CHAPTER

3

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ŚANKHA-LIKHITA SMRTI
****

Śankha-Likhita Smrti published by Ānandāśram, Poona,
contains only 330 Verses and is devoid of prose. The
available Mss. of Ś.L. Smrti are similar to the printed form
of the text. The list of the Mss. referred to is at Page
No. £ 2\-23. (Part-I).

However , old digests on Dharmasūtras quote Ś.L.
in both the forms- prose and verse. On the basis of this we
can infer that there might have been an earlier version of
Dharmasūtra of Ś.L. Some scholars like S.N. Dasgupta
opine that the Ś.L. Smrti which is seen in the printed form
might have had an earlier version.[1] This earlier version
can be reconstructed from the available quotations.

Mm. P.V. Kane attempted to reconstruct this text, and
published it in the Journal of the Bhandarkar oriental
Research Institute, Poona (Vol.VI & VII) . The pioneer
attempt of an erudite scholar and sanskritist like Mm.
P.V. Kane has inspired me to undertake this work.

---

1. Dasgupta S.N. A History of Sanskrit literature,
   classical Period Vol.I (Introduction) P.25.

The authors of digests on Dharmasūtras and commentators
have profusely quoted Ś.L. ascribing the Quotations to either
Śaṅkha or Likhita or both or Vṛddha Śaṅkha. The minute
observation on the Ś.L. reveals that the major part is written
by Śaṅkha (See Appendix No. 2   P.449).

In certain cases few quotations occur in more than one
source and hence while collecting them, the variants seen
from the different sources are noted - a must for preparing
the archetype text. Inspite of common variants seen in some
sources, it is difficult to think of independant versions.
Kṛtyakalpataru of Lakṣmīdhara and Dharmakosa of Lakṣmana
give similar readings, while commentators like Viśvarūpācārya
and Aparārka agree with each other.

While collecting Quotations from the printed books &
Mss.the printed mistakes and scribal errors that have been
noted are corrected grammatically and with reference to their
context.In case of number of quotations no variants are
found , the reason being that they occur only in one source.
This is pointed out in Appendix No. 5 P.452 Variants
like Ca for Vā, Yadā for tathā, Vā for (a) pi hardly make
any appreciable change in the meaning yet they are noted.

The sources on the basis of which Ś.L.Smṛti is
reconstructed are arranged in alphabatical order with their
respective variants. In rectangular brackets the variants are
shown numberwise with reference to the numbers given
in the reconstructed text. The two sources are distinguished
with the semi colon and all the sources for one quotation
end with full stop.

Keeping in view the general characteristics of the Dharmaśāstra, I have reconstructed Śaṅkha- Likhita Smṛti by arranging the sequence of various Quotations on the following basis:-

1) By classifying the available Quotations into three main divisions- Ācāra, Vyavahāra and Prāyaścitta.

2) By further classifying them topicwise and subtopicwise.

The abbreviation fol. for folio instead of P (Page) indicates that the Work referred to is a Manuscript.