



Analytical Study of Sanskrit Literature

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1. Introduction

Sanskrit literature is the greatest and the best treasure for human life. We can analyze Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Epics, Puranas, Philosophical literature in Sanskrit, Ashtadhyay of Panini and Dramas etc. The concluding portions of the Aranyakas were the Upanishads. Mimansa, Vedanta, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya and Yoga are also characteristics of Sanskrit literature. Thus, the philosophical literature grew up through centuries. The puranas are an important branch of Sanskrit literature. Sanskrit dramas are the agent of social change, culture, morality for the readers. There is a large number of philosophical works in Sanskrit literature. Various countries of the world are very deeply influenced by Sanskrit literature.

2. Analysis of Sanskrit Literature

2.1 Vedas

The Vedas are very important because they represent the real popular belief as yet uninfluenced by the priestly class. They are also valuable for the history of medicine and magic. Sanskrit literature is the great treasure regarding Vedas Like : 1. Rgveda, 2. Yajurveda, 3. Athrvaveda, 4. Samveda. We learn that the Vedic people were agricultural and pastoral, they used to believe in many Gods which were mostly personifications, with anthropomorphic traits of natural phenomena. The Rgveda introduces us to an advanced stage of civilization which, as a scholar aptly puts, has dawn but no twilight. No author or compiler of the Veda is known. There are three other Vedas, viz, 2. Yajurveda, 3. Athrvaveda, 4. Samveda. The Yajurveda deals with sacrifices, The Athrvaveda reflects real popular belief by dealing with magic, sorcery and various spells used for healing diseases, causing harm to enemies etc. The Samveda contains matters to be sung at the time of sacrifices.

2.2 Brahmanas

Towards the end of the Vedic period, ritualism developed to a great extent, as a result, treatises in prose were written on theology and the procedure of sacrifices. These were called Brahmanas. Included in the Brahmanas were what were called Aranyakas (forest-text) which were partly ritualistic and partly speculative.

2.3 Aranyakas

The concluding portions of the Aranyakas were the Upanishads or esoteric texts dealing with questions like ultimate reality, individual soul, universal soul. The exegetical Vedangas are shikshaa, vyakarana, Nirukta. These are necessary. For correctly reading and interpreting the Vedas.

2.4 Epics

The Epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, constitute a large bulk of Sanskrit literature. The nucleus of this work is very ancient, and used to be sung from place to place till at last the stories were written down but the extant epics do not represent their original forms. The present forms are the result of additions and alterations through ages, portions were interpolated into them in later times. The age of the epics poses a baffling problem to scholars. Bharavi was the author of Mahakavya entitled Kirtatarjuniyam.

Kalidasa : the greatest poet and dramatist in Sanskrit literature, author of the Mahakavya called Raghuvasham, Kumarsambhavam, Magha was the author of the Mahakavya entitled Shishupalvadh, which betrays deep influence of Bharavi's Kiratarjuniyam.

2.5 Puranas

The puranas are an important branch of Sanskrit literature. They are broadly divided into two classes, viz. major and minor. Each of these classes is traditionally known to comprise eighteen works. The minor puranas are called Upapuranas. The authorship of puranic works is attributed to the legendary Vyasa. As a matter of fact. These are not unified works written by particular author of particular periods. These assumed the present forms through centuries. These are sectarian works dealing with a diversity of matters, beside the traditional five topics of creation, recreation, genealogies, of Gods and sages. Manu-periods of time and genealogies of kings. These works are valuable for the students of sociology and religion. They also contain useful information about the early political history of India.

2.7. Philosophical literature in Sanskrit

There is a large number of philosophical works in Sanskrit literature. Germs of philosophy existed in the Vedas. And systematized in the form of Sutras. Six different orthodox philosophical systems exist. These are Mimamsa, Vedanta, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya and Yoga. Thus the philosophical literature grew up through centuries.

2.8 Ashtadhyay of Panini

What is known as Classical Sanskrit literature originated about the fourth century B. C. when Panini, the great grammarian stereotyped the language by means of rigid rules. In the Vedic times, the language had an unfettered growth, being rich in inflexional forms but Classical Sanskrit began to grow within the fixed framework prepared by Panini.

2.9 Dramas

The ninth or tenth century A. D. the age of decadence of Sanskrit literature set in. The Poems, Prose works and dramas produced in this age. It is a great pleasure for presenting the main great dramatists and their dramas too.

2.2.1 Kalidasa

Kalidasa is known as a Great poet in Sanskrit literature, who is very popular as a Mahakavi. Kalidasa has written total seven books in Sanskrit language and these books are increasing the treasure of Sanskrit literature. Kalidasa has also created total three dramas like: 1. Vikramorvasheeyam and 2. Malvikagnimitram. 3. Abhignanshakuntlam, All these dramas are unique. The hero, heroine and sentiment are three main features of every drama.

2.2.2 Bhavabhuti

Bhavabhuti is also known as a Dramatist. To turn to the dramas now, Maltimadhava appears to be the poet's first composition Mahavircharita and the Uttaramcharita. Uttaramcharita is the poet's master piece. It was this which at once placed Bhavabhuti in the very first rank of Sanskrit poets. In it is dramatized one particular incident in Rama's life after his rescue of Sita and his return to Ayodhya from Lanka, viz., Sita's abandonment.

2.2.3 Bhasa

By the discovery of 13 drama of Bhasa about the year 1909 – 10, by the late shree Ganpati shastri of Trivendrum, it seemed that the lost treasure of the plays of the famous dramatist Bhasa was recovered and Bhasa ceased to be mere name. The dramas of these 13 plays: 1. Madhymvyayog, 2. Panchratra, 3. Dutvakya. 4. Dutghatatkach, 5. Karnbhar, 6. Urubhang. : These six dramas are based on Mahabharata. 7. Pratma and 8. Abhishek : These two dramas are based on Ramayana. 9. Balcharitam drama is based on

Harivansh. 10. Pratignayaugandharayan and 11. Swapnavasavdatta are on the stories of Vatsaraja and Vasvadatta, which were current in the time of Bhasa. The sources of 12. Avimarak and 13. Charudatta cannot be traced. Most of scholars agree that all the thirteen plays are written by Bhasa.

The other dramatist are also very popular in Sanskrit literature like:

D. **Harshavardhan** : Naganand, Ratnavali and Priyadarshika dramas are written by Harshavardhan.

E. Vishakhadatta : The drama Mudrarakshas is also written by Vishakhadatta.

F. Shudrak : The author of Mruchhakatik is Shudrak.

G. **Narayana Bhatta** : Venisamhara is written by Narayana Bhatta.

H. Rajashekhar : The famous drama Balramayana is written by Rajashekhar.

All these dramas are great contribution in Sanskrit literature. All characters gave directions for the moral life to the readers. Directly the reader gets the deals of life. Thus Sanskrit dramas are the agent of social change, culture, morality for the readers. In short, Sanskrit literature is great treasure for human life.

2.9 Great Contribution of Sanskrit Literature

Banbhatta was the author of the prose works, called Kadambari and Harshacharita. **Bhamaha** was the author of Kavyalankar, a famous work on poetic. **Bhartruhari** was also very popular regarding the lyric poems entitled : Nitishatak and Vairagyashataka. **Bhaskara** was the author of the Bhaskara-bhashya a commentary on the Brahmasutra. Siddhahemshabdanushasan a great book was also written by **Hemachandracharya**. Kalidasa has created the lyric poem entitled Meghadutam. **Kautilya** or Vishnugupta wrote the celebrated Kautaliya Arthashastra. **Kuntal** was the author of the Vakrokti-jivita a well-known work on poetics. Banbhatta, Bhamaha, Bharavi, Bhartruhari, Bhaskara, Hemachandracharya. Kalidasa, Kautilya, Kuntal and Magha had also cultivated deeply in Sanskrit Literature. Their creative works are decorated the treasure of Sanskrit literature in the various fields. Foremost among the twenty great writers of original Smruti. Traditionally regarded as author of Manusmriti. In the Rgveda **Manu** is spoken as the father of mankind.

2.10 Sanskrit Literature at Abroad Level

It is interesting to note that Sanskrit literature was not limited to the confines of India. This literature and the culture enshrined in it spread to remote lands in the far east, e.g. Cambodia, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Bali, and the Philippine islands. Tibet, Burma, Japan, Germany was deeply influence of this great Sanskrit literature. From very early time west has been acquainted with Sanskrit literature through translation.

3. Conclusion

Sanskrit literature is the great treasure regarding Vedas Like: 1. Rgveda, 2. Yajurveda, 3. Athrvaveda, 4. Samveda. Included in the Brahmanas were what were called Aranyakas (forest-text) which were partly ritualistic and partly speculative. The Epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, constitute a large bulk of Sanskrit literature. Sanskrit literature is the greatest and the best treasure for human life. Sanskrit dramatists. Kalidasa, Bhasa, Bhavbhuti, Shudrak, Harshvardhan, Vishakhadatta, Bhattanarayana and Rajshekhar are the great dramatists of Sanskrit literature. Sanskrit dramas are also the agent of social change, culture, morality for the readers. Great authors like: Banbhatta, Bhamaha, Bharavi, Bhartruhari, Bhaskara, Hemachandracharya. Kalidasa, Kautilya, Kuntal, Magha and Manu had also cultivated deeply in Sanskrit Literature. Their creative works are decorated the treasure of Sanskrit literature in the various fields. We pray to God for cultivating deeply and also bright career regarding great treasure of Sanskrit Literature.

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