

PREFACE

The study of the poem Śiśupālavadha is generally neglected for its stiffness. But it is an acknowledged fact that the poem is Magnum opus in the field of the Classical Sanskrit Literature. An intensive study of the poem is necessary for the following reasons:

1. This poem was once as much overvalued as there is a definite modern trend to undervalue it. Hence it is necessary to find out the truth and to strike the balance.

2. The poem is an encyclopaedia of the cultural history of India - more particularly Gujarat and Rajasthan of the 6th and 7th centuries A.D.

3. The study of the poet Māgha from various points of view is a long-felt need.

I, therefore, selected the present poem for critical and intensive study and I feel very happy to present the result of my study before the University authorities in the form of a thesis for the Ph.D. degree of the Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda.

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