

GADYAM KAVĪHĀM NIKĀSAM VADĀNTI.

P R E F A C E

I deem it my special privilege to place before the reputed scholars my humble contribution in contemporary Sanskrit researches with special reference to prose-kāvya. Although this particular field of Sanskrit literature has already been handled by many scholars, yet a composite and chronological study of all the works under our per-view was yet to be presented with special reference to Geographical, Social and Cultural data. This was the task which I undertook to carry out. Whatever little in this direction could be done, is before the scholarly world to be assessed. I do not have any special claim of scholarship in presenting this study for proper evaluation.

In the accomplishment of this thesis first of all I owe my deep sense of gratitude to my worthy Supervisor Dr. D. N. Shukla, M. A., Ph. D., D. Litt., Senior Professor and Head of Sanskrit Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh. His research contributions amounting fifteen volumes on Technical Heritage of ancient India have earned him great repute at home and abroad. It was at his advice that I took up this technical branch of Sanskrit literature to throw a new light on the contemporary researches. My thesis virtually owes its inspiration and progress to his encouragement and the constant

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guidance, valuable suggestions on various problems which I had been receiving from time to time. It is due to constant inspiration and personal guidance of my esteemed Garuji that I could complete the work within the shortest possible time. I also owe my grateful thanks to my revered teachers and friends specially to Dr. D. D. Sharma, of Sanskrit Department, Panjab University; Dr. S. P. Bhardwaj, of V. V. R. I. Hoshiarpur; Prof. H. S. Chaudhari of Government College, Chandigarh who took personal interest and also gave me valuable help throughout the completion of the thesis.

In the end I must humbly acknowledge my gratitude to various scholars whose work had been a source of my inspiration and help. The exhaustive list of such works has been given in the bibliography. One thing that I would like to mention here is that inspite of my differences at many points I cannot help to appreciate the valuable contribution that they have made in the contemporary researches.

I also owe my grateful thanks to the staff of the Panjab University Library who extended to me all kinds of facilities in carrying out my work.

A word about the scheme of transliteration, attached herewith, may not be out of place here. I have followed here the conventional way of transliteration of Sanskrit, Prākṛit and Apabhraṃśa words with the use of diacritical marks. Sometimes the modern proper names

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particularly those pertaining to towns and individuals have been spelt in the usual way without the use of diacritical marks.

Before concluding, I must express my sincere and respectful thanks to the worthy Vice Chancellor Shri Suraj Bhan Ji, but for whose kindness I could not have got the University Grants Commission Scholarship for the continuance of the research work for full two and half years. My thanks are also due to the University Grants Commission authorities for their financial help in the form of scholarship.

30th Oct 1970

MAHESH CHANDER SHARMA.