

SILVER JUBILEE PUBLICATION SERIES-2

CONTRIBUTION OF MITHILĀ  
TO SĀNSKRĪT KĀVYA  
AND  
SĀHITYAŚĀSTRA

TRILOKANĀTHA JHĀ



RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN



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## PREFACE

Mithilā, the land of Janaka, hardly requires any introduction to a student of Sanskrit. For, it has carved a niche for itself in the temple of Sanskrit learning. Since time immemorial thousands of sons and daughters of the soil have been enriching Sanskrit by their valuable contributions to different branches of knowledge - philosophy and grammar, smṛti and dharmasāstra, astronomy and astrology, poetry and prose, campū and drama, rhetoric and prosody, poetics and drama-turgy, music and dance, lexicon and anthology, tantra and rituals, politics and erotics etc. Many of them polyhistor famous for their versatility. They all led a life dedicated to learning and received the highest distinction in the academic field. They kept the glow of intellectual luminosity undiminished through the ages and brought an unstinted praise - an undying fame for their place of birth.

Showring encomiums for one's own state of origin can be treated as a spontaneous overflow of patriotic feelings but the words of a scholar of a neighbouring state extolling his neighbouring state to the skies cannot be dismissed with facile flippancy. Kavikarṇapūra of Bengal pays glowing tributes to Mithilā in his *Pārijātaharaṇamahā kāvya*. He says :-

"O Lotus-eyed one! behold yonder this is Mithilā, the birth place of Jānakī. Here the goddess of learning dances with pride on the tip of the tongue of the learned. (XVII-59)

The above eulogistic reference to Mithilā may

are numerous anectodes current in Mithilā pertaining to the worthy son and his worthy father,<sup>1</sup> but they are not being mentioned here for fear of the book being bulky.

## GAṆAPATI

Gaṇapati,<sup>2</sup> also called Gaṇeśvara<sup>3</sup> and Gaṇanātha<sup>4</sup> was the son of Mahādeva, the younger brother of MM. Śaṅkara Miśra. He was the father of the celebrated Maiṭhila poet and rhetorician, Kavirāja Bhānudatta.

On an examination of anthological sources, Chaudhuri has clearly distinguished between Gaṇapati and his namesakes, who flourished definitely earlier than our poet. For, the verses of that Gaṇapati have been quoted in the thirteenth century compilations like *Sūktimuktāvalī* and *Saduktikarṇāmṛta*.<sup>5</sup>

As regards the age of our author it has been established, after a careful examination of genealogical records and other internal and external

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1. Vide the author's paper styled "The glory that was Mithilādeśa - I - Ayācī and Śaṅkara", published in *Maniṣā*, the journal of the K.S.D. Sanskrit University, Darbhanga, in No 2, 1974.
  2. cf. *kṛtāharavinayo gaṇapati-tanayo* - *Gītagaurīpatikavya* - X - 1 (8) and *yathā gaṇapataḥ kvyaṁ* - *Rasapārijāta* - I-2(a).
  3. *tāto yasya gaṇeśvaraḥ* - *Rasamañjarī* - last verse (No 138) and *gaṇeśvarakaver vaco* - *Rasapārijāta* - X-126.
  4. *gaṇanāthakṛtām pustim* - *kumārabhārgavīyacampū* - I-30(a) and *kavigaṇanāthasutasya kaveriti* - *Gītagaurīpatikāvyā* - VI-2(8).
  5. Vide J.B. Chaudhuri's paper entitled Sanskrit poet Gaṇapati II" - *The Poona Orientalist* - Vol. VIII Nos 38-39.



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