Nītišataka

¹ Professors Kielhorn, Bühler, Macdonell, Schroederand others accept the authorship of Kālidāsa while other scholars entertain a different view.

 $^{^{2}}$ See, Aurobinda Ghosh, K \overline{a} lid \overline{a} sa; Gajendragadkar $Rtusamh\overline{a}ra$.

and (c) the Vairāgyaśataka. The single authorship of these three poems is doubted by some scholars, but Indian tradition accepts Bhartrhari to be their author. Bhartrhari is said to have died in 651 A.D.¹. All the three poems are written in a very lucid style, and they have the greatest interest to them for whom they are intended.

Mayūra was a contemporary of Bāṇa-bhaṭṭa of the seventh century A.D., and reported to be his father-in-law. His Sūryaśataka² is a religious lyric in one hundred verses written in honour of the Sun. Tradition says that the poet was cured of leprosy by composing this eulogy of the Sun.³

It is impossible to ascertain the date of Amaru. Vāmana (800 A.D.) is the earliest writer who quotes three verses from the

Amaruśataka, a lyrical poem in one hundred

Mayūra : Sūryaśataka

Amaru : Amaruśataka

- ¹ It is yet to be decided whether the author of the Satakas is the same person as the famous grammarian of that name who wrote the $V\bar{a}kyapad\bar{i}ya$.
- ² There are other $S\bar{u}rya\acute{s}atakas$ by different poets which do not deserve any special mention.
- ³ Vajradatta, a Buddhist poet of the ninth century A.D. composed his *Lokeśvaraśataka* and was cured of leprosy.

stanzas¹ describing the conditions of women at different stages of life and love. The poet is really gifted and his delineation of sentiments and emotions, especially of love, is superb in character. His style is difficult, but certainly graceful. Amaru's poem has found the widest recognition in the hands of Sanskrit rhetoricians and he is quoted by great thinkers on poetry like Ānandavardhana. The poem has been commented on by more than a dozen writers including Arjunavarman (1215 A.D.).

Bilhaņa: Caurapañcāśikā The Caurapaùcāśikā of Bilhaṇa is a lover's recollections of the sweet company of his beloved. The poem contains fifty stanzas. The date of the poet is 1076 A.D.—1127 A.D. Bhāratacandra, a Bengali poet of the eighteenth century A.D., drew the inspiration of his popular poem 'Vidyāsundara' from this work of Bilhana.

Jayadeva : Gītagovinda The Kṛṣṇa-legend found a poetical interpreter in Jayadeva, the last great name in Sanskrit poetry, who flourished in Bengal during the reign of King Lakṣmaṇasena of the twelfth century A.D. He was the son of Bhojadeva of Kendubilva. His poem, the

¹ The text of the poem has come down to us in *four* recensions which vary widely among themselves.

Gītagovinda, ranks high amongst Sanskrit lyrics, and the poet is a gifted master of poetry. According to Professor Macdonell the poem marks a transitional period between pure lyric and pure drama. Sir William Jones calls it a small pastoral drama while Professor Lassen regards it as a lyrical drama. Leopold von Schroeder would look upon it as a refined Yātrā. Both Professors Pischel and Lévi place it in the category between song and drama. Some Indian scholars maintain that the poem is a court-epic.

Dhoyī, a contemporary of Jayadeva, graced the court of King Lakṣaṇasena. Like other Dūtakāvyas, his poem, the Pavanadūta, is written in imitation of the Meghadūta.

Dhoyī : Pavanadūta

 \mathbf{C}

LESSER LYRIC POEMS AND ANTHOLOGIES

Śṛṅgāratilaka : attributed to Kālidāsa—containing attractive pictures of love in

to an to the section of

twenty-three stanzas.

Bhaktāmarastotra: by Mānatuiga, probably a con-

temporary of Bāṇa or earlier—

¹It is probable that the poet took as his model popular plays representing incidents from the life of Kṛṣṇa as the modern Yātrās in Bengal still do.

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written in honour of the Jaina saint Rsabha in forty-four verses.

Kalyāṇamandirastotra: by Siddhasena Divākara, probably of the seventh century A.D. --written in imitation of Mānatunga—containing forty-four stanzas.

Suprabhātastotra and Aṣṭamahāśrīcaityastotra by King Harsavardhana—the first being a morning hymn in twenty-four verses in praise of Buddha and the second, a hymn in five verses in praise of the eight great shrines.

Candisataka

: by Bāṇabhaṭṭa of the seventh century A.D.—a collection of one hundred and two verses written in honour of the goddess Pārvatī.

 $Sragdhar\bar{a}stotra$

: by Sarvajñamitra, a Buddhist of the eighth century A.D.—dedicated to Tārā, the Buddhist goddess containing thirty-seven stanzas.

Kuţţanīmata

: by Dāmodaragupta, minister of King Jayāpīḍa of Kāshmir of 772 A D.—813 A.D.—an erotic poem.

Ānandalaharī or Saundaryalaharī & Mohamudgara

attributed to Śańkara, the great teacher of monistic Vedānta.

 $.Dev i\acute{s}ataka$

: by Anandavardhana, the famous rhetorician of the ninth century

Bhallata-sataka: by Bhallata, a junior contemporary Ānandavardhana—a gnomic poem.

Mahimnahstotra: by Puspadanta, not later than the ninth century A. D.—a religious lvric.

Dharmaparī kṣā & $Yogas\bar{a}ra$

Subhāṣitaratnasandoha) by Amitagati of the tenth · century A.D.—all didactic

Kṛṣṇakarṇāmṛta) by Bilvamaṅgala or Līlāśuka of & Vṛndāvanastuti) the eleventh century A.D. highly popular and of graceful style.

Samayamāṭrkā,
Kalāvilāsa, Darpadalana,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa,
Sevyasevakopadeśa, Cārucaryāśataka

Kavindravacanasamuccaya: an anthology—of the eleventh century A.D.

Anyoktımuktālatāsataka: by Sambhu who wrote under Harsa of Kāshmir (1089 A.D.—1101 A.D.)—a gnomic poem.

by Govardhana, a contemporary of Aryāsaptasatī: Jayadeva—containing seven hundred erotic stanzas-written after the Sattasaı of Hāla.

Yogaśūstra Vītarūgastotra & Mahāvīrastotra

by Hemacandra of the twelfth century A.D.—very good didactic lyric poems, sometimes reminding us of the poems of Bhartrhari.

Saduktikarnāmrta: an anthology by Śrīdhara of the twelfth century A.D.

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Śāntiśataka: by Śilhaṇa, of Kāshmir who lived before 1205 A.D.—written in the style of Bhartyhari's poems.

Bhaktišataka : by Rāmacandra of Bengal who came to Ceylon with King Parā-kramabāhu (thirteenth century A.D.)

Śringāravairāgyataraingiņā: by Somaprabha of the thirteenth century A.D.—a didactic poem in forty-six stanzas written in perfect Kāvya style.

Subhāṣitamuktāvalī: an anthology by Jalhaṇa of the thirteenth century A.D.

Śārangadharapaddhati: an anthology by Śārangadhara of the fourteenth century A.D.

Subhūṣītāvalī : an anthology by Śrīvara of the fifteenth century A.D.

 $Bh\bar{a}min\bar{i}vil\bar{a}sa$ by Jagannātha, the famous rheto-& $Gang\bar{a}lahar\bar{i}$: rician of the seventeenth century A.D.

[N. B. Names of some lyrical poetesses and their stray verses are found in some anthologies. The more important among them are Śīlābhaṭṭārikā, Vijjakā, Vikaṭanitambā, Priyanivadā etc., etc.]

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CHAPTER SEVEN

HISTORICAL WRITINGS

A

INTRODUCTION

Nobody denies the antiquity and greatness of Indian civilization but it is rather unfortunate that in the wide range of early or medieval Sanskrit literature, one seldom comes across a useful work of history. paucity of authoritative historical books bewilders all students of Classical Sanskrit literature, and it is a pity that India has failed to produce even one outstanding historian noted for his critical insight and scientific presentation of facts. It is, however, admitted on all hands that Kalhana is the most successful of all Indian historians and that the history of Kashmir would have remained obscure without his immortal Rājataranginī. But work, the Kalhana's writings are not without exaggerated and confusing statements, and poetic fancy has often been allowed to dominate the genuine spirit of a historian. The causes of the paucity of historical works may be traced to the peculiarities of Indian psycho-

Paucity of Historical works: logy aided by environment and the course of events. The popular Indian view on worldly life and the teachings of Indian philosophical and religious works are surely responsible for fostering a feeling of apathy towards making any serious attempt at recording facts and dwelling on them.

Earliest Historical works The beginnings of Indian history are to be traced to the Purāṇas which contain amidst vast masses of religious and social matters, accounts of genealogies which are the very germs of history.

Vākpati : Gaudavaho In Prākrit, however, there is a very important historical work called the Gaudavaho which was written by Vākpati. It celebrates the defeat of one Gauda king by Yaśovarman, King of Kanauj, the poet's patron, who was again overthrown by Lalitāditya Muktāpīda, King of Kāshmir. Vākpati is a follower of the Gauda style and uses long compounds. His date has approximately been fixed in the eighth century A.D., and he is mentioned along with Bhavabhūti.

 \mathbf{B}

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL WORKS

Padmagupta also known as Parimala, wrote his Navasāhasāṅkacarita in 1050

A.D. The book contains eighteen cantos and describes the winning of Princess Sasiprabhā and also alludes to the history of Sindhurāja Navasāhasāṅka of Mālava.

Padmagupta : Navasāhasāṅkacarita

Sandhyākaranandin's Rāmapālacarita describes through double entendre the story of Rāma and also the history of King Rāmapāla of Bengal who recovered his ancestral home from Bhīma, a Kaivarta chief, and conquered Mithilā. Sandhyākaranandin flourished during 1057 A.D.—1087 A.D.

Sandhyākaranandin : Rāmapālacarita

Bilhaṇa's patron was Vikramāditya VI, a Cālukya king of Kalyāṇa who flourished during 1076 A.D.—1127 A.D. Bilhaṇa glorified his patron by writing his *Vikramāṅkadeva-carita* in *eighteen* cantos. Bilhaṇa was more a poet than a historian and his work abounds in numerous imaginary and fanciful descriptions.

Bilhaṇa : Vikramāṅkadevacarita

Kalhaṇa is the best of Indian historians. He wrote his Rājataraṅgiṇā in 1100 A.D. Kalhaṇa has derived materials for his book from older sources including the Nīlamatapurāṇa. The Rājataraṅgiṇā is the only reliable book on the history of Kāshmir after the death of King Harṣa when the country passed through stormy bloody days. Though a historian, Kalhaṇa has the rare

Kalhaņa . Rājatarangiņī gifts of a poet, and his book is a wonderful admixture of poetic fancy and historical facts. According to European scholars, it is the only work in Sanskrit literature which approaches history to a certain extent.

Hemacandra Kumārapālacarita Hemacandra who flourished during 1088 A.D.—1172 A.D. wrote his *Kumārapālacarita* or *Dvyāśrayakāvya* in honour of Kumārapāla, King of the Cālukyas.

Pṛthvīrājavijaya The anonymous *Pṛthvīrājavijaya* celebrates the victories of King Pṛthvīrāja over Shihāb-ud-din Ghorī in 1191 A.D.

C

MINOR HISTORICAL WORKS

Prabhāvakacaritra: by Prabhācandra and revised by Pradyumnasūri (1277 A.D.)—regarded as a continuation of Hemacandra's Parisista-parvart—containing the life-history of twenty-two Jaina teachers—a semi-historical work.

Rājendrakarņapūra: by Śambhu who wrote in honour of Harşadeva of Kāshmir (1089 A.D.—1101 A.D.)

Kīrtikaumudī & Surathotsava

by Someśvaradatta (1179 A.D.— 1262 A.D.)—more in the form of panegyrics—the latter, written in fifteen cantos. Sukṛtasankīrtana: by Arisimha of the thirteenth century A.D.—a panegyric in

eleven cantos.

Jagadūcarīta : by Sarvānanda of unknown date—

a panegyric of a Jaina who rendered help to his townsfolk at the time of the famine of 1256-8 A.D.

in Gujarāt.

 $Prabandhacıntar{a}mani: ext{by Merutunga of the fourteenth}$

century A.D.—a quasi-historical-

biographical work.

Prabandhakośa: by Rājaśekhara of the fourteenth

century A.D.—containing the lifestories of Jaina teachers, poets,

kings and other personages.

 $K\bar{\imath}rtilat\bar{a}$: by $Vidy\bar{a}pati$ of the fourteenth

century A.D.

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CHAPTER EIGHT

PROSE LITERATURE

Α

INTRODUCTION

History of Sanskrit Prose literature

In matters of expression the Indian mind has always preferred poetry to prose. Commentaries and lexicons were written in verse, and sometimes conversation even was carried on in metre. The major portion of Vedic literature is in metre. So the peculiarity of the Indian mind is the cause of the dearth of prose literature in Sanskrit. In the Krsna-Yajurveda, however, we come across the earliest specimen of prose-writing. The prose of the Atharvaveda should also be considered in connection with the study of the history and development of prose-writings in ancient India. The prose of the Brahmanas is simple yet elegant, and the prose of the Sükta literature is more or less in the form of a message we usually send in a telegram. All these, however, cannot give us any standard of writing which may be imitated with profit. The prose portions of the Mahābhārata, and of the Pūranas such as, the Visnu and the

Bhāgavata, and of the medical compilations of Caraka and Suśruta should also be mentioned. The earliest standard of prose-writing is to be found in Patanjali's Mahabhasya which is noted for its grace, vigour and elegance, and in it we find a perfection of Brāhmanical prose. The prose of explanatory treatises or commentaries offers specimen of Sanskrit composition. Thus the writings of Sabarasvāmin on the Mīmāmsāsūtras, of Vātsyāyana on the Nyāyasūtras the commentaries of Sankara on the Brahmasūtras and the Upanisads and the explanatory work of Medhatithi on Manusmrti are instances to the point. Besides all these, there is the prose of the early dramatic literature which should necessarily demand a careful study. In fact, the extent of prose-writing is not very small, but when it is said that it is insignificant, the greater extent of poetic compositions is considered.

Though the beginnings of Sanskrit prose-writings may be traced to a very dim antiquity, the extant works on prose literature are of a comparatively late date. The extant prose literature may be divided into two broad classes:—romance and fable.

It appears that in early Classical Sans-

Romance & Fable

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Ākhyāyikā & Kathā krit there were numerous types of prose romances, the two most important among them being Ākhyāyikā and Kathā. But as early as the seventh century A.D., Daṇḍin writes in his Kāvyādarśa that there is no vital point of difference in the nature of these two types of prose compositions and he regards them as the different names of one and the same species. Amarasinha, the lexicographer, however, distinguishes between the two, Ākhyāyikā having a historical basis and Kathā being a purely poetic creation.

Origin of Fable literature The origin of Indian fable literature must be traced back to the earliest times in the life of Vedic Indians. The tales current among the people were later on used for a definite purpose, and the didactic fable became a mode of inculcating useful knowledge.

В

ROMANCE

Dandin:

There is a great difference of opinion amongst scholars regarding the age of Dandin. It is held on the evidence of the Kāvyādarša, a well-known work on rhetorical

canons by the poet, that he flourished after Pravarasena. According to the Rājataranginī, Pravarasena ruled Kāshmir in the sixth century A.D. This Pravarasena was probably the author of the poem Setubandha. The relation between Dandin and Bhāmaha, another rhetorician, has created a great controversy. Some scholars are inclined to believe that Dandin has criticized the views of Bhanaha while others entertain the opposite view. There is some controversy again with regard to the relation of Dandin to Bhatti, the grammarianpoet. Some scholars are definitely of opinion that Dandin used the Bhattikāvya. however, presumed that he flourished in the seventh century A.D. From the internal evidence furnished by both the Dasakumāracarita and the Kāvyādarša, it appears that Dandin was an inhabitant of South India. He was fairly acquainted with the Kaveri, the Andhras and the Colas.

Dandin's Dasakumāracarita, a work of the Akhyāyikā type, describes the exploits of eight princes, Rājavāhana and others. As the name of the work implies, it should have contained accounts of ten princes. The stories of the other two princes are given in

Dasakuma racarita : contents & character the prelude $(P\bar{u}rvap\bar{n}thik\bar{a})$, and the incomplete story of one of the princes (Viśruta) has been incorporated in the sequel ($Uttara-p\bar{n}thik\bar{a}$), which two chapters seem to be the work of a different hand. The romance reflects admirably the social conditions in which the author lived and where the standard of morality was markedly poor. Daṇḍin's writings usually conform to the Vaidarbha style.

Subandhu:

Subandhu appears to have been earlier than Banabhatta who has referred to the former's Vāsavadattā in his introduction to the Kādambarī. In a passage in the Vāsavadattā Subandhu laments over the death of Vikramāditya. This has led scholars to surmise that after the death of Candragupta. II of the Gupta dynasty, who assumed the title of Vikramāditya, there was a civil war in the country, and Subandhu was aggrieved by upholding the losing cause. This theory, however, is not generally accepted. From two passages in the Vāsavadattā, European scholars find references to Uddyotakara, the great writer on Nyāya, and the Bauddhasangatyalaikāra of Dharmakīrti. If the allusions. are correct, Subandhu may be placed in the beginning of the seventh century A.D.

The theme of Subandhu's Vāsavadattā is the love-story of Prince Kandarvaketu and Princess Vasavadatta. The playful imagination of the poet conceives how on one night, the prince dreams about a beautiful princess and starts in quest of her. Meanwhile, the princess having dreamt of Prince Kandarpaketu sends one of her personal attendants in search of him. Kandarpaketu in course of of his travels comes to learn Vāsavadattā from the conversation of a pair of birds. He arrives at Pataliputra and is united with Vasavadatta. But the king, Vāsavadattā's father, wants to give her away to another prince. Thereupon the two leave the palace on a magic steed and go to the Vindhyas. One night they fall asleep but in the morning the prince gets up and is surprised not to find Vasavadatta by his side. He commences a vigorous search and at last discovers her in the hermitage of the sage. She is turned into a stone, and the prince revives her by his touch.

The poet is a master of a style which is Style marked by a preponderant use of alliteration.

Banabhatta is undoubtedly the greatest of Indian prose-writers. Fortunately, the

Bāṇa : age & works date of Bāṇa is one of the surest planks in the tottering edifice of ancient Indian chronology. Bāṇa has to his credit the *Harṣacarita* and the *Kādambarī* which are respectively an Akhyāyikā and a Kathā.

Harşacarita In his Harsacarita, Bāṇa glorifies his patron, King Harsa who flourished during 606 A.D.-647 A.D. In the first and second chapters of this incomplete book Bāṇa gives an account of his genealogy and early life which reveals him as a great traveller.

Kādambarī

Bana makes lavish use of his poetic imagination in relating the story of Kādambarī which also he could not complete. The theme of this book is the fascinating love-story of Candrapida and Kadambari in their several Running parallel with the main births. story we also find the love-episode of Pundarīka and Mahāśvetā. The romance relates how the Moon-god being cursed by Pundarika who was pining for Mahāśveta, was born on earth as Candrapida and fell in love with Kādambari, the Gandharva princess. Pundarika also cursed by the Moon-god was born on earth as Vaisampāyana, the friend of In this birth also both Candrapida. Candrapida and Vaisampayana gave up their lives and were again born as King Śūdraka and the parrot respectively. Happily in this birth they were all reunited.

Much has been said of Bāṇa's style. Western critics describe it as a big forest where all access is prohibited because of the luxuriant undergrowth of words. But Indian scholars have the highest admiration for Bāṇa and his style, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that his style has been regarded by Indian scholars as the standard style of prose. Superb is Bāṇa's power of description and he wields the language with the greatest ease.

Style

 \mathbf{C}

FABLE

The short stories in Indian literature may be classed under *three* different heads, viz., the popular tales, the beast-fables and the fairy tales. The popular tales again may be broadly sub-divided into Buddhistic and non-Buddhistic.¹

Classification of fables

The Buddhist popular tales are the Pali Jatakas which were current among the

Buddhist popular tales

¹ The fable literature of the Jainas is extremely rich. But only a few works are written in pure Sanskrit.

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Buddhists from the earliest times. Apart from these Jataka stories there are some Buddhist Sanskrit works on popular stories (already referred to in a previous chapter).

'Guṇāḍhya's Bṛhatkathā & works based on it

Gunādhya's Brhatkathā is an outstanding work among non-Buddhistic popular tales. The work was written in Paiśaci Prakrit, a dialect spoken in the north western parts of India. The work is now unfortunately lost to us, but the story has been preserved in Sanskrit works, viz., (1) Budhasvāmin's Ślokasamgraha (composed between eighth and the ninth century A.D.), (2) Ksemendra's Brhatkathāmanjarī (1037 A.D.) Somadeva's Kathāsaritsāgara and (3)(1063-81 A.D.). According to Dr. Keith the Slokasamgraha (which is found only in a fragment of twenty-eight chapters and some 4539 verses) is a genuine translation of Gunādhya's work ${
m and}$ he holds that both Somadeva's Kathāsaritsāgara (containing 21,388 verses) and Ksemendra's Brhatkathāmanjarī (containing about 7500 verses) are not from the original Brhatkatha. Nevertheless, the *Brhatkathā* is mentioned as early as the seventh century A.D. in Dandin's Kāvyādarsa, and Dr. Bühler has placed the work in the first or the second century A.D. Dr. Keith suggests that it was written not later than the fourth century A.D. The importance of the Bṛhatkathā can never be overestimated. As a perpetual source of inspiration the Bṛhatkathā occupies in ancient Indian literature, a place next only to that of the two Great Epics, the Rāmāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata.

The Pancatantra by Visnusarman is an important work on the beast-fable literature and it is said that the book has an earlier basis called the Tantrākhyāyikā now lost to us. The work is written in five books in clear lucid style with an admixture of prose and It alludes to Canakya and follows verse. Kautilya's Arthasāstra. The importance of this work may be judged from the fact that it was translated into Pahlavi and Syriac in the sixth century A.D., into Arabic in the eighth century A.D., into Hebrew in the eleventh century A.D., into Spanish in the thirteenth century A.D., and into Latin and English in the sixteenth century A.D.

The *Hitopadesa* is another work on beastfable literature written by one Nārāyaṇa Paṇḍita. The author imitates the style of Viṣṇuśarman and the method of arrange-

Viṣṇuśarman : Pañcatantra

Nārāyaņa : Hitopadeśa ment is entirely the same in both the works. The author lived in the court of King Dhavalacandra of whom we know little. A manuscript of this work is dated the four-teenth century A.D. According to Dr. Keith its date cannot be earlier than the eleventh century A.D., as a verse of Rudrabhaṭṭa is cited in the book. Moreover a Jaina scholar made use of it in 1199 A.D. in order to produce a new version.

Śrīvara . Kathākautuka

Vetālapañcavimsati, Simhāsanadvātrimsikā & Sukasaptati Another work of the beast-fable class is Śrīvara's *Kathākautuka* written in the fifteenth century A.D.

Under the fairy-tale literature we may class the following three books of unknown date. The Vetālapancavinsati attributed to Šivadāsa and the Simhāsanadvātrimsikā are probably of the Buddhist origin. Both the books are based on the character of a fictitious king named Vikrama. The Śukasaptati of unknown origin and date is a collection of seventy tales which the parrot narrates to the mistress who was about to play false to her husband.

D

LESSER PROSE TALES

Upamitibhavaprapañcā kathā: by Siddha or Siddharsi, a Jaina monk, of 906 A.D.—

written in prose interspersed with

verses—a didactic tale.

Kathārņava: by Śivadāsa—containing thirty-five

tales chiefly of fools and thieves—of unknown date but appearing as

a late work.

 $Puruşaparikş\bar{a}$: by Vidyāpati belonging to the latter

part of the fourteenth century

A.D.—containing forty-four stories.

Bhojaprabandha: by Ballālasena of the sixteenth

century A.D.—containing legends

of the court of King Bhoja.

 $Campaka sre ! hikath \bar{a}naka$ } : by Jinak \bar{i} rti of the & $P\bar{a}lagop \bar{a}lakath \bar{a}naka$ } : fifteenth century A.D.

Kathākośa: of unknown date—written in bad Sanskrit.

Samuaktvakaumudī: by an unknown author—pro-

bably of a later date.

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CHAPTER NINE

CAMPŪ LITERATURE

Α

INTRODUCTION

Campū: character & age

Composition in mixed prose and verse in Sanskrit is called Campū. Though the admixture of prose and verse can be traced even in Vedic literature, specially in the Brāhmaṇas, still the origin of Campū is to be sought in its immediate predecessors, the fables and the romances. Already in the writings of Subandhu and Bana and in some inscriptions we find stray verses, until very lately the mingling of prose and verse became a singular characteristic of a different section of literature. But it is a curious fact that no Campū older than the tenth century A.D. is extant, though Professor Oldenberg has discovered something like Campū in the $J\bar{a}takam\bar{a}l\bar{a}$ of \bar{A} ryaśūra.

 \mathbf{B}

SOME IMPORTANT WORKS

 $Nalacamp\bar{u}$ &) by Trivikramabhațța of the tenth $Mad\bar{a}las\bar{a}camp\bar{u}$ century A.D.

Yasastılaka: by Somadeva, a Digambara Jaina, of the middle of the tenth century A.D.—describing the conversion of King Māridatta.

Tilakamañjari: by Dhanapāla, a Jaina, who wrote about 970 A.D.

 $Jivandharacamp\bar{u}$: by Haricandra, not earlier than 900 A.D.

Rāmāyaṇacampū: attributed to Bhojarāja and Lakṣaṇabhaṭṭa.

Bhāratacampü: by Ananta of unknown date.

Udayasındarikathā: by Soddhala of 1040 A.D.—highly influenced by Bāṇa.

 $Gop\bar{a}lacamp\bar{u}$: by Jivagosvāmin of the sixteenth century A.D.

 $Sv\bar{a}h\bar{a}sudh\bar{a}karacamp\bar{u}$: by Nārāyaṇa of the seventeenth century A.D.

Śankaracetovilāsacampū: by Śankara—a very late work.

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CHAPTER TEN

GRAMMAR

A

INTRODUCTION

Importance of Sanskrit grammar

Grammar is one of the most important branches of Sanskrit literature. From very early times till most recently, grammar has held a unique place, and its study has been continued through centuries with deepest and consummate application. reverence Patanjali, the author of the Vyākaraņamahābhāṣya, has dwelt at length on the various uses of the study of grammar. a fact that grammar as a branch of literature had a peculiar appeal to the early Indians, and it is worthy of notice that it is in India alone that the study of grammar has ultimately led to the discovery of a system of philosophy.1

The high degree of popularity enjoyed by Sanskrit grammar is corroborated by the existence of nearly a dozen schools of grammar each of which is represented by writers of established reputation and following. Indra is, however, mentioned in the Taittiriyasamhitā as the first of grammarians. The Kathāsaritsāgara

The most popular of all the schools of grammar is that of Pāṇini who has mentioned no less than sixty-four names of previous grammarians among which Kāśyapa, Āpiśali, Gārgya, Gālava, Śākaṭāyana, Senaka and Sphoṭāyana may be cited.

Păņini & his predecessors

В.

PANINI SCHOOL

Scholars vary widely among themselves in determining the age of Pāṇini. Professor Goldstücker places him in the eighth century B.C., while Professors Max Müller and Weber are of opinion that he belonged to the fourth century B.C. His grammar, the Aṣṭādhyāyī, is a work in eight chapters each of which contains four sections. The arrangement of the rules is highly scientific, economy being the most outstanding characteristic.

Pāṇini : Aṣṭād**try**āyī

informs us that the Aindra school was supplanted by $P\bar{a}nini$, the author of the $Ast\bar{a}dhy\bar{a}y\bar{\imath}$. This has led Dr. Burnell to conclude that the Aindra school of grammar is the oldest in India. It should be noted, however, that neither $P\bar{a}nini$ nor Patañjali mentions Indra as a grammarian. It is, therefore, argued by some that the Aindra school is post- $P\bar{a}niniya$ in date, though pre- $P\bar{a}niniya$ in substance.

Kātyāyana: Vārttika Kātyāyana who is known as the Vārtti-kakāra came after Pāṇini and his age is usually assigned to the third century B.C. The Vārttikas are undoubtedly 'supplementary rules' which were framed by Kātyāyana to justify certain new forms which crept into the language after Pāṇini had written his Sūtras. But Kātyāyana did not only supplement the rules of Pāṇini but also rejected some of them which were deemed unnecessary. In some cases again he improved upon the text of the Aṣṭādhyāyī toto meet the demands of a living language.

Patañjali : Mahābhāṣya : 150 B.C. Patanjali who is regarded as the last of the 'three great sages', lived during the reign of King Puṣyamitra (or Puṣpamitra) of the Śuṅga dynasty. His date is one of the few definite landmarks in the whole range of early Indian literature. Patanjali earned for himself a rare reputation and his views were referred to by later schools of rival philosophers with utmost respect and reverence. Patanjali resorted to some technical devices whereby he could effectively extend the scope of the original Sūtras of Pāṇini and did not on that account venture any addition like Kātyāyana. It must, however, be said that he, too, rejected quite a good

number of the Sūtras of Pāṇini. The prose of Patañjali's *Mahābhāṣya*, is inimitable and marked by the qualities of grace, brevity and perspicuity.

Next after the three great sages mentioned above, one must remember the name often wrongly Bhartrhari who is ofidentified with Bhatti, the grammarian-poet, and who is in all probability referred to by I-tsing when he says that a great grammarian died in 651 A.D. Bhartrhari is known as the author of the Vākyapadīya (in two chapters), the Prakirna and a commentary on Patañjali's Mahābhāṣya, fragments of which are preserved in the Berlin library. It may be proved on the strength of the internal evidence furnished by the Vākyapadīya that the grammarian lived earlier than the seventh century A.D. The opening chapter of the Vākyapadīya discusses the philosophy of Sanskrit gram-In the second chapter and the mar. Prakīrņa, he discusses various topics of Sanskrit grammar.

Vāmana and Jayāditya are the two Buddhist writers who wrote the *Kāśikā*, a commentary on the Sūtras of Pāṇini. I-tsing informs us that Jayāditya died about

Bhartrhari Vākyapadīya and other works

Vāmana & Jayāditya : Kāśikā

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660 A.D. The object of Vāmana and Jayāditya was to incorporate in the system of Pāṇini all the improvements made by Candragomin. The $K\bar{a}$ sikā is usually known as the Vrtti.

Jinendrabuddhi : Nyāsa Jinendrabuddhi, a Bengali Buddhist, wrote an excellent and exhaustive commentary called the Nyāsa or the Kāsikāvivaraṇa-pañjikā, on the Kasikā of Vāmana and Jayāditya. Jinendrabuddhi is referred to by Bhāmaha, the rhetorician, and as such he cannot be later than the eighth century A.D.

Kaiyața : Pradīpa Kaiyaṭa is one of the most authoritative writers affiliated to the school of Pāṇini. His commentary, the $Prad\bar{\imath}pa$, on the $Mah\bar{a}$ -bhāṣya of Patanjali, is an invaluable treatise. It is believed that Kaiyaṭa wrote in the eleventh century A.D.

Haradatta : Padamañjari Haradatta, the author of the Padamanjarī, a commentary of the Kāśikā, is well-known for his independent views which more often than not contradict the statements of Patanjali. Haradatta is quoted by Mallinātha while he himself quotes Māgha. It is assumed that Haradatta flourished in the twelfth century A.D.

The Astādhyāyī of Pāṇini was remoulded

by later grammarians belonging to the school of Pāṇini who arranged the Sūtras of Pāṇini according to the topics selected for discussion. Rāmacandra who flourished in the first half of the fifteenth century A.D., wrote his $Prakriyākaumud\bar{\imath}$ which is supposed to be the model for Bhaṭṭoji's $Siddhantakaumud\bar{\imath}$. The most famous commentary, the Prasāda, on the $Prakriyākaumud\bar{\imath}$ was written by Viṭṭhalācārya in the first half of the sixteenth century A.D.

Rāmacandra : Prakriyā kaumudī

The Siddhantakaumudī of Bhattoji is a recast of the Sūtras of Pānini in the topical method. Bhattoji flourished in seventeenth century A.D. Bhattoji himself wrote a commentary on his Siddhantakaumudī which is called the Praudhamanoramā. His Śabdakaustubha is an authoritative commentary on Panini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. It is true that Bhaṭṭoji's reputation as an authority on Sanskrit grammar is enviable. The most famous commentary on the $Siddh\bar{a}ntakaumud\bar{\imath}$ is the Tattvabodhinī by Jňanendra Sarasvatī of the eighteenth century A.D. The Bālamanoramā of Vasudeva is an easy commentary on the Siddhāntakaumudī.

Bhaţţoji: Siddhāntakaumudī & other works

Nāgeśabhaṭṭa was a versatile genius of the

Nāgeśa: his works eighteenth century A.D. who wrote treatises not only on grammar but also on Yoga, Alankara and other subjects. Among his important works in grammar are the Uddyota, a commentary on Kaivata's Pradīpa, the Brhacchabdendusekhara and the Laghusabdendusekhara (both commentaries on Bhattoji's Siddhāntakaumudī) and the Paribhāsenduśekhara, a collection of Paribhāsās in connection with Pānini's grammar. The Vaiyākarayasiddhānta $manj\bar{u}s\bar{a}$ (Brhat and Laghu) is another outstanding work which has discussed various topics of Sanskrit grammar.¹

Varadarāja ; his works Varadarāja, a very recent writer popularized his name by making abridgements of the Siddhāntakaumudī. His two books, the Laghusiddhāntakaumudī and the Madhyasiddhāntakaumudī are widely read by all beginners of Sanskrit grammar.

 \mathbf{C}

OTHER IMPORTANT SCHOOLS OF GRAMMAR

Candragomin flourished in the middle of the fifth century A.D. Bhartrhari in his

¹ According to the tradition which we have been privileged to inherit and which comes down uninterruptedly from Nāgeśabhaṭṭa, the Paramalaghumañjūṣā is not the work of Nāgeśa.

Vākyapadīya refers to the Candra school Candra of grammarians. The object of Candragomin was to rearrange with marked brevity the system of Panini. The Candra grammar, however, gained much popularity and was widely commented upon. The commentaries are now preserved mostly in Tibetan translations.

According to Professor Pathak Jainendra flourished in the latter part of the fifth century A.D. Jainendra lacks originality Jainendra inasmuch as he condenses Pānini and the Varttikas. Two main commentaries on this grammar have been preserved—one by Abhayanandi (750 A.D.) and another called Śabdārnavacandrikā by Somadeya.

Sākatāvana, the founder of a school after his name, should not be confused with the ancient Sakatayana mentioned by Sakatayana Pāṇini. Śākaṭāyana wrote his Śabdānuśāsana in the first quarter of the ninth century A.D. Amoghavrtti is another work of this author. Śakatavana has based his work upon Panini, Katvavana and Jinendra. Śakatavana is also the authorship of (i) the credited with Paribhāṣāṣūtras (ii) the Gaṇapāṭha (iii) the Dhātupātha (iv) the Unādisūtras and (v) the Lingānuśāsana.

Hemacandra school Hemacandra, the prolific Jaina writer, wrote his Śabdānuśāsana in the eleventh century A.D. The book consists of more than four thousand Sūtras, and is a compilation rather than an original work. Hemacandra himself wrote a commentary of his book known as Śabdānuśāsana-bṛhadvṛtti.

Kātantra school

Sarvavarman is the author of the $Kar{a}tantrasar{u}tras$ otherwise known as the Kaumara and the Kalapa. The beginnings of this school go to the early centuries of the Christian era. There are, however, evidences of later interpolations in the Kātantra-Sarvavarman's views are in many places different from those of Panini. Durgasiinha wrote his famous Vrtti on this grammar not later than the ninth century A.D. Durgasinha's Vrtti was commented by Vardhamana in the eleventh century A.D. Prthvidhara wrote a sub-commentary on Vardhamāna's work. The Kātantra school has been highly popular in Bengal and Kāshmir.

Sārasvata school Anubhūtisvarūpācārya is the author of the *Sārasvataprakriyā*, who flourished in the middle of the fourteenth century A.D. Brevity of expression is a characteristic of this school. Some of the many commentators on the *Sārasvataprakriyā*, are Puñjarāja, Amṛtabhāratī, Kṣemendra and others.

Vopadeva wrote his Mugdhabodha in the thirteenth century A.D. Vopadeva's style is brief and simple. His technical terms in many places differ from those of Pāṇini. Rāma Tarkavāgīśa is the most celebrated commentator of this grammar.

Mugdhabodha school

Kramadiśvara wrote his Samkṣiptasāra in the thirteenth century A.D. The work has eight sections and the illustrations have been taken from the Bhaṭṭikāvya. The Samkṣiptasāra underwent a thorough revision in the hand of Jumaranandin who wrote a commentary called the Rasavatī. This grammar is widely read in Western Bengal.

Jaumara school

The author of the Supadma is Padmanā-bha who flourished in the fourteenth century A.D. This system of grammar, like many other systems, is based on Pāṇini. Padmanā-bha himself wrote a commentary known as the Supadmapanjikā.

Saupadma school

D

SECTARIAN SCHOOLS OF GRAMMAR

In recent centuries there flourished some grammarians who wanted to make grammar

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the vehicle of religion. This tendency was already present in Vopadeva. Rūpagosvāmin wrote his *Harināmāmṛta* in the fifteenth century A.D. The names of Kṛṣṇa and Rādhā are used as actual technical terms of grammar. Jīvagosvāmin wrote a grammar of the same name. A third Vaiṣṇava grammar named *Caitanyāmṛta* is mentioned by Professor Colebrooke.

Harināmāmṛta & Caitanyāmṛta

\mathbf{E}

SOME IMPORTANT WORKS ON GRAMMER

Durghaţavrtti: by Śaranadeva—a Bengali Buddhist of the twelfth century A D.—dealing with derivations of difficult words.

 $Bh\bar{a}_{\bar{s}}\bar{a}v_{\bar{t}}tti$: by Purusottamadeva of the twelfth century A.D.—a commentary on the $A_{\bar{s}}t\bar{a}dhy\bar{a}y\bar{i}$ (sections on Vedic accent are left out).

Gaṇaratnamahodadhi: by Vardhamāna in 1140 A.D. Parībhāṣāvṛtti: by Sīradeva—a collection of parībhāṣās with their explanation.

Dhātupradīpa: by Maitreyarakṣita who is later than Hemacandra—containing a list of roots and their uses.

 $Dh\bar{a}tuvrtti$: by Mādhava, son of Sāyaṇa—written after the model of the $Dh\bar{a}tupra-d\bar{i}pa$.

Varyākaraṇabhūṣaṇa & Varyākaraṇabhūṣaṇasāra by Kaundabhatta, nephew of Bhattoji—dealing with philosophical and other points of Sanskrit grammar.

Śabdaratna: by Haridīkṣita, grandson of Bhaṭṭoji and teacher of Nāgeśa—a commentary on the Praudhamanoramā.

Praudhamanoramākucamardinī: by Paṇḍitarāja
Jagannātha, the great rhetorician
—a criticism of the Praudḥamanoramā.

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

POETICS AND DRAMATURGY

Α

INTRODUCTION

Bharata : Nātyašās**tr**a

The literature on poetics and dramaturgy is conspicuously rich in Classical Sanskrit. Many able thinkers have written important works both on poetics and dramaturgy, and it is also a fact that one and the author has written on both these ofkindred nature. Bharata's subjects Nātyašāstra is the earliest known treatise on poetics and dramaturgy. The date of this monumental composition has been variously assigned by scholars to the period between the second century B.C. and third century A.D. The Natyasastra shows unmistakable proofs of a systematic tradition which has preceded it by at least a century. Bharata has been held in high esteem by all later writers on poetics and his work has continued to be a source of inspiration to them.

With the progress of years there arose four main schools of poetics which maintain different views with regard to the essential characteristics of poetry. Thus from time

Four schools of poetics

to time, Alankāra (Figure), Rīti (Style), Rasa (Aesthetic pleasure) and Dhvani (Suggestion) have been declared to be the essential factors of poetry. The Dhvani school, however, has grown to be the most important of all other schools of Alankāra literature. Ānandavardhana, the author of the Dhvanyāloka is known to be the pioneer of this school and it has been for his commentator Abhinavagupta to bring out the importance of the doctrine of Dhvani through his lasting contributions.¹

Bhāmaha is one of the earliest rhetoricians to take up a systematic discussion of poetic embellishments after Bharata's treatment of figures. Bhāmaha flourished in all probability in the seventh century A.D. His only work, the Kāvyālankāra, contains six chapters. In his definition of poetry Bhāmaha has accorded equal status to 'word' and 'import', though he has devoted more attention to the former.

Udbhaṭa wrote his Alankārasamgraha in

According to modern scholars, a comparatively late work on Indian poetics is the Agnipurāna where in as many as eleven chapters, a comprehensive and authoritative information about the various schools of poetics known to the author is available.

(i) Alańkāra school

Bhāmaha : Kāvyālaṅ kāra Udbhaţa : Alankārasamgraha the latter half of the eighth century A.D. The work is a collection of verses defining forty-one figures and contains six chapters. In his treatment of figures Udbhaṭa has followed in the line of Bhāmaha.¹

Rudreța : Kāvyālankāra Rudrața wrote his Kāvyālankāra in the first quarter of the ninth century A.D. The work which is in sixteen chapters, deals mainly with figures of poetry. In his treatment of figures Rudrața seems to have been the follower of a tradition different from that of Bhāmaha and Udbhaṭa. Of the three commentators of Rudraṭa, Namisādhu appears to be the most important.

(ii) Rīti school

Daņģin Kāvyādarša Daṇḍin, the author of the Kāvyādarśa, is the precursor to the Rīti school which was developed by Vāmana. Though Daṇḍin is usually assigned to the seventh century A.D., still the mutual priority of Bhāmaha and Daṇḍin is a disputed point in the history of Sanskrit poetics. Daṇḍin appears to have been greatly influenced by the Alaṅkāra school. His most outstanding con-

¹ Though Udbhaṭa belongs to the Alaṅkāra school, his well-known commentator Pratihārendurāja, a pupil of Mukulabhaṭṭa, is a follower of the Rasa school. Pratihārendurāja is assigned to the first half of the tenth century A.D.

tribution to poetics is the concept of Guna. In his definition of poetry Dandin gives more importance to the word-element than to the sense-element. The most authoritative commentator of the Kāvyādarša is Tarunavācaspati.

Vamana who flourished in the latter half of the eighth century A.D., wrote his $K\bar{a}vy\bar{a}$ lankārasūtra in five chapters and twelve sections in which he boldly asserted that Riti is the soul of poetry. The ten Gunas are important in so far as they constitute Rīti. The Kāmadhenu, a late work by Gopendra Tippa Bhūpāla, is a lucid commentary on the Kāvyālankārasūtra.

(iii) Rasa school Lollata

The Rasa school originated from the interpretations by different commentators of Bharata's aphorism on Rasa. Lollata who is known to be the earliest interpreter, flourished in the eighth century A.D. The work of Lollata is unfortunately lost to us, though a review of his opinion is found in the Abhinavabhāratī of Abhinavagupta and the Kāvyaprakāsa of Mammata.

Another interpreter is Śrī-Śankuka who has criticized the views of Lollata. The work of Śrī-Śankuka also is lost to us. He is be- Śrī-Śankuka lieved to be a junior contemporary of Lollata.

Bhattanāyaka : Hrdayadarpaņa

Bhattanayaka is the most celebrated commentator of the Rasa school. He is said to have flourished between the last quarter of the ninth century A.D. and the beginning of the tenth century A.D. His work, the *Hrdayadarpana*, is unfortunately lost to us. Bhattanāyaka has rejected the views of Lollata and Śrī-Śankuka. It is interesting to note that Bhattanayaka has recognized two additional powers of word, viz., the power of generalization ($bh\bar{a}va$ katva) by which the meaning is made intelligible to the audience and the power of bhojakatva which enables the audience to relish the enjoyment of the poem.

(iv) Dhvani school

Ānandavardhana: Dhvanyāloka The doctrine of Dhvani according to which 'suggestion' is held to be the essence of poetry, was formulated by Ānandavardhana in his *Dhvanyāloka* in the middle of the ninth century A.D. Ānandavardhana informs us that the doctrine of Dhvani is very old, the dim beginnings of which are lost in oblivion. According to Ānandavardhana, word is not only endowed with the two powers of denotation (sakti) and implication (lakiaṇā) but also of suggestion (vyanjanā). Through the power of sugges-

tion, either a subject, or a figure or a sentiment is revealed.

The views of Anandavardhana found a large and definite shape in the writings of his erudite commentator Abhinavagupta who flourished at the end of the tenth and the beginning of the eleventh century A.D. Abhinavagupta has to his credit two important commentaries on poetics which may be looked upon as independent treatises and these are the *Locana* on the *Dhvanyāloka* of Anandavardhana and the *Abhinavabhāratī* on the *Nāṭyaśāstra* of Bharata. Abhinavagupta thinks that all suggestion must be of sentiment, for the suggestion of subject or that of figure may be ultimately reduced to the suggestion of sentiment.

A bhinavagupta: Locana & A bhinavabhāratī

 \mathbf{B}

WORKS ON POETICS & DRAMATURGY

Abhidhāvṛttimātṛkā: by Mukulabhaṭṭa who is generally assigned to the period between the end of the ninth and the beginning of the tenth century A.D.— a grammatico-rhetorical work.

Kāvyamīmāmsā: by Rājasekhara of the tenth century A.D.—written in eighteen

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chapters— a practical hand-book for poets.

Vakroktijivita: by Kuntala or Kuntaka who flourished in the middle of the tenth century

A.D. and belonged to a reactionary school to Dhvani—upholding

Vakrokti (figurative speech) as the essence of poetry. (The Vakrokti school is an off-shoot of the older Alankāra school).

Daśarūpaka: by Dhanañjaya of the tenth century

A.D.—containing also a section
on dramaturgy besides sections on
Rasa and allied topics—commented
on by Dhanika, a contemporary of
of Dhanañjaya in his Avaloka.

Aucityavicāra and Kavikaṇṭhābharaṇa by Ksemendra of the eleventh century A.D.—the first, discussing propriety as essential: to sentiment and the second, discussing such topics as the possibility of becoming a poet, the issue of borrowing, etc., etc.

Sarasvatīkanthābharaņa and Śrngāraprakāśa by Bhoja of the first half of the eleventh century A.D.—the first, an enclyclopaedic work containing information about different schools of poetics and the second, a supplement to the first and containing a section on dramaturgy.

Vyaktiviveka: by Mahimabhaṭṭa of the second half of the eleventh century A.D. who belonged to the reactionary school to Dhyani—containing discussions on the possibility of including Dhyani under inference.

 $K\bar{a}vyaprak\bar{a}$ sa: by Mammata of the eleventh century A.D.—highly influenced by the writings of Anandavardhana and Abbinavagupta—discussing Rasa as the soul of poetry-commented on by Rucaka (identified with Ruyvaka, author of the Alankarasarvasva), Mānikyacandra, Śrīdhara, Candidāsa, Viśvanātha and Govinda, besides a number of minor commentators.

Bhävaprakūśana:

by Śāradātanava who flourished in the first half of the twelfth century A.D. and was one of the later writers on Rasa—highly influenced by the works of Bhoja-dealing with topics of drama.

Alankārasarvasva: by Ruyyaka of the latter half of the twelfth century A D.—written in the line of Udbhata-discussing the importance of Dhvani in so far as it embellishes the expressed meaning—commented on by Jayaratha, Vidyācakravartin and others.

Kāvyānuśāsana: by Hemacandra, belonging to the twelfth century A.D. who has borrowed from the writings of Abhinavagupta, Mammata, Kun-

tala and others.

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Vāgbhaṭālankāra: by Vāgbhaṭa of the twelfth century A.D.—a work in verses.

Candrāloka: by Jayadeva who was not earlier than the twelfth century A.D.—a convenient manual of figures of speech with happy illustrations.

Rasamañjarī & Rasatarangiņī

by Bhanudatta who was not earlier than the twelfth century A.D.—the two works treating of Rasa and allied topics.

Nātyadarpana: by Rāmacandra and Gunacandra of the twelfth century A.D.—a work on dramaturgy differing widely from the Nātyaśāstra of Bharata.

by Vagbhata of the thirteenth Kāvyānuśāsana: century A.D who has followed Hemacandra.

Kāvyakalpalatā

by Arisiiiha and his pupil Amara-Kavitārahasya or : candra, two Śvetāmbara Jainas, belonging to the thirteenth century A.D.

by Devesvara, a Jaina writer, pro- $Kavikalpalat\bar{a}:$ bably belonging to the thirteenth century A.D.

Nātakalakṣaṇaratnakośa: by Sāgaranandin of the thirteenth century A.D.—a work on dramaturgy-strictly following the Natyaśastra.

Ekāvalī: by Vidyādhara of the fourteenth century A.D.—written for King Narasimha of Orissa-belonging to the Dhvani school-commented on by Mallinātha in his $Taral\bar{a}$.

Pratāparudrayasobhūsana: by Vidvānātha of the fourteenth century A.D.-written for King Prataparudra of Warangal -a voluminous treatise containing various informations about poetics and dramaturgy.

 $S\bar{a}hituadarpana:$

by Viśvanātha of the fourteenth century A.D.—treating in the manner of Mammata, Rasa as the soul of poetry, though fully acknowledging the importance of Dhyani—containing discussions on both poetics and dramaturgy-criticizing Mammata and in turn criticized by Govinda and Jagannātha.

Ujivalanī lamani:

by Rupagosvamin of the sixteenth century A.D. who regards Erotic as only a different name of the Devotional (Bhaktı)—commented on by Jīvagosvāmin flourished after him in the same century, in his Locanarocani.

Alankārašekhara: by Keśavamiśra of the sixteenth century A.D.—a short treatise on poetics, the Kārikās of which according to the author are the composition of Sauddhodani.

 $Kuvalav\bar{a}nanda$

by Appayvadiksita of the seventeenth century A.D., who is noted for his critical insight and origi-Citramimanisa and : nality of appreciation - the first has been criticized by Jagannātha and the second is based on the Candraloka of Javadeva.

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Rasagangādhara: by Jagannātha of the seventeenth century A.D. who is the last of the Titans in Indian poetics and evinces a superb power of criticism and presentation—an important work on the dialectics of Indian poetics in particular.

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CHAPTER TWELVE

METRICS

A

INTRODUCTION

In the Brāhmaṇas we find discussions on metrical matters and it may be presumed that at that time the study of metrics was deemed essential as one of six Vedāṅgas.

Metrics : a Vedānga

Pingala is, however, the earliest known author on prosody. In his work which is of the Sūtra-type, we find for the first time the use of algebraic symbols. The book discusses both Vedic and Classical metres. Scholars opine that Pingala's work is surely earlier than the chapters on metre (chs. XIV, XV) in the Nāṭyaśāstra and the metrical section of the Agnipurāṇa. The text attributed to this author on Prākrit metres (Prākṛṭta-Paingala) is undoubtedly a later work.

Piṅgala his Sūtra

\mathbf{B}

WORKS ON METRICS

Śrutabodha: ascribed to Kālidāsa and often attributed to Vararuci—a manual of Classical metres.

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Suvṛttatılaka: by Kṣemendra of the eleventh century

A.D.—containing a variety of

Classical metres.

Chando'nuśāsana: by Hemacandra of the twelfth century A.D.—a compilation and not an original work.

Vṛttaratnākara: by Kedārabhaṭṭa (earlier than the fifteenth century A.D.)—a bulky book dealing with one hundred and thirty-six metres.

Vrttaratnākara: by Nārāyana of the sixteenth century
A.D.

Chandomañjarī: by Gangādāsa—a late and yet popular work on prosody.

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

LEXICOGRAPHY

Α

INTRODUCTION

Yaska's Nirukta is the oldest extant lexicographic work which contains a collection of Vedic terms. The lexicons of Classical Sanskrit literature are in many respects different from the Nirukta. One of the salient points of difference is that the Classical dictionaries treat of nouns and indeclinables while the Nighantus contain both nominal and verbal forms. Almost all the lexicographical works of Classical Sanskrit are written in verse.

The Nāmalingānukāsana or the Amara-kośa is one of the earliest lexicographical works in Classical Sanskrit. Amarasinha, the author, probably flourished in the seventh century A.D. He is, however, believed to have been one of the 'nine gems' in the court of the famous Vikramāditya. Of the many commentators of this work, Kṣīrasvāmin, Sarvānanda, Bhānuji and Maheśvara are well-known.

Yāska . Nirukta

Amarasimha : Amarakośa

 \mathbf{B}

LESS IMPORTANT LEXICONS

 $Trik\bar{a}nda\acute{s}e$ & by Purusottama—both early lexitions, containing a collection of many rare words.

Anekārthasamuccaya: by Śāśvata, a contemporary of Amarasiinha.

Abhidh \bar{u} naratnam $\bar{a}l\bar{a}$: by Hal \bar{a} yudha of the tenth century A.D.

Vaijayantī: by Yādava of the eleventh century A.D.

Viśvaprakāśa: by Meheśvara of the twelfth century A.D.

Anekārthaśabdakośa: by Medinīkāra of the fourteenth century A.D.

Vācaspatya: by Tārānātha Tarkavācaspati of the nineteenth century A.D.—an encyclopaedic work of outstanding merit.

Śabdakalpadruma: an encyclopaedic compilation made by a batch of Sanskrit Pandits in the nineteenth century A.D., under the patronage of Rājā Sir Rādhakānta Deva.

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CHAPTER FOURTEEN

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LAW

Α

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL WORKS

Besides the Śrautasūtras and the Grhyasūtras there were in ancient times a number of Dharmasūtras which may be viewed as rudimentary texts on civil and religious law. Among these Dharmasūtras mention must be made of the *Dharmasūtras* of Gautama, Hārīta, Vasistha, Bodhāyana, Āpastamba, Hiranyakeśin and others. It is not definitely known when these Sūtras were composed but it is generally believed that their age would approximately be the fifth or the fourth century B.C. Two other Dharmasūtras, the Vaisravadharmasūtra and the Vaikhānasadharmasūtra were written at a later period, the former being assigned to the third century A.D.

The most outstanding and popular work on Brāhmanical laws is the *Mānavadha-rmašāstra* or the *Manusmṛti*. Though the author of this work is generally known to be

Early Dharmasūtras Manusmṛti : authorship Manu, still the present text is said to have been the work of Bhṛgu. Again, from certain references it becomes evident that the present version of the Manusmṛti was narrated by one student of Bhṛgu and not by Bhṛgu himself even. Dr. Bühler suggests that the Mānavadharmaśāstra or the Manusmṛti is a recast and versification of one original work of the type of Sūtra works known as the Mānavasūtrakaraṇa, a subdivision of the Maitrāyaṇīya school which adheres to a redaction of the Kṛṣṇa-Yajurveda.

Age

It has been argued that the present text of the Manusmṛti contains various facts about the supremacy of the Brāhmaṇas over other castes. The presumption, therefore, is that the work was written at a time when the Brāhmaṇas were kings of India and had great power in their hands. History tells us that there were Brāhmaṇa kings in India after the fall of the Sungas. It is known that the Kāṇvas ruled in ancient India for forty-five years in the first century B.C. It is suggested that the present text of the Manusmṛti was prepared during the reign of the Kāṇvas.

The Manusmṛti is written in lucid

Sanskrit verse which comprises 2684 couplets arranged in *twelve* chapters. The work has been commented on by numerous scholars including Medhātithi, Govindarāja, Nārāyaṇa, Kullūka, Rāghavānanda and Nandana.

Contents & commentators

 \mathbf{B}

IMPORTANT WORKS ON LAW

Nāradasmṛti: Presumably a late work which has its individual merits but cannot stand comparison with the work of Manu—usually regarded as the legal supplement to the Manusmṛti.

Brhaspatismrti: A supplementary work to the Manusmṛti—belonging to the sixth or the seventh century A.D.

Yājñavalkyasmṛti: An important work in the style of the Manusmṛti—containing a methodical and highly satisfactory treatment with stamps of individuality—not earlier than the third century A.D.—commented on by Vijñāneśvara of the eleventh century A.D. in his Mītākṣarā.

Tautātitamatatīlaka, Sainskārapaddhatī & Prāyascīttaprakaraṇa) by Bhavadevabhaṭṭa (eleventh century AD.), the famous minister of King Harivarman of south Bengal.

Smṛtikalpataru: by Lakṣmidhara, minister of Govindacandra of Kanauj (twelfth century A.D.)

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Parāśarasmṛti: The author of this work is not the same person quoted as an authority by Yājñavalkya—commented on by Mādhava, of the fourteenth century A.D., in his Parāśaramādhava.

Brāhmaṇasarvasva: by Halāyudha, of the twelfth century A.D.—written for King Lakṣmaṇasena of Bengal.

Daśakarmapaddhati: by Paśupati of the twelfth century A.D.

Priridayıtā: by Aniruddha of the twelfth century A.D. Vaturvargacintāmaṇi: by Hemādri of the thirteenth century A.D.—a voluminous work.

Dharmaratna: by Jīmūtavāhana of the fourteenth century A.D.—an important work containing the famous $D\bar{a}yabh\bar{a}g\bar{a}$ which dominates the views of Bengal on inheritance.

 $Dipakalık\bar{a}$: by Śūlapāṇi of the fourteenth century A.D.—a commentary on the $Y\bar{a}j\bar{n}avalkyasmrti$.

Madanapārijāta: by Viśveśvara of the fourteenth century A.D.—a work on religious laws.

Vivādaratnākara, Smṛtiratnākara and other Ratnākaras by Caṇḍeśvara, grand-uncle of Vidyāpati, minister of Hari: sinha of the fourteenth century A.D.—very important law books.

Raghunandanasmrtis: by Raghunandana of the sixteenth century A.D.—twenty-eight in number—all bearing the appellation of 'Tattva', e.g., Tithitattva, Udvāhatattva, etc.—highly authoritative, specially in Bengal.

Vivādacintāmaņī, Vyavahāracintāmaņi and other Cintāmaņis by Vācaspati who wrote for Bhairavasinha (Harinārā-yaṇa) and Rāmabhadra (Rūpanārāyaṇa) of Mithilā (fifteenth century A.D.)—highly important law books.

Viramitrodaya: by Mitramiśra of the seventeenth

century A.D.—a voluminous work.

Nirwayasındhu: by Kamalākarabhaṭṭa of the seven-

teenth century A.D.

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CHAPTER FIFTEEN

POLITICS

Α

INTRODUCTION

Kauţilya : Arthaśāstra

Of the four objects of life the science of politics deals with the aim and achievement of the second (artha) and Kautilya's Arthasāstra amply proves the existence of the study of political science and practical life The Arthaśāstra is an ancient India. outstanding work in the field of Indian politics and is claimed by some modern scholars to have been composed sometime in the third century A.D., though traditionally the author is believed have been to none other than Canakya or Visnugupta, the able minister of Maurya Candragupta (fourth century B.C.), who has been unanimously recognized by all scholars as the Machiavelli of India. The Arthasastra, however, mentions Brhaspati, Bāhudantiputra, Višālāksa and *Usanas* as authorities. The book is a perfect manual for the conduct of kings in their political existence. Later works on this science are mainly based on the Arthaśāstra.

B

MINOR WORKS ON POLITICS

 $Nitis\bar{a}ra$: by Kāmandaka—written in verse with the character of a Kāvya—not later than the eighth century A.D.

Nītivākyāmṛta: by Somadeva, the author of Yaśastilaka—the details of war and kindred topics are meagrely dealt with and the author appears to be a great moral teacher.

Laghu Arnannīti: by the great Jaina writer Hemacandra (1088 A.D.—1172 A.D.)—
written in verse—an abbreviation
of another bigger work of the
author writen in Prākrit.

Yuktikalpataru: ascribed to Bhoja.

Nītiratnākara: by Caṇḍeśvara, a jurist—granduncle of Vidyāpati.

Śukranītı: of unknown authorship—a work of a very late date, mentioning the use of gunpowder.

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ture.

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

EROTICS

Α

INTRODUCTION

Vätsyäyana; Kämasütra Erotics or the science of love was specially studied in ancient India. The most outstanding work on the subject is the $K\bar{a}mas\bar{u}tra$ of Vātsyāyana who is placed sometime in the third century A.D. The work is divided into seven parts and is written in prose interspersed with stray verses. The work does not claim to have been the first to be written on that subject. The work is a mine of informations on matters relating to the social order and customs of the day.

Yaśodhara : Jayamaṅgalā Yaśodhara of the thirteenth century A.D., wrote a commentary, the Jayamangalā, on the Kāmasūtra of Vātsyāyana. Credit is due to this commentator who has explained many technical terms used by Vātsyāyana.

 $\cdot \mathbf{B}$

MINOR WORKS ON EROTICS

Pañcasāyaka: by Jyotirīśvara—later than Kşemendra.

Ratirahasya: by Kokkoka—prior to 1200 A.D.

Ratimañjari: by one Jayadeva of unknown date—sometimes identified with the poet of the Gitagovinda.

Anangaranga: by Kalyāṇamalla of the sixteenth century A.D.

Ratiśāstra · by Nāgārjuna of unknown date—often wrongly identified with the great Buddhist thinker.

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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

MEDICINE

A

HISTORY OF MEDICAL WORKS

Introduc-

A study of Vedic literature will reveal that Anatomy, Embryology and Hygiene were known to Vedic Indians. The science of Āyurveda was also looked upon as one of the auxiliary sciences to the Vedas. There are references in early literature to ancient sages who delivered instruction on the science of medicine. Ātreya is one of these sages who is usually held to be the founder of the science while Cāṇakya is said to have written on medicine. According to Buddhist tradition, Jīvaka, a student of Ātreya, was a specialist in the diseases of children.

Caraka

The earliest extant literature on medicine is the *Carakasamhitā*. Caraka, according to Professor Lévi, was a contemporary of King Kaniṣka. It is, however, known that the present text of Caraka was revised by one Dṛḍhabala, a Kāshmirian, who lived as late as the eighth or the ninth century A.D.

Suśruta is another great teacher of Indian medicine whose name occurs in the famous Bower Manuscript and who is mentioned as the son of Viśvāmitra in the *Mahābhārata*. As early as the ninth and the tenth centuries his reputation travelled far beyond India. Among his commentators, mention must be made of Cakrapāṇidatta (eleventh century A.D.), besides Jaiyyaṭa, Gayadāsa and Dallana.

Suśruta & his commentators

Bhela is another authority who is said to have written a *Sainhitā* which, in the opinion of some scholars, is earlier than the work of Caraka.

Bhela

В

LATER MEDICAL WORKS

Aṣṭāṅgasaṅngraha and Aṣṭāṅgahṛdayasaṁhitā by Vāgbhaṭa, the next : great authority after Suśruta—often identified with the medical authority referred to by I-tsing.

Rasaratnākara: by Nāgārjuna, probably of the seventh or the eighth century A.D.

—containing a section on the practical application of mercury.

Nidāna: by Mādhavakara of the eighth or the ninth century A.D.—an important treatise on Pathology.

 $Cikits\bar{a}s\bar{a}rasamgraha$: by Cakrapāṇidatta: a work on Therapeutics.

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Cikitsākalīkā: by Tisata of the fourteenth century A.D.

Bhāvaprakāśa: by Bhāvamiśra of the sixteentle century A.D.

Vaidyajīvana: by Lolimbarāja of the seventeenth century A.D.

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

$\begin{array}{c} {\bf ASTRONOMY,\ MATHEMATICS\ AND}\\ {\bf ASTROLOGY} \end{array}$

Α

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

It is not definitely known whether Astronomy was systematically studied science in Vedic times. It is as late as the sixth century A.D. when in the $Pa\tilde{n}ca$ siddhāntikā of Varāhamihira we get the information about the contents of five Siddhantas of an earlier date. It is, however, a fact that the lunar mansions were known to Vedic Indians. Dr. Weber says that the names of some asterisms occur in the Rgveda, the Satapathabrāhmaņa, the $Taittirīyasainhit\bar{a}$ and the Atharvaveda. It is presumed that with the discovery of planets, the science of Astronomy made a significant advance. Planets are mentioned Taittirīyāranyaka the two Great Epics, and the Law-books of Manu. still remains an open question, however, whether the ancient Indians discovered the planets independently of others or whether

Astronomy:

the knowledge came to them from a foreign source. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that Indian Astronomy thrived well under Greek influence.

B

WORKS ON ASTRONOMY

Āryabhaṭa : his works Before the discovery of the Panca- $siddh\bar{a}ntik\bar{a}$, \bar{A} ryabhaṭa was regarded
as the only authority on Indian Astronomy. \bar{A} ryabhaṭa wrote towards the
close of the fifth century A.D. Three of his
works now available to us are the \bar{A} rya- $bhaṭ\bar{\imath}ya$, in ten stanzas, the Dasaḡtikās $\bar{\imath}$ ttra
and the \bar{A} ryāṣṭasata in which there is a
section on Mathematics.

Āryabhaṭa : Āryasiddhānta Āryabhaṭa is to be carefully distinguished from another author of the same name who wrote the Āryasiddhānta in the tenth century A.D. and was known to Alhērūnī.

Brahmagupta: his works Brahmagupta is another great name in Indian Astronomy who in the seventh century A.D. wrote two important works, the Brahmasphuţasiddhānta and the Khandakhādyaka.

Lalla who is later than Brahmagupta, has to his credit one work the Śiṣyadhīvṛ-ddhitantra.

Lalla . Šisyadhīvṛddhitantra

To the eleventh century belong two writers Bhoja and Śatānanda whose works are respectively, the Rājāmṛgāṅka and the Bhāsvatī.

Bhoja & Satānanda:

Bhāskarācārya of 1150 A.D. wrote his masterpiece, the *Siddhāntaširomaņi*, which is divided into *four* sections. A second work of his is the *Karaṇākutūhāla*.

Bhāskara: his works

(

WORKS ON MATHEMATICS

In the field of Indian Mathematics, there are only a few names. Aryabhata was the first to include in his work a section on Mathematics. Brahmagupta has discussed the principles of ordinary Arithmetic in a brief manner. In the ninth century A.D. Mahāvīrācārya wrote an elementary but comprehensive work on Indian Mathematics. In the tenth century A.D. he wrote his Trisatī which discusses quadratic equations. It was Bhāskarācārya who in the two sections viz., Līlāvatī and Bījagaṇita of his work, the Siddhāntasiromaṇi, made

Āryabhaṭa, Brahmagupta, Mahāvīra & Bhāskara 190 AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL SANSKRIT

some lasting contributions to Indian Mathematics.

D

WORKS ON ASTROLOGY

Early works:

In India Astrology has been studied as a science from very ancient times. The works of Varāhamihira, of course, eclipsed the fame of earlier authorities whose writings are now lost to us. Fragments of one Vrddhagargasamhitā are still available. Varāhamihira classified Astrology into the three branches of Tantra—the astronomical and mathematical foundations, Horā—that dealing with horoscope and Samhitā—that discussing natural Astrology. The most outstanding contribution of Varāhamihira is the Brhatsainhitā which was commented Bhattotpala. On the Horā section Varāhamilira wrote two works, the Brhajjātaka and the Laghujātaka. Besides the works of Varahamihira, we find a reference to one Yavanajātaka of dubious authorship.

Later works

Among later works on Astrology, mention may be made of the *Horāśatapañcāśikā* by Pṛthuyaśas, son of Varāhamihira, the *Horāśāstra* by Bhaṭṭotpala, the *Vidyā*-

mādhavīya (before 1350 A.D.) the Vṛddhavāsiṣṭhasamhitā of unknown authorship, the Jyotiṣasāroddhāra of Harṣakīrti, the Jyotirvidyābharaṇa of unknown authorship (not later than the sixteenth century A.D.) and the Tājikā in two parts (the Samjñātantra and the Varṣatantra) of Nīlakaṇṭha (sixteenth century A.D.)¹

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¹ Closely associated with works on Astrology are treatises on omens and prognostications. Among such treatises are the Adbhutasāgara (twelfth century A.D.) and the Samudratilaka (twelfth century A.D.) by Durlabharāja and Jagaddeva. The Ramalarahasya of Bhayabhañjanaśarman is a work on geomancy and under the style of the Pāśakakevalī, preserved in the Bower Manuscript, are the two treatises on cubomancy.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

MISCELLANEOUS SCIENCES

Archery

It is a pity that though the Indians specialized in almost every branch of Sanskrit literature, the literature on quite a good number of minor sciences is little known to us. Thus there are no extant works on Archery. Among the authoritative writers on Archery the names of Vikramāditya, Sadāśiva and Śāraṅgadatta have reached us.

Sciences of elephants & horses

On the sciences of elephants and horses which are associated with the names of two ancient sages Pālakāpya and Sālihotra respectively, a few works are available. The Hastyāyurveda of uncertain date and the Mātaṅgalīlā of Nārāyaṇa are the two known works on the science of elephants. The Aśvāyurveda of Gaṇa, the Aśvavaidyaka of Jayadatta and of Dīpaṅkara, the Yogamanjarī of Vardhamāna and the Aśvacikitsā of Nakula are extant works on the science of horses.

The literature on Architecture is represented by the Vāstuvidyā, the Manuṣyālaya-candrikā in seven chapters, the Mayamata

Architec-

in thirty-four chapters, the Yuktikalpataru in twenty-three chapters, the Samarāngaṇa-sūtradhāra of Bhoja, the Viśvakarma-prakāśa and some sections of the Bṛhatsaṃ-hitā, the Matsyapurāṇa, the Agnipurāṇa, the Garuḍapurāṇa, the Viṣṇudharmottara, the Kāṣyapasaṃhitā, the Śilparatna of Śrīkumāra and such other works.

The science of jewels has been discussed in such works as the *Agastimata*, the *Ratnaparīkṣā* of Buddhabhaṭṭa and the *Navaratnaparīkṣā* of Nārāyaṇapaṇḍita.

Science of Jewels

Mention may be made of the Sanmukha-kalpa, a treatise on the science of stealing.

Science of Stealing

Mention should also be made of the *Nalapāka* which treats of the art of cooking.

Science of Cooking

On music there have been many important works besides the Nāṭyaśāstra. Among the more important works on this subject, mention may be made of the Saṅgītamakaranda, the Saṅgītasudarśana of Sudarśana, the Saṅgītaratnākara of Śāraṅgadeva, the Saṅgītadarpaṇa of Dāmodara and the Rāgavibodha of Somanātha.

Science of

On dancing the literature is not very extensive. Besides the *Nāṭyaśāstra*, we have the *Abhinayadarpaṇa* of Nandikeśvara,

Science of Dancing 194 AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL SANSKRIT

the $\acute{S}r\bar{\imath}hastamukt\bar{a}val\bar{\imath}$, the Nartananırnaya and a few other works.

Science of Painting On painting the *Viṣṇudharmottara*, of uncertain date, contains a chapter.

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CHAPTER TWENTY

PHILOSOPHY

Α

ORTHODOX SYSTEMS

The Nyāya system which represents the analytic type of philosophy like the Vaiśe-sika system, has a long history that extends over the vast period of twenty centuries. Indian tradition has assigned a unique status to this system and it has been universally held in high esteem and reverence.

There are <u>two</u> well-known schools of the Nyāya system and they are the old and the new. The earliest known literature of the old school are the <u>Nyāyasūtras</u> of Gautama which are divided into five books. It is believed that the <u>Nyāyasūtras</u> are as old as the third century B.C. Vātsyāyana's

¹ Dr. S. C. Vidyābhūṣaṇa believes that Gautama wrote only the first chapter of the work, and was a contemporary of Buddha. He further thinks that this Gautama is the same as the author of the *Dharma-sūtras*, who lived in Mithilā in the sixth century B.C. He suggests that Gautama's original views are contained in the *Carakasainhitā* (*Vimānasthāna*). But the *Carakasainhitā* itself has suffered considerable re-

I Nyāya

Introduction

Works on Nyaya: (a) Old school

Nyāyabhāsya is the most important commentary on the Nyāyasūtras of Gautama and it is presumed that the work written before 400 A.D. Vātsyāyana's views were vehemently criticized by Dignāga, the famous Buddhist logician, whose probable date is not later than the fifth century A.D. Uddyotakara wrote his Nyāyavārttika in the sixth century A.D. with the sole object of defending Vātsyāyana against the criticisms of Dignāga. It was Dharmakirti, another noted Buddhist logician, who took up the cause of Dignaga and wrote his Nyāyabindu in the latter part of the sixth century A.D. Probably Uddyotakara and Dharmakirti were contemporaries

fashioning and its date is uncertain. Professor Jacobi believes that the $Ny\bar{a}yas\bar{u}tras$ and the $Ny\bar{a}yabh\bar{u}sya$ belong to about the same time perhaps separated by a generation. He places them between the second century A.D. when the doctrine of $S\bar{u}$ nya developed, and the fifth century A.D. when the doctrine of $Vij\bar{n}\bar{a}$ na was systematized. Professor Suali also supports Professor Jacobi and refers the work to 300 A.D. According to Professor Garbe the date is 100 A.D. MM. Haraprasāda $S\bar{a}$ strin believes that the work has undergone several redactions. Professor Radhakrishnan places it (though not in the present form) in the fourth century B.C.

who mutually referred to each other. A commentary on the Nyāyabindu was written in the ninth century by the Buddhist logician Dharmottara. It was in the first half of the ninth century A.D. that Vacaspati, a versatile genius and most prolific writer, came to write his Nyāyavārttikatātparya $t\bar{\imath}k\bar{a}$, a super-commentary on the Nyāyavārttika of Uddyotakara and gave a sufficient stimulus to the orthodox line of thought by writing his Nyāyasūcīnibandha (841 A.D.) and Nyāyasūtroddhāra. Udayana who is noted for his trenchant logic and convincing presentation of facts, wrote a commentary on Vācaspati's Nyāyavārttikatātparyatīkā, known as the Nyāyavārttikatātparyapariśuddhi in the last part of the tenth century (984 A.D.). The Nyāyakusumānjali, the Atmatattvaviveka, the Kiraṇāvalī and the Nyāyapariśista are four other well-known works of Udayana. Jayanta is the next great name after Udayana and he wrote the Nyāyamanjarī in the tenth century A.D. He is admitted to have been a Bengali by origin. Bhasarvajña's Nyāyasāra is a survey of Indian logic. The author was Kāshmir Saivite of the tenth century A.D.

Gangesa is the father of the new school

Works on Nyāya: (b)New school

of the Nyāya system (Navyanyāya) which flourished mainly in Bengal. His Tattvacintāmaņi is a magnum opus which was written in the last quarter of the twelfth century A.D. The work discusses primarily the four means of knowledge admitted in the Nyaya system. His son Vardhamana (1225 A.D.) continued the tradition by writing commentaries on the treatises of Udayana and Gangesa. Jayadeva with Paksadhara (sometimes identified Miśra) of Mithila wrote his Aloka on the Tattvacintāmaņi in the latter part of the thirteenth century A.D. Vasudeva Sarvabhauma, a Bengali Brāhmana, wrote his Tattvacintāmaņivyākhyā—the first work of the Navadvipa (Nadia) school. Hehad at least three distinguished pupils: Śri-Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the famous Vaisnava saint and founder of the Gaudiya Vaisnava school, Raghunātha Siromani, the great logician and Kṛṣṇānanda Āgamavāgīśa, the author of the Tantrasāra. Raghunātha wrote two outstanding works, viz, the Dīdhīti and the Padārthakhandana in the fifteenth century A.D. Jagadiśa (end of the sixteenth century A.D). and Gadadhara (seventeenth century A.D.) are reputed

thinkers of the modern school, who wrote beside many commentaries, the Śabdaśakti-prakāśikā and the Vyāptipancaka respectively. Viśvanātha's Nyāyasūtravṛtti (1634 A.D.) is another important work.

The logicians of the old school recognize sixteen categories while those of modern school who have been greatly influenced by the Vaisesika system, reduce them to seven only. The logicians of both schools accept four means of proof, viz., perception (pratyaksa) inference (anumāna) analogy (upamāna) and verbal testimony (śabda). They do not admit of the selfmanifestation of a cognition. Like the Vaiśesika, the Nyāya regards the world as a composite of external, unchangeable and causeless atoms. The soul in the Nyāya system is a 'real substantive being' which has certain qualities. The God (Īśvara) is the Supreme Spirit or the Universal Soul who acts as the Creator of the universe in the capacity of an efficient cause (nimittakārana), while the atoms the material cause are (upādānakāraṇa). A true knowledge (tattvajñāna) of the categories leads to the liberation (mukti) of the soul in bondage, and the liberated soul is essentially conscious.

Fundamental concepts of Nyāya II Vaiśeşika

Introduction The Vaiśeṣika system which is also called the Aulukya philosophy, is closely akin to the Nyāya system. It is, however, presumed that the earliest extant literature of this system is older than what is available in the Nyāya system. Thus while the Vaiśeṣikasūtras of Kaṇāda (Kaṇabhakṣa, Kaṇabhuk or Kāśyapa) and the Padārthadharmasamgraha of Praśastapāda, evince no influence of the Nyāya system, the Nyāyasūtras of Gautama and the Bhāṣya of Vātsyāyana betray the fact that they have been greatly influenced by the views of the Vaiśeṣika system.

Works on Vaiśeșika The Vaisesikasūtras of Kaṇāda which are of unknown date but are generally assigned to a date which is later than 300 B.C., received additions from time to time. They are divided into ten books. The work of Praśastapāda which is generally regarded as a commentary on the Vaisesikasūtras may be viewed as an original contribution to the Vaiśesika system. Praśastapāda is usually assigned to the end of the fourth century A.D., though Dr. Keith makes him later than Dignāga, but earlier than Uddyotakara. There are four noted commentaries on the work of Praśastapāda and they are

(1) the Vyomavatī by Vyomasivācārya alias Vyomaśekhara or Śivāditya (of unknown date, probably of the ninth century A.D.), (2) the Nyāyakandalī by Śrīdhara (last part of the tenth century A.D.), (3) the Kiranāvalī and the Laksanāvalī by Udayana (last part of the tenth century A.D.) and (4) the Nyāyalīlāvatī by Śrīvatsa or Vallabha (probably towards the end of the tenth or the beginning of the eleventh century A.D.). Sankara's Upaskāra (latter half of the fifteenth century A.D.) is one important commentary on the Vaisesikasūtras of Kanāda. Laugāksi Bhāskara's Tarkakaumudī is another work based on Praśastapāda's treatise.

Among manuals belonging to both Nyāya and Vaiśeṣika systems of Indian philosophy, may be mentioned Śivāditya's Saptapadārthī (eleventh century A.D.) Varadarāja's Tārkikarakṣā, Keśavamiśra's Tarkabhāṣā (thirteenth or fourteenth century A.D.), Annambhaṭṭa's Tarkasamgraha and Dīpikā (sixteenth or seventeenth century A.D.), Jagadīśa's Tarkāmṛta (1635 A.D.) and Viśvanātha's Bhāṣāpariccheda or Kārikāvalī (seventeenth century A.D.) and its famous commentary Siddhāntamuktāvalī by him-

Manuals of Nyāya & Vaiśeşika self. Jayanārāyaṇa's (seventeenth century A.D.) *Vivṛti* is another important compendium of the Vaiśeṣika school.

Fundamental concepts of Vaisesika

The Vaiśesika system which in broader details agrees with the Nyāya, accepts six categories to which a seventh was added later on. It recognizes only two means of knowledge, viz., perception and inference. It does not accept verbal testimony as an independent means of proof, but as one included in inference. Both the Vaiśesika and the Naiyāyika are advocates of what is known in philosophical terms as Asatkāryavāda (the doctrine of the creation of the nonexistent effect) and Ārambhavāda doctrine of initiation which makes the universe an effect newly produced from the eternal atoms). In the state of liberation, the soul in Vaisesika conception retains consciousness $(j\tilde{n}\bar{a}na)$, while in the Nyāya view the released soul is conscious.

III Sāṅkhya

Introduction The Sāṅkhya system is universally believed to be the oldest of the existing systems of Indian philosophy. The Sāṅkhya views are found in the Upaniṣads, in the Mahābhārata, in the Law-books of Manu and in the medical works of Caraka and others. Indian tradition ascribes the

authorship of the system to the sage Kapila, an incarnation of Lord Viṣṇu. The successors of Kapila were Āsurī, Pañca-śikha, Gārgya and Ulūka. Professor Garbe makes Pañcaśikha a contemporary of the great Mīmānisist Śabarasvāmin (sometime between 100 a.d. and 300 a.d.). Chinese tradition ascribes the authorship of the Saṣṭhītantra to Pañcaśikha, while Vārṣagaṇya gets the same credit in other's opinion.

The Sāṅkhyakārikā is the earliest known work of the Sāṅkhya system. It is believed that Īśvarakṛṣṇa wrote this work in the third century A.D.¹ An important commentary on the Kārikā is that of Gauḍapāda.² The Māṭharavṛṭṭi is another commentary which is regarded by some to be the source of Gauḍapāda's commentary while others

Works on Sāṅkhya

¹ A Chinese tradition ascribes to Vindhyavāsin the writing of a work of Vārṣagaṇya. Professor Takakusu indentifies Vindhyavāsin with Īśvarakṛṣṇa. In that case the Kārikā of Īśvarakṛṣṇa has an earlier basis. Guṇaratna, however, regards Vindhyavāsin and Īśvarakṛṣṇa as different. Īśvarakṛṣṇa was earlier than Vasubandhu who is now assigned to the fourth century A.D. The Kārīkā was translated into Chinese by Paramārtha (sixth century A.D.)

² Whether he is the same as the author of the

assign a later date to it. Yet another commentary on the Sānkhyakārikā is the Yuktidīpikā which is wrongly ascribed to Vācaspati. The Sānkhyatattvakaumudī of Vācaspati (middle of the ninth century A.D.) is a most popular work of this Another popular work is the Sānkhyapravacanasūtra which contains six chapters. The authorship of this work is attributed to one Kapila. But this Kapila cannot be identical with the founder sage of this system, for the work cannot but be assigned to such a late date as the fourteenth century A.D.; since it is not referred to even in the Sarvadarkanasaingraha of Madhava (fourteenth century A.D.). Aniruddha's Sānkhyasūtravrtti which was composed in the fifteenth century A.D., is an important work commenting on the Sānkhyapravacanasūtra. the Sānkhyapravacanabhāsya of Vijnanabhikṣu, (sixteenth century A.D.) a commentary on the $S\bar{a}\dot{n}khyapravacanas\bar{u}tra$, is the most important work of the system. Vijñanabhiksu wrote another work on Sānkhva known as the Sānkhyasāra.

 $M\bar{a}nd\bar{u}kyak\bar{a}rik\bar{a}$ cannot be decided, and some seek to place him in the eighth century A.D.

The Sānkhya system is essentially dualistic, inasmuch as it speaks of Puruşa (Spirit) and Prakṛti (Matter) as the two Ultimate Realities. The fundamental position of this system is that 'cause' is the entity in which 'effect' lies in a subtle system advocates the Thus this doctrine of Satkaryavada. The world is said to be the evolution of Prakrti which is its material cause. Prakrti has been described to be of the nature of equilibrium of the triple Gunas, sattva (purity-stuff), rajas (passion-stuff) and tamas (inertia-stuff). Purusa is defined as Pure Spirit which is different from Prakṛti and Puruṣas are many in number. A Supreme Spirit (Īśvara) or God is not admitted to exist in so many words. The Sānkhya system acknowledges the authority of three means of knowledge, viz.. perception, inference and verbal testimony.

The Yoga and the Sānkhya systems are used as complementary aspects of one whole system. While the Sānkhya system signifies 'theory', the Yoga signifies 'practice'. In the Upaniṣads, the Mahābhārata, the Jaina and the Buddhist literatures, Yoga practices have been mentioned.

The Yogasūtras of Patanjali form the

Fundamental concepts of Sankhya

IV Yoga

Introduc-

Works on Yoga earliest extant literature on the Yoga system. $Yogas\bar{u}tras$ are divided into four chapters known as Samādhi (Concentration), Sādhana (Practice), Vibhūti (Miraculous Powers) and Kaivalya (Emancipation). It was Vyāsa who, according to modern scholars, is said to have written a masterly commentary on the Yogasūtras about the fourth century A.D., though traditionally he is believed to be the same as the author of the Mahābhārata. Vācaspati wrote an interesting and learned gloss on the Vyāsabhāsya known as the Tattvavaišāradī. Nagesabhatta of the eighteenth century A.D., wrote another gloss on the Vyāsabhāsya known as the *Chāyā*. Other important works on the Yoga system are the Rājamārtanda of Bhoja (eleventh century A.D.) and the Yogavārttika and the Yogasārasaingraha of Vijňanabhiksu (sixteenth century A.D). Vijnanabhiksu criticizes Vacaspati and

¹ It is traditionally believed that Patañjali, the author of the $Yogas\bar{u}tras$ is the same person as the great grammarian of that name who wrote the $Mah\bar{a}bh\bar{a}sya$ in the middle of the second century B.C. But there is no positive evidence to prove the identity and some modern scholars are positively against this

brings the Yoga system nearer to the philosophy of the Upanisads.

The Yoga system discusses how through mèthodical effort of concentration of mind we can attain perfection. It teaches us how to control the different elements of human nature both physical and psychical. Yoga system explains fully the principles according to which 'the physical body, the active will and the understanding mind are to be harmonically brought under control'. is technically known by This name Royal Yoga (Rajayoga). There is yet a magical side of Yoga (Hathayoga) which describes how to perform miracles of various nature. Too much indulgence in this Haṭhayoga serves as an obstacle to the attainment of real Perfection.

The Yoga system materially differs from the Sāṅkhya at least in one essential point, viz., that while the latter system does not explicitly speak anything of God, the former regards God as a third category besides

Rājayoga & Haṭhayoga

Yoga & Sāńkhya : comparison

view. Bhoja in the introductory verses of the $R\bar{a}jam\bar{a}r$ -tanda makes a suggestion to the effect that Patañjali (author of the $Mah\bar{a}bh\bar{a}sya$), Patañjali (author of the $Yogas\bar{u}tras$), and Caraka (author of the $Carakasamhit\bar{a}$) are identical.

Prakṛti and Puruṣa and holds that devotion to the Lord is also one of the means of Release (Kaivalya).)

V Pūrvamimāmsā

Introduction

Works on Pürvamimāmsā The Pūrvamīmānisā, Karmamīmānisā or the Mīmānisā system mainly interprets and explains Vedic injunctions and their applications, and as such it has a unique importance of its own.

The earliest literature on the Pūrvaare the Pūrvamīmāmsāsūtras mimānisā of Jaimini who, according to modernscholars, wrote in all probability in the fourth century B.C. The orthodox tradition, however, makes Jaimini a disciple of Vyāsa, the author of the Mahābhārata. It is held by some that the *Mīmāmsāsūtras* are later than both the Nyāyasūtras and the Yogasūtras. Śabara wrote his commentary on the Mīmāmsāsūtras probably in the first century B.C. Professor Jacobi thinks that the Vrtti quoted by Sabara, belongs to a period between 200 A.D. and 500 A.D., while Dr. Keith holds 400 A.D. to be the earliest date for it. Śabara's predecessors were Upavarsa, Bodhāvana, Bhartymitra, Bhavadāsa Hari. MM. Sir Ganganath Jha identifies Bhayadasa with the Vrttikara referred to in the Śābarabhāṣya. Both the Mīmāmsāsūtras and the Bhāṣya were interpreted differently by three different schools of thought associated with the names of Prabhākara, Kumārila and Murāri. The school of Murāri is known by name alone.

Prabhākara who was called 'Gaudaınımanısaka' and 'Guru' wrote the Brhatı a commentary on the Bhāsya of Śabara, probably about 600 A.D. According to some Prabhākara preceded Kumārila, while the tradition runs that he was a pupil of Kumārila. Śālikanātha's *Rjuvimalā* which is a commentary on the $Brhat\bar{\imath}$, was written about the ninth century A.D. Another important work of the same author is the Prakaranapañcikā, a good and useful manual of the Prābhākara system. Śālikanātha has referred to Dharmakirti. Bhavanātha's Nayaviveka (c. 1050 A.D.—1150 A.D.) is another important work of this school. Vacaspati in his Nyāyakanikā differentiates between two subschools of the Prābhākaras, viz., old and new.

Kumārila is a great name in Indian philosophy, noted for his spirited zeal for Brāhmaṇical orthodoxy. It was he who fought courageously against the onslaughts of Buddhism, and but for the stand he took up, much of Brāhmaṇical heritage of which

Prābhākara school

Bhāţţa school

we feel proud today, would have been lost. Kumārila's Ślokavārttika, Tantra $v\bar{a}rttika$ and $Tupt\bar{i}k\bar{a}$ are the three great works. The first one, which is in verse, is a commentary on the first part of the first chapter of the $M\bar{\imath}m\bar{a}ins\bar{a}s\bar{u}tras$. The second which is in prose, occasionally interspersed with verses, takes us to the end of the third chapter, while the third covers the rest. Kumārila is earlier than Sankara and is usually assigned to 750 A.D., though some new data point to the fact that he lived in the seventh century A.D. The Ślokavārttika was commented upon by Umbeka or Bhavabhūti (eighth century A.D.), by Sucaritamiśra (not later than the middle of the thirteenth century A.D.) in his Kāśikā and by Parthasarathimisra (according to the orthodox tradition, tenth century A.D.; according to Professor Radhakrishnan, 1300 A.D.) in his Nyāyaratnākara. The Tantravārttika was commented upon by Bhavadevablatta (eleventh century A.D.) in his Tautātitamatatilaka and by Someśvarabhatta (c. 1200 A.D.) in his Nyāyasudhā. Venkatadiksita wrote his commentary on the Tupţīkā known as the Vārttikābharaņa. Mandana (eighth century A.D.) is the next great

name after Kumārila who is reported to be Maṇḍana's teacher and father-in-law. Maṇḍana who is earlier than Vācaspati and is traditionally identified with Sureśvara and Viśvarūpa, wrote his Vidhiviveka, Bhāvanāviveka, Vibhramaviveka and Mīmāmsānukramaṇī.¹ The first was commented upon by Vācaspati in his Nyāyakaṇikā.

Among independent works the on Mīmāinsā system, may be mentioned the Śāstradīpikā of Pārthasārathimiśra, the Jaiminīyanyāyamālā of Mādhava (fourteenth century A.D.), the *Upakramaparākrama* and the Vidhirasāyana of Appayyadīksita, the Mīmāmsānyāyaprakāśa of Āpodeva (seventeenth century A.D.), the Arthasamgraha of Laugāksibhāskara (seventeenth century A.D.), the Bhātṭadīpikā, the Mīmāmsākaustubha and the Bhāṭṭarahasya of Khandadeva (seventeenth century A.D.), the Bhāttacintāmani of Gāgābhatta (seventeenth century A.D.), the Manameyodaya of Narayanabhatta (seventeenth century A.D.) and the Mīmāmsāparibhāsā of Kṛṣṇayajvan (eighteenth century A.D.). Ramakṛṣṇabhaṭṭa, author of the Yukti-

Independent works on Mimāṁsā

¹ The Sphotasiddhi of Mandana which explains the grammarian's doctrine of Sphota is an important work.

snehaprapūraņī, Somanātha, author of the Mayūkhamālikā, Dinakarabhaṭṭa and Kamalākarabhaṭṭa belong to the Bhāṭṭa school.

Important concepts of Mimāmsā The Pūrvamīmāmsā system recognizes the self-validity of knowledge. Jaimini accepts only three means of knowledge—perception, inference and verbal testimony. To these three Prabhākara adds two more, viz., comparison (upamāna) and implication (arthāpatti). Kumārila also recognizes nonapprehension (anupalabdhi) as a means of knowledge.) It is generally believed that the Pūrvamīmāmsā has not accorded any significant status to God, though, in the Vedāntasūtras, Jaimini has been represented as theistic in his views. 1

VI Vedānta

Introduction The Uttaramīmānisā, Brahmamīmānisā or the Vedānta is the most popular of all orthodox systems of Indian philosophy. The earliest teachers of the school were Āśmarathya, Bādari, Kāṣṇājimi, Kāśakṛtsna, Auḍulomi and Ātreya. These teachers along with Jaimini are mentioned in the Vedāntasūtras.

Scholars differ with regard to the age when the Vedāntasūtras or the Brahmasūtras

¹ Introduction to the Pūrvamīmāmsā, Dr. Pashupatinath Shastri, pp. 132-8.

of Bādarāyaṇa were composed. Modern Indian scholars are inclined to assign as early a date as the sixth century B.C., while others would prefer to fix the date between 400 B.C. and 200 A.D.¹

The Vedāntasūtras contain four chapters. The first discusses the Brahman as the Ultimate Reality. The second deals with objections raised by rival schools of philosophy. The third proposes to study the means of attaining Brahmavidyā, while the fourth discusses the results of Brahmavidyā. The Vedāntasūtras are in intimate agreement with the teachings of the Upaniṣads. As such Bādarāyaṇa has evinced his great and abiding reverence for the Vedas. Unlike the Sānkhya, the Vedānta

The Vedāntasūtras

¹ The orthodox Indian tradition makes the author identical with Vyāsa, the author of the Mahābhārata. Śaṅkarācārya, however, does not clearly state anywhere that Vyāsa (or, Kṛṣṇadvaipāyana born as an incarnation of the Vedic sage Apāntaratamas by the direction of Lord Viṣṇu) was the author of the Brahmasūtras. He calls this author invariably as Bādarāyaṇa and never as Vyāsa and does not explicitly say that the two are identical. But Vācaspati, Ānandagiri, Rāmānuja, Madhva, Vallabha and Baladeva identify Bādarāyaṇa with Vyāsa.

Bādarāyana champions the cause of monism when he holds that it is the One Brahman which is the Transcendent Reality. Bādarāyana openly refutes the Sānkhya doctrine which conceives Purusa and Prakrti as two independent entities. The conception of Maya as the illusory principle which shuts out the vision of the Brahman and reflects It as many, is a great contribution to the philosophical thought of the world. The world exists so long as the vision of the Brahman does not dawn upon us. While the Sankhya maintains that the world is an evolution (parināma) of Prakṛti, the Vedānta holds that the world ลุก appearance (vivarta) of the Brahman.

Early teachers of Vedanta

Among the early teachers of Vedanta mention must be made of Gaudapada who in his famous Kārikās has made a systematic treatment of the monistic Vedanta. Another important author is Bhartrhari (probably belonging to the first part of the seventh century A.D.) who is said to have written a commentary on the Brahmasūtras. author hinted at by Sankara is another Bhartrprapañca according to whom is at once, one and dual. Brahman him Sankara Besides speaks of

Vṛttikāra, who remains even now unidentified.

The greatest of all thinkers on monistic Vedanta is Śańkara who, according to Professor Max Müller and other modern scholars. wrote his immortal Sarīrakabhāsya during 788 A.D.—820 A.D. The orthodox tradition. however, assigns him to the latter half of the seventh century A.D. (686 A.D.—720 A.D). Besides the philosophical insight which marks his writings, his style and diction have always lent a unique distinction to them. Sankara has written commentaries the ten major Upanisads and his commentary on the Brhadāranyakopanisad has, in particular, attracted the attention of many an able thinker. Sankara's expositions have earned for him a distinction which may be described in this way that by the expression Vedanta we seem invariably to understand his views on it.

The \dot{Sar} rakabhāşya was commented upon by two schools of thought known as

¹ Whether he is the same as Upavarṣa, a brother of Varṣa, the teacher of Pāṇini, or Bodhāyana, or whether the two sages are identical, or whether there was a third author who passed as Vṛttikāra, cannot be definitely ascertained.

Šankara : age & works

Vivaraņa school

the Vivarana school and the Bhāmatī school. The original source of the former school is found in the Pañcapādikā of Padmapāda who is said to have composed the commentary on the first five quarters (padas) of the Brahmasūtra-śārīrakabhāsya of which only the commentary on the first four Sūtras are now available. The age of Padmapada is about the end of the seventh and the beginning of the eighth century A.D., as he is represented as the senior-most disciple of Śaṅkara. The Vivarana which is a gloss on the Pañcapādikā, was composed by Prakāśātman (probably, ninth century A.D.; 1200 A.D. according Professor Radhakrishnan). to According to him the Brahman is both the content (visaya) and the locus (āsraya) of Maya. Vidyaranya who is generally identified with Madhava (fourteenth century A.D.), wrote a summary on the Vivarana known as the Vivaranaprameyasaingraha.

Bhāmatī school The Bhāmatī school has been well represented in the *Bhāmatī* of Vācaspati, the *Kalpataru* and the *Śāstradarpaṇa* of Amalānanda (thirteenth century A.D.) and the *Parimala* of Appayyadīkṣita (ṣixteenth—seventeenth century A.D.).

The literature on monistic Vedanta, as

interpreted by Sankara, is extremely rich. Suresvara (who is traditionally identified with Mandana who later became a disciple of Sankara), wrote his Taittirīyopanisadbhāsyavārttika, Brhadāranyakabhāsyavārttika and Naiskarmyasiddhi about the end of the seventh or the beginning of the eighth century A.D. Mandana's Brahmasiddhi is an outstanding work in which he puts forward many original ideas. The Samksepaśārīraka was written in verse by Sarvajňatmamuni in the ninth century A.D. The Istasiddhi of Avimuktātman (or Vimuktātman) is another notable work of the school. In 1190 A.D. Śri-Harsa who is noted for his trenchant logic and Advaita polemics, composed his Khandanakhandakhādya—a masterly contribution. In the thirteenth century A.D. Citsukha wrote on the same lines his Pratyaktattvapradīpikā or Citsukhī. In the fourteenth century A.D. Vidyāranya wrote his Pañcadaśī, a highly popular work in verse, and the Jīvanmuktiviveka, a work of considerable importance. Vidyāranya and his teacher Bharatitirtha jointly wrote the

Works on Monistic Vedānta

¹ Some would rather place him in the first half of the ninth century A.D.

Vaiyāsikanyāyamālā. The Vedāntasāra of Sadananda, is a good manual of monistic Vedanta. It was composed in the fifteenth century A.D. Another epistemological manual on monistic Vedanta is the Vedantaparibhāṣā which was composed by Dharmarajadhvarindra in the sixteenth century A.D. Rāmakṛṣna (sixteenth—seventeenth son century A.D.) wrote the commentary Śikhāmaņi on it. Ānandagīri's Nyāyanirņaya (fourteenth century A.D.) and Govindananda's Ratnaprabhā (fifteenth century A.D.) are two other commentaries on Sankara's Brahmasūtrabhāsya. Prakāšānanda's Siddhāntamuktāvalī (fifteenth century A.D.) and Appayyadīksita's Nyāyarakṣāmaņi and Siddhāntalesasamgraha are other valuable manuals of the monistic school. Madhusūdana Sarasvatī, a Bengali of the sixteenth century A.D., wrote his monumental work the Advaitasiddhi which contains an intricate and abstruse criticism of the rival school of Madhva as represented in the Nyāyāmṛta of Vyāsatīrtha or Vyāsarāja (last part of the fifteenth century A.D.). The Gaudabrahmānandī or Laghucandrikā of Brahmananda, is a defence of the Advaitasiddhi against the criticism of Rāmācārya. (alias Rāmatīrtha or Vyāsarāma) in his $Tarangin\bar{\imath}$ (latter part of the sixteenth century A.D.).

The Brahmasūtras of Bādarāyaṇa have been differently interpreted by a number of great thinkers of different schools, all of whom wrote their works after Śaṅkara. One such thinker was Bhāskara who wrote his Bhāṣya sometime about the end of the eighth or the first part of the ninth century A.D. Bhāskara was a champion of the doctrine of the simultaneous identity and difference (Bhedābhedavāda).

Rāmānuja is another great commentator on the Brahmasūtras whose age is assigned to the eleventh century A.D. His philosophy is based on the doctrine of qualified monism (Viśiṣṭādvaitavāda) according to which God is the one Reality, but is a composite of the conscious individual selves and the non-conscious material world. Rāmānuja's chief sources of inspiration were the Tāmil Gāthās of the Āļvāras or Vaiṣṇava saints of South India, the chief of them being Nāthamuni and Yāmunācārya (tenth century A.D.). The name of his commentary is the Śrībhāṣya. The Śrutaprakāśikā

Schools of Vedānta (i) Bhāskara

(ii) Rāmānuja of Sudarśana (thirteenth century A.D.) is a well-known gloss on the Śrībhāṣya. Veṅkaṭanātha Vedāntadeśika (thirteenth century A.D.) was perhaps the greatest successor of Rāmānuja. He was the author of the Śatadūṣaṇī, the Tattvaṭīkā (a commentary on the Śrībhāṣya) and the Seśvaramīmāmsā.

(iii) Nimbārka Nimbārka is another commentator on the Brahmasūtras. His commentary is called the Vedāntapārijātasaurabha. He advocates the doctrine of dualistic nondualism (Dvaitādvaitavāda) which is somewhat akin to the view of Bhāskara with but minor technical differences. Nimbārka lived about the eleventh century A.D. His disciple Śrīnivāsācārya wrote a commentary known as the Vedāntakaustubha. Keśavakāśmīrin, a follower of this school (fifteenth century A.D.), wrote a commentary on the Gītā known as the Tattvaprakāśikā.

One more commentator on the *Brahma-sūtras* is Madhva who was born in 1199 A.D. Besides the commentary he wrote, he justified his interpretation in another work called the *Aṇuvyākhyāna*. He advocates the theory of pure dualism (Dvaitavāda).

(iv) Madhva

Yet another commentator is Vallabha who lived in the last part of the fifteenth

century and the first part of the sixteenth century A.D. His commentary is called the Anubhāsya. The theory he advocates is pure non-dualism (Śuddhādvaitavāda). He looks upon the world as a reality which is in its subtlest form the Brahman.

Last, though not the least, is the school of the Gaudiya Vaisnavas who advocate the doctrine of inscrutable identify and difference (v) Gaudiya (Acintyabhedābhedavāda). Though they call themselves a branch of the Madhya school yet in views they are more akin to the school of Nimbarka and sometimes follow Śańkara also. The school traces its origin to the teachings of Śri-Kṛṣṇa-Caitanya who flourished in Bengal in the sixteenth century A.D. In the Gaudiya Vaiṣṇava school, Rūpagosvāmin, a contemporary and disciple of Śrī-Caitanya, was a great versatile scholar who wrote many works on drama, rhetoric and philosophy. His Vaiṣṇavatoṣiṇī, a commentary on the tenth chapter of the Bhāgavata, is an important contribution to literature of the Gaudiya Vaisnavas. the His nephew and disciple Jivagosvāmin also was a great scholar and a prolific writer. His six Sandarbhas (Kramasandarbha, Tattvasandarbha, Bhaktisandarbha, etc.,) and

the Sarvasamvādinī are outstanding works on Gaudīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy. Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa (eighteenth century A.D.) wrote the Govindabhāṣya, the commentary on the Brahmasūtras, written according to the Gaudīya Vaiṣṇava point of view. His Prameyaratnāvalī is also a popular work.

В

HETERODOX SYSTEMS

Buddhism

Introduc-

Buddhists are the followers The Gotama Buddha who preached his doctrines in the language of the people sometime in the sixth and the fifth centuries B.C. Buddhist Canonical literature or the Tipitaka which was written in Pali, has three divisions: (1) the Vinayapitaka, (2) the Suttapitaka and (3) the Abhidhammapitaka. Besides the Canonical works, the Buddhist literature possesses a rich number of non-Canonical works which were also written in Pali. It must be mentioned here that the Buddhist literature has a still wider scope and it includes fairly a long list of Sanskrit works an account of which has already been set forth in a previous chapter.1

¹ Chap. V, pp. 51-75.

The Buddhist philosophers are broadly divided into the four schools—the Sautrantikas, the Vaibhāsikas, the Mādhyamikas and the Yogācāras. Like Jainism, Buddhism also does not accept the authority of the Vedas. The Buddhists acknowledge only twomeans of knowledge—perception and infer-Though there are sharp lines of ence. demarcation among the four - schools referred to above, they are unanimous in their attitude against Brahmanic culture. I-tsing, the Chinese traveller, says-Those who worship the Bodhisattvas and read the Mahāyānasūtras are the Mahāvānists and those who do not perform such acts, are the Hinayanists. The Mahayanists are divided into two branches—(1) Madhyamika and (2) Yogācāra. The Hīnavānists also have two divisions—(1) Vaibhāsika and (2) Sautrāntika. Both are called Sarvāstivādins.

The Vaibhāṣikas reject the authority of the Sūtras and attach themselves to the Vibhāṣā, the commentary on the Abhīdhamma. Kātyāyanīputra's Jňānaprasthāna (composed about three hundred years after Buddha's Nirvāṇa) is their chief work. The commentary Mahāvibhāṣā was compiled by five hundred Arhats led by Vasumitra, pro-

Four schools of Buddhism

> (i) Vaibhāșika

bably after the great council under Kaniska. Fragments of *Udānavagga*, *Dhammapada*, *Ekottarāgama*, Aśvaghoṣa's *Buddhacarita* and Āryaśūra'ś *Jātakamālā* seem to belong to this school. Bhadanta (third century A.D.) Dharmatrāta and Ghoṣaka are other prominent exponents of this school.

(ii) Sautrāntika

According to Hiuen Tsang (Yuan Chwang) Kumaralata (or Kumaralabdha), a contemporary of Nāgārjuna, was the founder of the Sautrantika school. The Sautrantikas derive their name from the fact that they take their stand on the Sūtras. To be precise, unlike the Vaibhāṣikas, they adhere to the Suttapiţaka, (the section consisting of the discourses of Lord Buddha) to the rejection of the two other Pitakas. It is unfortunate that all works of this school are no longer extant. Dharmottara, the logician, and Yasomitra, the author of the commentary on Vasubandhu's Abhidharmakosa, are said to be the followers of this school.

(iii) Mādhyamika The founder of the Mādhyamika school was Nāgārjuna who is said to have written the Śatasāhasrikā-prajňāpāramitā, the latest of the Mahāyānasūtras. It may be mentioned in this connection that the *Prajňāpāramitās* declare that the highest wisdom consists of

the knowledge of Void (Śūnyatā). The most representative work of the Madhyamika school is the Mādhyamikakārikā or the Mādhyamikasūtra of Nāgārjuna which consists of four hundred verses in twenty-seven chapters. Nāgārjuna wrote a commentary of his own work, which is named the Akutobhaya. Unfortunately the has not come down to us in Sanskrit. Among other works written by Nagarjuna are the Yuktisastikā, the Śūnyatāsaptati, the Pratītyasamutpādahrdaya, the Mahāyānavimsaka and the Vigrahavyāvartanī. Nāgārjuna is usually placed between the first century B.C (according to the tradition preserved in the archives of the Dalai-Lama) and the fourth century A.D. (according to Dr. S. C. Vidyābhūṣaṇa). In any case he cannot be later than 401 A.D., when Kumārajīva translated his life into Chinese. Śantideva (seventh century A.D.), the author of the Bodhicaryāvatāra and the Śiksāsamuccaya, is named sometimes as a Mādhyamika and sometimes as an advocate of the Yogacara doctrine. The commentary named the Prasannapadā, written by Candrakirti in the sixth or the seventh century A.D., is an important contribution to the Mādhyamika literature. Āryadeva who

is a disciple of Nāgārjuna, wrote the Catukśataka which is another important work of
the Mādhyamika school. It was commented
on by Candrakīrti. Other works by Āryadeva
are the Cittaviśuddhiprakarana, the Hastavālaprakarana and two other small treatises
constituting a kind of commentary on some
sections of the Lankāvatāra.

(iv) Yogācāra

The founder of the Yogacara school was Maitreyanatha, the teacher of Asanga who is generally believed to have clearly expressed the implications of his system. Asanga is at least as late as the third century A.D., though some would place him in the fourth or the fifth century A.D. According to the school nothing exists beyond Yogācāra consciousness $(vijh\bar{a}na)$. The Abhisamayālankārakārikās and probably the text of the Mahāyānasūtrālankāra attributed by Professor Lévi to Asanga and the Yoqācārabhītmiśāstra, a prose work after manner of the Abhidharma text, are the works of Maitreyanātha.¹ Aśvaghoṣa

¹ The name of Asanga has become more famous than that of his teacher Maitreyanātha. This explains why the works of the latter are attributed to the former. According to the Tibetans and Hiuen Tsang the Yogācārabhūmiśāstra has been ascribed to Asanga.

was a follower of the Yogacara school who wrote among other works the Mahāyānaśraddhotpādasūtra as detailed in a previous chapter. Vasubandhu Asanga is a great name in Buddhist literature who is assigned to the fourth century A.D., though some place him in the fifth century A.D. His work the Abhidharmakośa in six hundred verses which has not reached us in the Sanskrit original, is a lasting contribution to Buddhist philosophy. In this work the author has refuted chiefly the views of the Vaiśesikas. The Sānkhya theory has been criticized in his Paramārthasaytati. Yaśomitra wrote a commentary on the Abhidharmakośa known as the Abhidharmakośaryākhyā, the earliest translation of which into Chinese was done in the sixth century A.D. The work is highly important as it enables us to know the views of the Vaibhāsikas and the Sautrāntikas. Vasubandhu wrote his monumental treatise, the Vijhaptimātratāsiddhi consisting of two works the Viinsatikā and the Trimsikā which explain the doctrine of the reality of conother works, ciousness. A few Pañcaskandhaprakaraṇa, the Vyākhyāyukti,

¹ Ch. V. p. 66

the Karmasiddhiprakaraya and two commentaries on the Mahāyānasūtrālankāra and the Pratityasamutpādasūtra, the Madhyāntavibhāga and the Aparimitāyussūtropadeša are said to have been written by Vasubandhu. Among the adherents to the school of Vasubandhu mention must be made of Sthiramati, Dignāga, Dharmapāla and Sīlabhadra. Sthiramati wrote a commentary on Vasubandhu's Trimsikā-Vijnapti while Dharmapala had a commentary on the Viinsatikā-Vijnapti. Dignāga was the disciple of Vasubandhu, brother of Arya Asanga. Dignaga's date also is not accurately fixed. Thus while some assign him to the fifth century A.D., others place him between 520 A.D. and 600 A.D., and make him a contemporary of Gunaprabha, the teacher of King Śrī-Harşa of Kanauj. Mallinātha, the famous commentator of the fifteenth century A.D., seems to find a reference to this Dignaga in Kālidāsa's Meghadūta. Dignāga's Pramāņasamuccaya, Pramāņasāstrapravesa and other works are preserved in Tibetan translations, and are very popular in The only Sanskrit work of Dignaga which has recently come down to us is Dharmakirti (sixth or the $Ny\bar{a}yaprave$ sa.

seventh century A.D.) wrote a valuable work—the *Nyāyabindu* which commented on by Dharmottara (ninth century A.D.) in his Nyayabinduţīkā. Śilabhadra (seventh century A.D.) was the head of the Buddhist Vihara at Nalanda and Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) acquired from him his knowledge of Buddhist philesophy. Śāntarakṣita in the eighth century A.D. wrote a voluminous work, the Tattvasamgraha, in which he has criticized the views of many rival schools of philosophers. His work was commented on by Kamalaśila in his Pancikā.1

The Jainas are the followers of Jina which is a title applied to Vardhamāna, the last prophet. Vardhamāna said that he was the expounder of tenets that had been successively held by twenty-three earlier sages. The Jainas are divided into two schools: (1) Śvetāmbara (white-robed) and (2) the Digambara (sky-robed or nude). We are told that this division took place as early as the first century A.D. The

Two schools

A late treatise on the Buddhist philosophy is the work of Advayavajra who is assigned to the close of the eleventh or the beginning of the twelfth century A.D.

ll Iainism

Svetambara Jainas possess both Canonical philosophical works, while Digambara Jainas have no Canonical literature. The Canonical literature the Svetambara sect comprises eighty-four books among which forty-one are Sūtras. Both the schools disregard the authority of the Veda and are, therefore, called heterodox schools of philosophy by the orthodox Hindu philosophers.

(i) Digambara

The earliest Digambara author who is also held in high esteem by the Svetambara sect, is Kundakunda whose works are all Prākrit. first known written in The Digambara writer in Sanskrit, is Umāsvāmin, also called Umasvati (third century A.D.) Tattvārthādhigamasūtra (in ten chapters) is regarded as an authoritative text by both sects. Siddhasena Divākara is also a well-known Digambara philosopher who wrote probably in the fifth century A.D. His commentary on the Tattvārthādhigamasūtra and his two other works the Nyāyāvatāra and the Sammatitarkasūtra are all important contributions. In the first half of the eighth century A.D., Samantabhadra, a Digambara, wrote a commentary on the Tattvārthādhigamasūtra which contains an

introduction called the Aptamimāmsā which was known both to Kumārila and Vācaspati. Samantabhadra's other works are Yuktyanusāsana and Ratnakārandasrāvakācāra. To the same century, in all probability, lived Akalanka among whose works the Tattvārtharājavārttika and the Astašatī, commentaries on the Tattvārthādhigamasūtra and the $\bar{A}ptam\bar{\imath}m\bar{a}iis\bar{a}$ respectively, may be mentioned. His views were strongly opposed by Kumārila. It was Vidyānanda defended Akalanka against the criticisms of Kumārila by writing the Astasāhasrī, the Tattvārthaślokavārttika, the Aptaparīksā, the Patraparīksa the Pramāņaparīksā and the Pramānanirnaya. Manikyanandin wrote his Parīksāmukhasūtra which is based the Nyāyaviniscaya of Akalanka. On Prabhācandra who is said to be a pupil of Kundakunda, wrote two independent logic, the Prameyakamalaworks on mārtanda and the Nyāyakumudacandrodaya. It is usually believed that Prabhacandra was a pupil of Akalanka, but it is stated in the epilogue of the Prameyakamalamārtanda that the work was composed during the reign of Bhoja of Dhara. Subhacandra is another Digambara Jaina who wrote his Jñānārṇava, a philosophical work in verse, at the close of the eighth or the beginning of the ninth century A.D.

(ii) Svetāmbara

Haribhadra is the earliest Svetambara Jaina philosopher who wrote two important works, the Saddarsanasamuccaya and the Lokatattvanirnaya, besides a commentary Nyāyapraveša of Dignāga, the the Yogadrstisamuccaya, the Yogabindu and the Dharmabindu. His date is believed to be the ninth century A.D. Towards the close of the ninth century A.D. Amrtacandra wrote the Tattearthasara and the Purusarthasiddhyupāya besides a few commentaries. Hemacandra is a great Jaina philosopher whose Pramāņamīmāmsā is an important work on Jaina philosophy. Mallisena in the thirteenth century A.D. wrote his Syādvādamañjarī, a commentary on Hemacandra's Anyayogavyavacchedikā. To the same century belongs Āśādhara among whose mention should be made of the works Dharmāmṛta. Devendrasūri, another writer of the same century, wrote the Siddhapancāsikā, the Vandāruvrtti and the Upamitibhavaprapancā-kathā-sāroddhāra. In the fifteenth century Sakalakīrti wrote a voluminous work the Tattvārthasāradīpaka in twelve

chapters. To the same century belonged Śrutasāgara who wrote the *Jinendra-yajňavidhi* and the *Tattvārthadīpikā*. In the seventeenth century flourished Yaśovijaya who wrote the *Jùānabinduprakaraṇa* and the *Jùānasāra*.

The substance of the doctrine of the Indian materialists is aptly and very briefly summed up in the allegorical drama, the Prabodhacandrodaya—'Lokayata is the only Sastra. In this system perceptual evidence is the only authority. The elements are four in number—earth, water, fire and wind. Wealth and enjoyment are the objects of human existence. Matter can think; there is no other world. Death is the end of all. 'Lokavata' (directed to the world of enjoyment through senses) is the Sanskrit expression for materialism. It is the name of the Sastra. The materialists are called Lokāvatīkas or Cārvākas called as such after the name of the founder of the school.

Cārvāka's story is found in the Mahā-bhārata while the doctrine is referred to in the Mahābhārata (Śalyaparvan and Śānti-parvan), the Viṣṇupurāṇa and the Manusmṛti, as that of the Nihilists and the

III Materialism (Cārvāka)

Introduc tion

References to Cărvăka philosophy Heretics. Sometimes Cārvāka is identified with Bṛhaspati, who incarnated himself as an atheist in order to bring ruin unto the demons. The classic authority on the materialist theory is said to be the Sūtras of Bṛhaspati, which have perished. The Sarvadarśanasangraha of Mādhava gives a summary of the teaching of the school in its first chapter. Fragmentary quotations of Sūtras and passages from works of the school now lost to us, can be traced in the polemical works of other philosophical schools.

Early teachers Among the earlier heretical teachers, mention may be made of Sañjaya the sceptic, Ajita Keśakambalin the materialist, Purāṇa Kāśyapa the indifferentist, Maskarin Gosāla the fatalist and Kakuḍa Kātyāyana the elementalist.

Schools of Materialism The materialists, again, were subdivided into several schools—those who identified the body with the self, those who confused the self with the external senses, those who regarded the internal organ (antaḥkaraṇa) as their self and so on. The oft-quoted verses quoted by Mādhava, give a popular view of the materialists—"While the life remains, let a man live happily; let him feed on

ghee, even if he runs in debt; when once the body becomes ashes, how can it ever return again?" "The three authors of the Vedas were the hypocrites, knaves and night-prowlers", etc., etc.

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MISCELLANEOUS WORKS ON PHILOSOPHY

Śrikanthabhasya

a commentary on the Brahmasūtras by Śrīkaṇṭha alias Nīlakaṇṭha (thinteenth or fourteenth century A.D.).
—written from the Viśiṣṭaśivadvaita point of view - much in the same line as that adopted by Rāmānuja.—commented on by Appayyadīkṣita in his Śivārkamaṇidīpikū (It is said that Appayya was at first a Śaivaite and later was converted into an Advaitin.)

Śrīkarabhāṣya

a commentary on the Brahmasūtras by Śripati Paṇdita representing the Dvaitādvaita point of view.

Commentaries on the Gītā (named Subodhinī), the Bhāgavata, and the Visuupurāņa:

on by Śrīdharaśvamin (twelfth or med thirteenth century A.D.)—who the is claimed to be an exponent and of the Śuddhadvaita school, iya: inasmuch as he refers to

Visnusvāmin, the founder of the Suddhādvaita school in the commentary on the Bhāgavata. | Vallabhācārva (fifteenth-sixteenth century A.D.) was a later exponent of this school. But as he has also referred to Citsukha, it may also be possible that he was a thinker of the Advarta school. who was rather inclined to the doctrine of Devotion (Bhakti). This sort of compromise between the doctrines of Devotion (Bhakti) and Knowledge $(J\tilde{n}\bar{a}na)$, is also found later in the Bhaktırasāyana of Madhusiidana Sarasvati who was sturdy champion of the Advaita philosophy.

Sarvadarsanasamaraha by Mādhavacārya who along with his brother Sāyaṇa, the celebrated commentator of Vedic literature. was in the court of Kings Harihara and Vīra Bukka of Vijayanagara (fourteenth century A.D. and subsequently turned a Sannyāsin and passed his days in the Śṛṅgerī Maṭha.—a valuable encyclopaedia of Indian philosophy, which contains the summary of the views of at least seventeen different orthodox and heterodox schools of Indian philosophy.

Sarvasıddāntasārasamaraha ascribed to Sankaracarya but seems to be the work of a more modern hand who was possibly one of the later chiefs of the Sankara Matha—a work in the line of the Sarvadar sanasangraha though written in easy verses.

 $Vijar{n}ar{a}nar{a}mrtabhar{a}$ sya

by Vijňanabhikṣu (sixteenth century A.D.) who by writing this commentary on the Brahmasūtras tried to make in the body of this work a sort of compromise between the Sańkhya and Yoga views on one hand and the Vedāntic (Upaniṣadic) views on the other.

Saktibhāṣya by Pañcanana Tarkaratna of the twentieth century A.D.—an ingenious work in the form of a commentary on the Brahmisātras.

It does not, however, strictly conform to the orthodox Śaktagama standpoint.

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APPENDIX

HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF SANSKRIT IN THE WEST

It was in the seventeenth century that the European people. particularly missionaries and travellers, came to know of the Indian languages. In 1651 A. D. Abraham Rozer published a Portugese translation of Bhartrham's poems. In 1699 A. D. the Jesuit Father Johann Ernst Hanxleden came to India and after getting himself acquainted with the Sanskrit language wrote the first Sanskrit grammar in a European language. The book, however, was not printed but was consulted by Fra Paolino de St. Bartholomeo who wrote two Sanskrit grammars besides a number of important It was during the administration of Warren Hastings that the work called 'Vivadarnavasetu' was compiled. Gentoo Law' it was published in title 'A Code of English in 1776 A D Nine years later, the Bhagavadgita was translated into English by Charles Wilkins who also rendered into English the Hitopadesa and the Sakuntala episode of the Mahābhārata. It was, however, Sir William Jones who did most to arouse the interest of Europeans in Indian literature / In 1789 A. D. he published his English translation of Kālidasa's $\hat{Sakuntala}$, and this was followed his translation of the Manusmrti, the most important legal ancient India. It was again literature of through enthusiasm that the Rtusainhāra of Kalidasa was published in the original text in 1792 A.D. The English translation of Kālidāsa's works by Sir William Jones was followed by the German translation of Śākuntala by Georg Forster in 1791 which attracted the attention of men like Herder and Goethe. The work of Jones was followed up by Henry Thomas Colebrooke who

published 'A Digest of Hindu Law on Contracts and Successions' based on a composition in Sanskrit by orthodox Indian scholars. He also edited a number of Sanskrit works including the Amarakaśa. the Astādhvāvā, the Hitopadeša and the Kirātārjunīva Another Englishman who studied Sanskrit in India was Alexander Hamilton who, while returning to England in 1802 A. D, was imprisoned with other Englishmen at Paris under orders of Napoleon Bonaparte. During the period of his imprisonment Hamilton trained up a band of European scholars who took to the study of Sanskrit with earnest zeal. This is commonly referred to as the 'Discovery of Sanskrit' in the West. One of Hamilton's most distinguished students was the great German scholar and poet Friedrich Schlegel, who wrote that epoch-making work 'On the Language and Wisdom of the Indians' This work introduced for the first time the comparative and the historical method. also contained translations in German of many passages from the Rāmāyana, the Bhagavadgītā, the Manusmṛti and other early works Friedrich Schlegel's brother August Wilhelm student of Professor A. L. Chézy, the first von Schlegel. French scholar in Sanskrit, not only contributed much to the study of Comparative Philology but also helped the study of Sanskrit by editing texts and writing translations. One of Schlegel's students was Christian Lassen who was deeply interested in Indian culture. The science of Comparative Philology was founded by Franz Bopp, a student of Professor Chezy and contemporary of August Wilhelm. also rendered great service to the investigation of Sanskrit literature by incorporating in his work "Conjugations-System" translations from the Rāmāyana and the Mahābhārata. His Sanskrit Grammars considerably furthered the study of Sanskrit in Ger-The work of Bopp in the domain of Comparative Philology was developed in a most comprehensive manner by Wilhelm von Humboldt whose interest in the philosophical works of the

Indians was of an abiding character. Another noted German, Fredrich Ruckert, was also highly interested in Indian poetry. The Latin translations of the Upanisads in the beginning of the nineteenth century inspired German philosophers. Schelling. Kant, Schiller, and Schopenhauer were highly charmed to discover "the production of the highest human wisdom". (The actual investigation of Vedic literature was first undertaken by Friedrich Rosen in 1838 and was subsequently continued by a band of illustrious students of the great French Orientalist Eugéne Burnouf, including Rudolf Roth and F. Max Muller, who brought out his famous editio princeps of the Rg reda with the commentary of Sayana in the years 1849-75. One of Roth's distinguished students was H. Grassmann who published a complete translation of the Rgveda It was during this period that Horace Hayman Wilson who came to Calcutta represented the orthodox interpretation of the Ryveda by translating it on the lines of Sayana's commentary Similar work was done by Alfred Ludwig, who is looked upon as a forerunner of R. Pischel, and K. F. Geldner, the joint authors of 'Vedic Studies'. of Theodor Aufrecht is also associated with Vedic investigations

The publication of the great St. Petersburg Dictionary (Sanskrit-Worterbuch) in 1852 is an important event in the history of progressive studies in Sanskrit in the West. The Dictionary was compiled by Otto Bohtlingk and Rudolf Roth and published by the Academy of Fine Arts and Sciences, St. Petersburg. 'The History of Indian Literature' which was published by Albrecht Webei in 1852 A. D and was edited for the second time in 1876 A.D., is another important work. The edition of the Satapathabrahmana by the same author is another outstanding contribution. The 'Catalogus Catalogorum' published by Theodor Aufrecht in the years 1891, 1896, and 1906, forms a most comprehensive list of Sanskrit authors and works and is a monumental work of its kind

Arthur Anthony Macdonell's 'Vedic Grammar' and 'Vedic Mythology' and the 'Vedic Index' by Macdonell and Arthur Berriedale Keith, have all proved helpful works for the study of Sanskrit in Europe. Maurice Bloomfield's 'Vedic Concordance' is another great work which has been of immense help to Vedic studies in the West. William Dwight Whitney's 'Sanskrit Grammar' is yet another important treatise. Edward Byle Cowell, who was Principal, Government Sanskrit College, Calcutta, gave a distinct fillip to Sanskritic studies by his translations of the Sarvadarsanasaingraha and many other important San-krit works. Arthur Venis, Principal. Government Sanskrit College, Benares, also did a lot to help Sanskritic studies. Amongst European scholars who lived in India and took interest in Sanskrit learning and literature, mention may be made of J. F. Fleet, Vincent A. Smith, Sir Alexander Cunningham, Sir John H. Marshall, Sir M. A. Stein, Sir George Grierson and J. Fergusson.)

Among later European scholars who have done invaluable service to the cause of Sanskrit studies, the names of George Bühler, J. Muir, Frank Kielhorn, E. Roer, H. Luders, Hermann Jacobi, E. Senart, Sylvain Lévi, Edward Washburn Hopkins, E. Hultzeh, Arthur Coke Burnell, Monier Williams, Theodor Goldstuker, Richard Garbe, Paul Deussen, Julius Eggeling, George Thibaut, Julius Jolly, and Maurice Winternitz are remembered by all lovers of Sanskrit

COf living western indologists, the more important names include F. W. Thomas, A. B. Keith, L. D. Barnett, T. Tscherbatsky, Sten Konow, Vallée Poussin, Otto Strauss, C. R. Lanman and Giuseppe Tucci.

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