

Statement I.

The present work , A Critical Study of Śiśupālavadha, tends to the general advancement of knowledge in the following way.

(1) The study of the poem Śiśupālavadha by Māgha is generally neglected because of its stiffness.

(2) There are translations - complete and incomplete - of the poem in Gujarati, Hindi, English, French and German but the critical study of the poem is a long-felt desideratum. There is a want for an intensive study of the poem where all the questions regarding the poem and its author as well as cultural gleanings from the work are critically discussed. No one has done anything so far in this direction.

(3) It is because of this that I attempted the critical study of the poem and its author.

(4) I have divided my work into two parts - in the first part I have dealt with the questions regarding the text and the author and in the second cultural and the literary study of the poem is attempted. Certain questions which are indirectly connected with the problem are treated separately in eleven appendices. Thus I have attempted the study of all the questions relating to the text and author as well as the cultural and literary study of the poem.

(5) Moreover, I have discussed certain controversial questions like the date of the poet, interpolations in the text and the original site of the city of Dwārakā and have attempted to offer my conclusions.

(6) No one has studied the problem of the commentaries on the poem so far. I have pointed out no less than forty eight commentators on the poem and have supplied information regarding their personal history, works, dates etc. for the first time. I claim this as my original contribution.

(7) I have also attempted the picture of the society as reflected in the poem which is a rich mine of useful information for the cultural history of the mediaeval India.

(8) The history of the text is also attempted by sorting out the spurious after consulting the oldest Mss.

It is in this way that my humble contribution tends to the general advancement of knowledge.

M.T.Buch.

Statement 2.

In preparation of the present work, A Critical Study of Śisupālavadha, I have drawn upon all the available literature in print in several languages. Acknowledgements have been fully made in all the cases and a complete bibliography has been attached.

I studied the text, commentaries and the relevant literature and tried to express my own views as a result of critical study. I have made free use of the Mss. of the text and its commentaries in the Oriental Institute, Baroda and BORI, Poona and have been able to throw new light on the problem.

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