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## Commentaries on Sisupalavadha

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### Abstract:

*Sisupalavadha (SV)* is an influential Mahakavya in Sanskrit written by the famous poet Magha. Due to the popularity as well as the scholarly nature of the Mahakavya, many commentaries on it have been written by great scholars of different parts of India. Great scholar Durgaprasad who has edited *SV* with Mallinatha's commentary gives a list of eight commentaries on *SV*. Among the published commentaries most popular is सर्वङ्कष of Mallinatha. This commentary is famous throughout India except in Kashmir. Another commentary which is also very important is सन्देहविषौषध of Vallabhadeva. The present scholar in the course of research and data collection for the present topic of study, could locate the commentary of Devaraja, on *SV* which is mentioned by M.Krishnamachariar among the unpublished commentaries on *SV*. The name of the commentary of Devaraja is *Sarasangraha*. The commentary of Jayasimhacarya, which is mentioned by M.Krishnamachariar, is also given in the list of Mss/Tss collected at Government Sanskrit College, Triunithura.

**Keyword:** Influential Mahakavya, सर्वङ्कष of Mallinatha, सन्देहविषौषध of Vallabhadeva, *Sarasangraha* of Devaraja, Jayasimhacarya, poetic beauty like Rasa, rhetoricians, stylistic poetic embellishments, Granthamala

### Introduction

Magha is a Sanskrit poet whose only available work is *Sisupalavadha (SV)*, an influential Mahakavya in Sanskrit. It is also famous as *Magha* as it became famous in the name of the author. Magha is a master of all poetic techniques like luscious descriptions, use of intricate syntax, compounds that deliver quite different meanings when they are split in different ways and various stylistic poetic embellishments.

Magha was the son of Datta or Dattaka. His grandfather Suprabhadeva was the minister of king श्रीवर्मलात [1]. Magha refers to *Kasikavritti* and its commentary *Nyasa* [2]. The *Kasikavritti* was the joint production of Jayaditya and Vamana and according to Itsing, Jayaditya died at about 661 A.D. And Magha is quoted by Anandavardhana of 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Therefore Magha's date can be fixed at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century AD or in the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D [3].

It is based on an episode of the *Mahabharata* in which King Sisupala insults the hero god Krishna, who beheads him in the ensuing duel. Comprising 20 cantos, the *SV* has a rich vocabulary that allegedly includes every known word in the Sanskrit language which support the famous saying नवसर्गते माघे नवशब्दो न विद्यते। The Mahakavya, *SV* has been praised with great honour by later poets, scholars and rhetoricians which shows its importance and significant place in the world of Sanskrit literature. Great teachers of Sanskrit rhetorics like Abhinavagupta, Bhoja, Visavanatha, Namisadhu and Rajasekhara quote profusely from *SV* to illustrate various aspects of poetic beauty like Rasa, Guna and Alankara [4].

A peculiar feature of the poem is that the poem begins with the auspicious word श्री (श्रियः पतिः श्रीमति शसितुं जगत्----...) and all cantos end with the word श्री incorporated with the last verse: सुरमुनाविन्दोः श्रियं विप्र्रति (Canto-I), ..... उच्चकैरुच्छ्रितोरःस्थलनियतनिषण्णश्रीश्रुताम्. . . (Canto-II), पुरः सततं धृतश्रियः . . . . . (Canto-III), अनुकृतशिखरौघश्रीभिः. . . . .(Canto-IV),... उपालब्धेवोच्चैर्गिरिपतिरिति श्रीपतिमसौ . . (Canto-V),. . . , श्रीमान् समस्तमनुसानु . . . (Canto-VI), . . . पुनरधिकतरेव स्वेदतोयोदयश्रीः . . . (Canto-VII),. . . श्रियमासवतोऽतिशायिनीम्. . . (Canto-VIII), . . . आचार्यत्वं रतिषु विलसन् मन्मथश्रीविलासान् . . . (Canto- IX),. . .

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अनवरतश्रीसङ्गिनः . . . (Canto-X),.... क्षयितकुमुदतारकश्रीवियोगम् . . . (Canto-XI),. . . सपदि सरितं सा श्रीभर्तुः . . . . (Canto-XII), . . . , श्रीपतिः पतिरसावनेश्च . . . (Canto-XIII),. . . साम्राज्यश्रियमधिगच्छता नृपेण . . . (Canto-XIV), . . . . भिन्नवक्त्रेन्दुलक्ष्मीश्रीकाः . . . .(Canto-XV), विनिहत्य भवन्तमूर्जितश्रीः . . . (Canto-XVI), . . . पृथ्वीधरश्रीभृतः . . . (Canto-XVII), . . . श्रीपतेरूर्जितमन्दिः . . . (CantoXVII),. . . लब्धाद्यक्षयशुद्धिरुदुरतरश्रीवत्सभूमिः . . . (Canto-XIX), श्रिया जुष्टं दिव्यैः . . . (Canto-XX).

The 19<sup>th</sup> canto of the poem is especially noteworthy for the descriptions and illustrations of various Sabdalankaras like सर्वतोभद्रबन्ध (V-27), मुरजबन्ध (V-29), प्रतिलोमयमकम् (V-34), गोमूत्रीकाबन्धः (V-46), समुद्रयमकम् (V-58), अर्धभ्रमकः (V-72) and चक्रबन्धः (V-120). Verses with only one letter or with two letters consecutively arranged conveying the meaning befitting to the context and the like (एकाक्षर, द्व्यक्षर) are also some special features noteworthy in the canto XX that are rarely found in other Mahakavyas in Sanskrit. Verse 114 of that canto is a good example of एकाक्षरः

दाददो दुददुद्दादी दादादो दुददीददोः।  
दुद्दादं दददे दुदे ददाददददोऽददः॥

Likewise verse 108 of the same canto can be quoted as an example of द्व्यक्षर

शूरः शौरिशिशिरेराशाशौराशु राशिशः।  
शाररुः श्रीशरिरिशः शुशुरेऽरिशिरःशरैः॥

Due to the popularity as well as the scholarly nature of the Mahakavya, many commentaries on it have been written by great scholars of different parts of India. Great scholar Durgaprasad who has edited SV with Mallinatha's commentary gives a list of eight commentaries on SV: 1) सन्देहविषौषध of Vallabhadeva, 2) commentary of Ranganatha 3) commentary of Ekanatha 4) commentary of Caritravardhana, 5) सर्वङ्कष of Mallinatha 6) सुबोध of Bharatamallika 7) सुबोधिनी of Dinakaramisra and 8) हसन्ती of Gopala<sup>[5]</sup>. M.Krishnamachariar in his *History of Classical Sanskrit Literature*, gives some more details regarding the available commentaries on SV. He gives a list of 30 commentaries in which three are published and 27 remain in Ms Form. The list of published commentaries, according to M.Krishnamachariar, is as follows: (1) सन्देहविषौषध of Vallabhadeva, (2) Commentary of Jivanandavidyasagara and (3) सर्वङ्कष of Mallinatha. He mentions the authors of the following unpublished commentaries also giving the location of the Mss/Tss: (1) Caritravardhana, (2) Pedda Bhatta, (3) Devaraja, (4) Haridasa, (5) Srirangadeva, (6) Srikantha, (7) Bharatasena, (8) Candrasekhara, (9) Kavivallabhacakravarti, (10) Lakshminatha, (11) Bhavadatta, (12) Mahesvarapancanana, (13) Bhagiratha, (14) Jivanandavi -dyasagara, (15) Garuda, (16) Anandadevayani, (17) Divakara, (18) Brihaspati, (19) Rajakunda, (20) Jayasimhacharya, (21) Srirangadeva, (22) Gopala, (23) Bharatamallika, (24) Ekanatha, (25) Rangaraja, (26) Padmanabhabhatta and (27) anonymous one<sup>[6]</sup>.

Among the published commentaries most popular is सर्वङ्कष of Mallinatha. This commentary is famous throughout India except in Kashmir. Another commentary which is also very important is सन्देहविषौषध of Vallabhadeva. SV, with the commentaries of Mallinatha and Vallabhadeva, edited by

Sahityopadhyaya Anantaramasastri, has been published from Chaukhamba Sanskrit Series, Varanasi as Haridas Sanskrit Granthamala No.69, in 1929.

The present scholar in the course of research and data collection for the present topic of study, could locate the commentary of Devaraja, on SV which is mentioned by M.Krishnamachariar among the unpublished commentaries on SV. The name of the commentary of Devaraja is *Sarasangraha*. The Ts of the commentary was located in the Ms Library Govt. Sanskrit College, Tripunithura, Ts No. 617/448/189. The commentary is available up to the third verse of VI canto. The Ts is neatly written in paper 8.5 inches length and 6.5 inches breadth (Note-book form) in an average of 18 lines with an average of five words in each line. The commentary is written on both sides of the pages and there are 453 pages of the Ts containing the available portion of the commentary. The Ts is kept in the library in well bound form, though some pages have become loose now because it is very old.

The commentary of Jayasimhacharya, which is mentioned by M.Krishnamachariar, is also given in the list of Mss/Tss collected at Government Sanskrit College, Triunithura. In the list it is mentioned that Jayasimhacharya's commentary, the name of which is not given, is included in Ms No. 976/159/1045 (SL No., old No. and new No. in the catalogue). But the present scholar, after checking the leaves of the Ms, could not find Jayasimhacharya's commentary in it. The Ms contain *BB (Balabodhika)* commentary of Desamangalattu Variyar only. How the mention of Jayasimha's commentary crept into and whether Jayasimha's commentary is available in any other bundle kept in the library, is yet to be thoroughly checked.

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1. These facts are clear from Magha's own statement in कविवंशवर्णन at the end of the poem.  
सर्वाधिकारीसुकृताधिकारः श्रीवर्मलाख्यस्य बभूव राज्ञः।

असक्तदृष्टिर्विरजाः सदैव देवोऽपरः सुप्रभदेवनामा॥1॥

तस्याभवदत्तक इत्युदात्तः क्षमी मृदुधर्मपरस्तनूजः।- - -।V-1-3

2. अनुत्सूत्रपदन्यासः सद्वृत्तिः सन्निबन्धना ।  
शब्दविद्येव नो भाति राजनीतिरपस्पशा॥II-112
3. AK Warder. Indian Kavya Literature; Vol 4, p. 135, also  
MSMenon, Samskritha Sahitya Cartram; Vol 2. p. 138-  
139.
4. For details of such quotations vide, AK Warder,IKL; Vol  
4. p.135-140.
5. Histroy of Classical Sanskrit Literature; p.157.
6. Histroy of Classical Sanskrit Literature; p.157.