

P R E F A C E

The problem of the study of Srimāla Purāna began attracting my attention from the time I came to Bhinmal in 1961. My study was appreciated by Shri R.C.Parikh, Ex-Director, B.J.Research Centre, Ahmedabad. I was encouraged by Dr.Priyabala Shah to carry on my work and helped me to read the Purana, as well as gave me good guidance for editing it.

I am grateful to Muni Jinvijayaji, Ex-Director, Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur, who permitted me to collate the manuscripts of Srimāla Purāna in the Institution.

I am equally grateful to Dr.S.G.Kantawala, who helped me in correcting the collated text of the Purāna.

But my plan of work received added impetus when I received the support and guidance of Prof.R.N.Mehta, the Dean, Faculty of Arts, and the Head, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, M.S.University of Baroda. He guided my work and taught me the techniques of field-work and interpretation, that were evolved by him. Not only did he helped me by guiding, but he undertook a field trip to Bhinmal and helped me to solve many problems associated with my study.

I thank my friends in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, M.S.University, Baroda, Sarvashri Ramesh J. Khatri, C.U.Bhagat and K.K.Shaikh, who accompanied Dr.R.N. Mehta in his trip to Ehinmal and Shri R.C.Sutaria and Shri Navin M.Khatri, who helped in preparing charts, photographs and maps.

I am grateful to the teaching staff of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of M.S.University, Baroda, Sarvashri Dr.K.T.M.Hedge, Dr.B.S.Survansi and Dr.S.N.Chaudhary to give me valuable suggestions regarding the work.

I feel indebted to Dr.B.J.Sandesara, Director of Oriental Institute, M.S.University, Baroda, who come to Srimāla Ksetra and gave me his valuable suggestions regarding this area and helped me by allowing to read the required literature of his personal library and library of the Institute. I am grateful to Dr.S.D.Parekh, Research Officer, Oriental Research Institute, Baroda, to help me by giving his suggestions and opportunity to read the current literature regarding the above work.

Last but not the least my thanks goes to the officials of Municipal Board, Ehinmal, Sarvashri Dungarmal and Mohanlal and Government Officials and my colleagues of Rajasthan at Jalore, Sarvashri Nathwata, B.P.Sarma, Soni and Lekhraj, who gave me valuable informations and helped me in collecting the correct and upto-date data of Srimāla Ksetra.

BHABHOOTIMAL N. PARMAR