

PREFACE



जयन्ति ते सुकृतिनो रससिद्धाः कवीश्वराः ।

नास्ति येषां यशः काये जरामरणजं भयम् ॥

Authors conversant well with the poetical rasas and accomplished in poetry are always victorious and honoured by the society, because of their excellent work. Their fame never dies and they are fearless of age because of their celebrated creation.

It was my heartfelt desired to prepare a work where the contribution of Bharuch District to Sanskrit literature should be highlighted properly. The reason was obvious. The contributions of Kerala, Bengāla, Orissā and even cities like Vārāṇasi are written by worthy scholars, but there was a lacuna so far as the contribution of Bharuch, so remarkable in the history and geography of our nation Bhāratavarṣa for its contribution to Sanskrit literature from ancient times was concerned.

If we read the purāṇic literature, we would come across many references to Bharuch, its worthy places of pilgrimage and great personalities. Lord Viṣṇu in his Vāmana incarnation came to

Bhṛgukaccha to beg three paces of land from Bali, the supreme king of demons.

This region is connected with the name of the Vedic sage Bhṛgu, which shows that the vedic tradition was prevalent in this region. The well-known stotra of Narmadāstaka refers to various vedic sages.

वशिष्ठ शिष्ट पिप्पलादी कर्दमादि शर्मदे....

Durgasinha of Jambūsar has composed a commentary on Nirukta of Yāska which has been accepted as a very authentic work on the text of Nirukta. In Śuklatirtha, Sāmavedi brhāmaṇas have still kept the tradition of Sāmaveda alive in this region. These are the Vedic and Purāṇic references to Bharūch which bespeak of its commendable glory.

This region was highly affected by the influence of foreign rulers and their culture and language. But even in such unfavorable circumstances Sanskrit literature had kept its central position and scholars had proved their efficiencies. We find variation in name of this region also. Before the Christian era we find this region in early Buddhist literature as Bhṛgukaccha. In first decade we can see excellent work on Nirukta. After that we see the rising of Jaina

philosophy in this region. During sixteenth and eighteenth centuries remarkable contribution was made in the field of Astrology. We also note that the Puṣṭisaṃpradāya and the Svāminārāyaṇa sampradāya have inspired many studies in this regions.

In the present study, I have tried to keep the scope of my inquiry as wide as possible. Thus, the area covered is not only of the present city of Bharuch but the entire former district of Bharuch. In this way, not only the works created in Bharuch district and authors belonging to this area are dealt with here, but even authors who were connected with this area for some time in their life or who originally belonged to this area and then went out for their pursuances are given attention here. Thus, Āśādhara must have lived in Bharuch only for some time and Dinānātha Bhaṭṭa only hails from a village Āmoda of this district. Also works produced in this area are considered, whether they be published or unpublished.

I have also tried to list the stone- inscriptions and the manuscripts which are preserved in private libraries or personal collections of Bharuch district. I was fortunate to be asked to carry out a survey of manuscripts of Bharuch district under a project of Mss-survey of the Gujarāt state undertaken by the L. D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad (as part of a program organized by the “

National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi"). It is now known that there are more than 300 manuscripts still lying in private possession in this district, but more than 500 manuscripts are transferred out of Bharūch, and a still larger number of manuscripts is either lost or destroyed because of carelessness.

As mentioned above, till now there was no study to provide even a primary information about the contribution of Bharūch to the Sanskrit literature. It was during a state level seminar on 7th & 8th March 1998 that I presented a paper entitled " Bharūch Jillānā Sanskritajño Dvārā Jyotiṣmān Sanskrit Saṃvardhana Kṣetra". Prof. Dr.R.I.Nanavati, then Director of the Oriental Institute, Vadodara, was president of the seminar. He suggested that I should take up a sustained project of making a survey of the Sanskrit works and authors of Bharūch district. The present study is the outcome of that suggestion. I sincerely thank Prof. Nanavati for his suggestion and, when I did take up the project, for guiding it.