

SYNOPSIS.

PART I.

(Text and Author).

A. TEXT.

Chapter 1.

Summary of the Poem.

Canto I :

Divine sage Nārada's visit to Kṛṣṇa - Kṛṣṇa receives the sage - Nārada with Indra's mission - Description of the atrocities of the demons Hiranyakaśipu and Rāvana and their end at the hands of the Man-Lion and Rāma incarnations of God Viṣṇu given by Nārada - Śiśupāla's birth, childhood, greatness, power and atrocities described by Nārada - His request to Kṛṣṇa to kill Śiśupāla.

Canto II :

Kṛṣṇa facing a dilemma • his political consultations with Baladeva and Uddhava - Kṛṣṇa's opinion for the immediate attack on Śiśupāla - Baladeva supports Kṛṣṇa's opinion - Uddhava's better opinion to attend the Rājasūya sacrifice - Its acceptance by Kṛṣṇa.

Canto III :

Kṛṣṇa setting out for Indraprastha with paraphernalia and the manifold army - Description of the city of Dvārakā - that of the ocean.

Canto IV :

Kṛṣṇa and his army reaching the mountain Raivataka on their way to Indraprastha - Description of the mountain.

Cantos V and VI.

Camping of Kṛṣṇa and his army on the mountain - Description of the activities of the soldiers, merchants, prostitutes, Yādava ladies and the animals in the camp.

Cantos VII to XI :

Descriptions of the forest-sports (VII), water-sports (VIII) of the Yādavas and their ladies, the sun-set, the moon-rise and the activities of the ladies preparing to meet their lovers (IX), the amorous sports of the Yādavas and their ladies (X) and morning (XI).

Canto XII :

Kṛṣṇa and his army continuing the march - the activities of the constituents of the army - Kṛṣṇa enjoying pleasant sights on the way - the army approaching the Yamunā - Description of the Yamunā.

Canto XIII :

Yudhiṣṭhira receiving Kṛṣṇa - Description of the activities of the ladies of the city coming out to have a sight of Kṛṣṇa - Description of the assembly-hall of Yudhiṣṭhira.

Canto XIV :

Pāṇḍava King's proposal for the performance of the Rājasūya sacrifice - Kṛṣṇa welcoming the proposal and assuring him of his help - Description of Rājasūya sacrifice and the alms-giving - On the conclusion of the sacrifice Yudhiṣṭhira consulting Bhīṣma regarding the person deserving the gift of honour - Bhīṣma advises to present it to Kṛṣṇa - Yudhiṣṭhira acting accordingly.

Canto XV :

Śiśupāla's anger at this act of Yudhiṣṭhira and blaming him and Bhīṣma and belittling Kṛṣṇa's achievements - Bhīṣma's challenge - Consequent anger of the kings allied to Śiśupāla - Śiśupāla leaving the place and preparing for the battle - Description of the ill-omens confronted by the kings allied to Śiśupāla.

Canto XVI :

Śiśupāla sending his envoy to Kṛṣṇa - The ambiguous speech made by the envoy - Sātyaki's able reply - Second speech by the envoy.

Canto XVII :

Anger of the Yādava kings at the speech of the envoy - Kṛṣṇa and his army getting ready for the battle - Marching of the army - Meeting of both the armies, attack and counter-attack.

Cantos XVIII & XIX :

Description of the battle.

Canto XX :

Description of the combat between Kṛṣṇa and Śiśupāla - Kṛṣṇa slaying him.

### Chapter 2.

Sources and Innovations.

Introduction - The indebtedness of the Māgha's poem to the Mahābhārata and the other sources - The Mahābhārata and the Śiśupālavadha; the story as given in the Mahābhārata; the innovations, the elaborations and the additions made by Māgha and his motive behind it - The Bhāgavata Purāṇa and the Śiśupālavadha; the story as given in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa; the changes introduced by Māgha in this story - The Viṣṇu Purāṇa and the Śiśupālavadha - The Agni Purāṇa, the Bhaviṣya Purāṇa and the Śiśupālavadha - The Kirātārjuniya and the Śiśupālavadha - The Raghuvamśa and the Kumārasambhava of Kālidāsa and the Śiśupālavadha - Kumārādāsa's Jānakīharana and the Śiśupālavadha.

### Chapter 3.

Interpolations.

Introduction - Absence of agreement between the two great commentators of Śiśupālavadha, viz; Vallabhadeva and Mallinātha regarding the doubtful verses in the poem - the list of the twenty nine verses of the poem not commented upon by Vallabhadeva - the list of forty one verses of the poem left

uncommented by Mallinātha - Four criteria to decide the doubtful verse - Their application - Evidence of Dinakara and Kavi-vallabha Cakravarti regarding the issues under discussion - Result - Our view regarding the doubtful verses - two recensions of the poem.

#### Chapter 4.

##### Commentaries on Śīśu.

Introduction - 48 commentaries on the poem - the names of the commentators, their commentaries on our poem, their personal history, their date, their other works etc.

B. AUTHOR.

#### Chapter 5.

##### Life and Personality of Māgha.

###### I

Introduction - Māgha belongs to Bhinmāla in Gujarat- Boundaries of the early Gujarat according to Dr.H.D.Sankalia and Dr.K.M.Munshi - Gurjardesa and its kings - Hiuen-Tsang's remark regarding the contemporary king reigning at Bhinmāla in Māgha's time - C.V.Vaidya's view about it - This king immediate successor of the king Vyāghramukha.

###### II.

Parentage of Māgha - His grandfather Suprabhadeva and the king Varmalāta - The internal as well as other evidences of Bhojaprabandha and Prabandhacintāmaṇi proving Bhinmāla as the native place of Māgha - Legends and accounts regarding Māgha

in Bhojaprabandha, Prabandhacintāmaṇi and Prabhāvakacarita -  
The scholarship of Māgha - His other works - His patrons - His  
relatives - Composition of Śiśupālavadha - Character and  
personality of Māgha.

#### Chapter 6.

##### Date of Māgha.

Divergent views regarding the date of Māgha - R.C.  
Dutta assigning him 12th cent. A.D., F.Klatt beginning of the  
10th cent. A.D., Weber 10th cent. A.D., A.G. Macdonell end of  
10th cent. A.D., M.Duff 860 A.D. - K.B.Pathak of the opinion  
that Māgha flourished in the second half of the 8th cent. A.D. -  
Aufrecht, Bhandarkar and F.Thomas agree with K.B.Pathak - Ray  
assigning him the end of the 7th cent. A.D. - Keith, Krishnama-  
chariar and Vedavyāsa placing him in the middle of the 7th cent.  
A.D. - Jacobi putting him in the middle of 6th cent. A.D. -  
Durgaprasada and K.H.Dhruva agreeing with Jacobi - Bhojaprabandha,  
Prabandhacintāmaṇi and Prabhāvaka-carita make Māgha the contem-  
porary of the king Bhojadeva (11th cent. A.D.) of Mālavā -  
Evidence disproving his being a contemporary of Bhojadeva (11th  
cent. A.D.) of Mālavā - terminus ad quem and terminus a quo -  
Identity of the king Varmalāta and the king mentioned in the  
Vasantagadh inscription bring the upper terminus to 650 A.D. -  
The difficulty in accepting the upper terminus removed by another  
interpretation of Śiśu. II. 112 - Māgha contemporary and protege  
of the king Bhojadeva the second (665 A.D.) and the king who  
was the immediate successor of the king Vyāghramukha - evidence

of Vāmana and the traditional chronology - Conclusion.

### Chapter 7.

#### Home of Māgha.

The question of the home of Māgha free from controversy- Agreement of Prabandhas on this question - Bhinmāl, his home - External evidence to this effect furnished by Prabandhacintāmaṇi, Prabhāvaka-carita and tradition - Internal evidence to this effect by the colophon of an old Ms. of the poem and the manner of the descriptions of the ocean and the mountain in the poem - Situation of the city of Bhinmāl or Śrīmāla - capital of Gurjar kingdom - Śrīmāla Purāṇa account of the city - The reference to the city in Jaina Literature - Prosperity of the city - Rulers of the city - Hiuen Tsang's and K.M.Munshi's views - The city, a great centre of Brahmanic and Jain learning- Decline of the city - The situation and the description of the present village of Bhinmāl.

### Chapter 8.

#### Works of Māgha.

Introduction - A large number of verses quoted as Māgha's in the anthologies and not found in the present text of the poem pointing to the inference that his other work or works lost or remain undiscovered - Verses given as Māgha's by Bhojaprabandha, Prabandhacintāmaṇi and the anthologies (SSV; SP; PV; Aucitv: SUK) - Two verses of joint authorship - Conclusion.

### Chapter 9.

#### Māgha's Erudition - Philosophical Doctrines.

Introduction - Māgha's knowledge of different systems of Philosophy - Vedānta : Identification of Viṣṇu with Brahman, the account of creation, the doctrine of the Supreme Soul enveloped by the external adjuncts, the doctrine of the non-return of the soul, the doctrine of the transmigration of the soul - Sāṃkhya : The doctrine of Puruṣa and Prakṛti, the principle of Buddhi, the principle of the creation, maintenance and destruction of the universe - Vaiśeṣika: The doctrine of Akāśa - Nyaya: The doctrine of Anumāna - Yoga: The doctrine of four emotions (Bhāvanas), several technical terms of the system - Pūrva Mīmāṃsā: Technical description of the Rājasūya sacrifice - Buddhism: The doctrine of five forms of mundane consciousness, reference to the teachings of Buddha - Jainism: Reference to Mahāvīra.

### Chapter 10.

#### Māgha's Erudition - Paurāṇika Stories.

Introduction - Allusions in Śiśu. to the mythological personalities, myths and legends - These important for the study of the cultural aspect - Agastya- Airāvata - Amarāvati - Aruna - Babhru - Bakāsura - Bala - Bali - Bindu Lake - Brahmā - Brhaspati - Dāśarhah - Duryodhana - Gangā - Garuda - Govardhana- Hidimba - Hiranyakaśipu - Hiranyākṣa - Indra - Jarāsandha - Kādraveyas - Kaitabhāsura - Kāleyāsura - Kāmadeva - Kamsa - Kubera - Kuvalayapīda - Madhu - Mahākālī - Mandara - Manu -



Maya - Menakā - Mucukunda - Mura - Namuci - Nandanavana -  
Narakāśura - Parasurāma - Pārvatī - Pātāla - Pradyumna - Rāhu-  
Rāmāyana - Revatī - Rukminī - Śakatāśura - Śiva - Śrī -  
Satyabhāmā - Uccaishravas - Urvasī - Varuna - Vasudeva -  
Vināyaka - Viśvakarman - Vṛsabhāśura - Vṛṣaparvā - Vṛtra -  
Yama - Yamunā - Churning of the ocean - Submarine fire -  
Universal Destruction.

## Chapter II.

### Māgha's Erudition - General.

Introduction - Literature known to Māgha - Śrutī -  
Smṛti - Purāṇas - Different systems of Philosophy - Ritual -  
Etymology - Prosody - Arthaśāstra - Nāṭyaśāstra - Kāmaśāstra -  
Tantraśāstra - Sangītaśāstra - Ayurveda - Grammar - Astronomy -  
Dhanurveda - Aśvavidyā and Hāstavidyā - Psychology - Ratna-  
śāstra - Palmistry - Chemistry - Physics - Navigation - Science  
of birds.

## Chapter 12.

### Geographical and Historical Data.

#### I

### Geographical Data.

Introduction - Countries: Āratta, Bālhika, Bhārata-  
varṣa, Ilāvṛtta, Jagudā and Kashmir - Cities: Dvārakā (various  
views about the original site of the city, evidence of Māgha  
in this connection), Indraprastha and Māhiṣmatī - Mountains:  
Govardhana, Himācala, Mandara, Raivataka, Sahya, Sumeru,  
Trikuṭa and Vindya - Rivers: Surāpagā and Kālindī - Flora and

Fauna - Flora: Kinds, Trees, Plants and Creepers, Grasses, Aquatic plants, Cereal and Osadhis - Fauna: Wild animals, Domestic Animals, Aquatic Creatures, Birds.

## II

### Historical Data.

Introduction - Two groups of kings - one allied to Kṛṣṇa and other to Śiśupāla.

### Chapter 13.

#### Political and Religious Data.

##### I

#### Political Data.

The State and the King - The State - King - King's paraphernalia - Personal qualities of the king - Council of ministers - Sources of Revenue: Presents and tributes, conquests and taxes - Grant of land - Distribution of land to the conquered kings - State policy - Envoys and espionage - The doctrine of Danda - Sovereignty - The doctrine of Mandala.

##### II.

#### Religious Data.

Introduction - Pantheon - Polytheism - Idol Worship - Institution of sacrifice - Other methods of worship and austerities - Cosmogony - Religious beliefs - Religious cults - Bhakti cult - The doctrine of Incarnation: Kṛṣṇa, complete incarnation of God according to Māgha - Wilkins and Dr. Muir on Varaha incarnation - Māgha's view on the same - Bhagavan Das on three kinds of disorders and three kinds of great men -

Māgha's view on the same.

#### Chapter 14.

The data regarding army and other allied topics.

Introduction - The treatment of the subject by the poet based more on personal observation than on the text-books of the subject - Considerable part of the poem devoted to this subject (III. 1-32; V, XII. except 67-70; XV. 71-80; XVII. 20-40 and XVIII; XIX; XX.) - Army: the traditional four columns (chariots, elephants, cavalry, infantry) and the camels: - Comparison of the descriptions of these limbs given by Māgha with the accounts given by Hiuen Tsang and Somadeva (Yasas-tilaka - Campu), Weapons; offensive and defensive - Offensive weapons: bow and arrow, asi, asilatā, khadga, kunta, bhalla, śakti, tomara, parigha, pāśa, cakra, gadā, hala and musala - Defensive weapons: kavaca, varma and godhā - Other equipments of the army - ~~Marching~~ of the army - The non-combatants with the army - Camping of the army - War music - Battle - Customs and Conventions - Beliefs - Psychology of war - Ethics of war.

#### Chapter 15.

Social Data.

Introduction - Picture of the contemporary social condition possible on the strength of the social data available from the poem - Castes - Marriage - Departure of the bride - The types of marriage - Polygamy - Condition of women - widows and the custom of Sati.

Food and Drinks - Food: cereals, preparations of milk, meat, spices, Categories of food - Drinks: wine.

Dress, Ornaments and toilets - Dress: purpose, factors on which dress depended, style of dress in different regions - Dress of women: upper garment, bodice (kancuka), lower garment - Dress of men: upper garment, lower garment, head-dress, scarf - Classification of dress: gravitational and anatomic -Ornaments for women and men - Articles of toilet.

Social habits: entertainment of guests, sports and pastimes, customs.

Fine Arts: poetry, drama, music, dancing, painting, sculpture, architecture, oratory - Morals.

Economic condition: general ~~wealth~~ wealth, agriculture, trade and commerce, weights, measures and coins, means of transport, marine and other products, arts and crafts.

## B. LITERARY STUDY.

### Chapter 16.

Literary and Poetic Background.

(Age of Māgha).

Introduction - Ārṣa and Vīdagdha kavyas and their characteristics - Different factors that moulded the kāvya literature: the royal patron, his court, Kāmaśāstra, Arthaśāstra, Rhetorics, the prescribed set standards of composition, the connoisseur, scholarship of various branches of knowledge expected from a poet and the tendency to exalt authority and discourage originality - An examination of our poem as to how

far it has been influenced by all these factors - Our poem, a product of the age of learning and hence meant for the classes and not the masses - Rabindranath Tagore's solid defence of the poems meant for the classes.

### Chapter 17.

#### Language and Style.

##### Language.

Introduction - Characteristics of the language of the poem - Māgha's command over lexicography and use of rare and obsolete words - His mastery of grammar - Importance of the language from the lexicographic and linguistic points of view.

##### Style.

Poets nicknamed for their style - Māgha's style - Its outstanding features: the use of similes drawn from the various fields, double entendre, alliterations, yamakas, metaphors, paryāyokta, the influence of the Vakrokti school, simple in speeches but bombastic and vigorous in descriptions, element of conversation and the occasional use of the popular maxims - His mannerisms - His style very near to Gaudī with the occasional vigorous Vaidarbhī.

### Chapter 18.

#### Characterisation.

Introduction - Māgha paying little attention to the art of characterisation - No female character in our poem -

Major characters: Kṛṣṇa, Śiśupāla, Nārada, Yudhiṣṭhira, Uddhava, Bhīṣma and Baladeva - All true - Minor characters: Sātyaki, the envoy of Śiśupāla, Dāruka, four Pāṇḍavas, Pradyumna and the kings on both the sides - the envoy of Śiśupāla and most of the kings on either side invented, the rest true - The sketches of the major and the minor characters - Conclusion.

#### Chapter 19.

Literary Estimate of the Poem.

(A Critical Appreciation).

Theme- Purpose: Dr.K.N.Watve's view examined - Treatment - Elaboration - Bandhas - Representative of the age - Main sentiment - Humour - Māgha and his predecessors - Māgha and Bhāravi - Māgha and his knowledge of human nature - Power of observation - Māgha and nature - Beauties of the poem - Śiśupālavadha, a Śāstrakāvya - Śiśupālavadha a Puruṣakāvya - The influence of Māgha on his successors.

#### Chapter 20.

Conclusion.

Versatility of Māgha - Unbroken popularity of the poem to be judged from the large number of commentaries written in the succeeding centuries - Popularity all over the country and not confined to one particular province only - The extent of the influence of the poem, its translations, its imitation pointing to its intrinsic merits - Its importance from the point of view of the traditional learning and the study of the cultural history of the particular period-Plea for striking the balance.