

SYNOPSIS

STATEMENT - I

HOW THE PRESENT WORK TENDS TO THE GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

The Rāmāyaṇa is a historical epic growing the universal ethics and values in human life through the Śrī Rāma saga, places it on the top of the highest peak of idealism. This is an extraordinary literary work which offers not only solutions of doubts but also builds a base and hence no doubt can survive. The different shades of Śrī Rāma saga depicted in various Rāmāyaṇas being composed in Sanskrit as well as many vernacular languages till the date, as these texts have a variety of sources for inculcating Śrī Rāma's life and exploits.

The Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa is one such text singing the glory of Śrī Rāma in the dialogue form between Brahmā and Bhuśuṇḍi and therefore it is called Brahmā-Bhuśuṇḍa Samvāda and also Brahma-Rāmāyaṇa as well as Ādi Rāmāyaṇa.

Almost no authentic study or research on the Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa has been carried out so far, though the text in Sanskrit with a Hindi summary (by Dr. Bhagavati Prasad Singh, 1989) is available.

The thesis deals with the following matters of discussion and relevant topics. The preface gives the clear indication of its necessity and importance of the topic of research proposed in the subsequent pages of thesis.

The thesis comprises of 07 chapters and 03 Appendices followed by Bibliography.

The present study attempts to specify the significant contribution of Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa under the light of *Madhurādvaita-bhakti* in the field of *Vedānta*. Besides its philosophical aspect, it deals with the highly devotional value. Hence

the effort is made to evaluate Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa critically after comparison with Śrī Rāma saga in Vālmīkirāmāyaṇa. Puranic as well as medieval literature like Rāmacaritamānasa of Goswāmi Tulasīdāsa.

The study is comparative, comprehensive and critical, hence it tends to contribute towards the general enhancement of knowledge.

STATEMENT – II

SOURCES, INDEBTEDNESS AND ORIGINALITY

In the preparation of the present thesis, I have fully drawn upon all the available published literature on the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa. All the sources, quotations and references occurring in the present thesis have been verified properly and traced to the original source.

I have studied the text of Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa published by Vishva Vidyalaya Prkashan, Varanasi, which is available to me. I have also carefully gone through all the available relevant literature and sources as well as the tenets of *Madhurādvaita*. I have expressed my own views in the light of the text of Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa.

CHAPTER 01

Rāmāyaṇa in Sanskrit literature – A brief Survey

This chapter gives the brief survey of various available Rāmāyaṇas as per the chronological order along with their importance and their place in literature.

CHAPTER 02

Life, Date & Personality of poet Bhuṣuṇḍi

(Authorship, Geographical, Historical and Political data)

This chapter furnishes the available information regarding the poet along with his date and personality. It also presents the references of the poet in other texts like Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa, Yogavāiṣṭha Rāmāyaṇa, Rāmāyaṇa-mahāmālā, Rāmacaritamānasa, Satyopākhyānam, etc. The geographical as well as historical data is also furnished here.

CHAPTER 03

A Comprehensive summary of the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa

This chapter presents the comprehensive chapter-wise summary of the text in English, over and above the observations, references and comparative topics.

CHAPTER 04

Extant of the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa. & Bhagavatisation

(Index and comparison with Tulasi's Kākabhūṣuṇḍi version)

This chapter deals with the indebtedness of the Bhuṣuṇḍi-Rāmāyaṇa in adopting the subject matter of the Rāma saga mixed with Śrī Kṛṣṇa saga depicted in Śrīmad Bhāgavatapurāṇam as well as in other Vaiṣṇava texts. It also discusses the problem and the solution of the dual-authorship of the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa, as its present edition contains Rāma saga under the influence in such a

way that it can be called a type of Bhagavatisation. It seems different from the original story summarized in Tulasī's Rāmacaritamānasa.

CHAPTER 05

Literary Estimate of Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa

(Metres, Alankāras, loose structure, Language & style including Puranic)

This chapter estimates critically how the poet of the present version of the Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa has successfully blended Śrī Rāma saga with Śrī Kṛṣṇa saga. The employment of different metres and the figures-of-speech, language and diction is also discussed here.

CHAPTER 06

Madhurādvaita-bhakti

Its nature and employment in the Bhuśuṇḍi-Rāmāyaṇa

This chapter discusses various features of the doctrine of the *Madhurādvaita-bhakti* along with its characteristics. It discusses the historical development of this type of *Bhakti* that has its roots in the Nārada-bhaktisūtras and other schools. It also presents how this Bhakti is implemented in the Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa. It also gives the rewards of various devotional practices along with the nature of liberation presented in it.

CHAPTER 07

Conclusion

Thereafter follow 06 Appendices

- (01) Metres employed in Bhuśuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa
- (02) Śrī Rāma's Thousand Names
- (03) Sītā's Thousand Names
- (04) Lakṣmaṇa's Thousand Names.
- (05) Names of Bharata & Śatrughna
- (06) Kātyāyanī-vow.

Bibliography.