

P R E F A C E

Thailand to which I belong and other countries in South-east Asia are known to be the receptacles of Indian culture from the time immemorial. This consideration coupled with the interest in going deeply into the study of Indian culture, Thailand's mother culture, has made me select the subject restored in the Purāṇic literature for my research work for Ph.D. degree. The reasons for selecting the Dharmāranya Purāṇa (=DP.) are mentioned in the statement no.1 of the synopsis. Here the technical procedures in this thesis may be mentioned, i.e. the transliteration of Sanskrit words and passages is adopted throughout and the unspecified references such as II. 9 always refer to the DP. Thus III. 55 = DP. III. 55. It should be noted that the text used for this study is the one published by Prabhashankar Jayashankar Pathak in 1924 from Bombay.

It is noteworthy to mention that the identification of important places mentioned in the DP. is done by personal field-study as far as possible. In this connection, I have taken photographs of certain places myself and they are used for illustrating the relevant points in this thesis.

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