

THE NĪLAMATA PURĀṆA

VOL. I

(A Cultural & Literary Study of a Kaśmīrī Purāṇa)

By

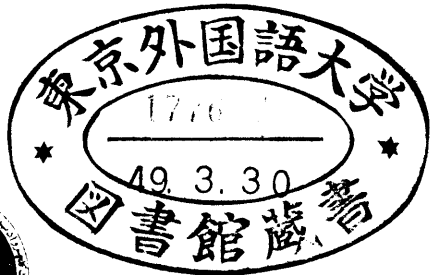
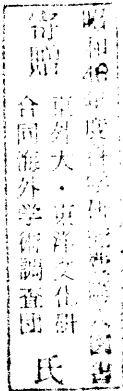
Dr. Ved Kumari

M.A. (Sanskrit, Ancient Indian Hist. & Culture) Ph. D. (Banaras)

Head of the Post-graduate Deptt. of Sanskrit

J & K University

Jammu (Tawi)



Published by

J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

SRINAGAR-JAMMU

Mbh.	Mahābhārata (Critical Edition of B.O.R.I.).
MS., MSS.	Manuscript, Manuscripts.
Pu.	Purāṇa.
Q.J M.S.	Quarterly Journal of Mythic Society.
Rajata.	Rājatarāṅgiṇī.
Report.	A Report on a tour in search of Sanskrit MSS. in Kashmir, Rajaputana etc. Extra No. of the J.B.B.R.A.S. 1877.
R.V.	R̥gveda.
Ś.B.	Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa.
S.B.E.	Sacred Books of the East.
Z.D.M.G.	Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft.

Scheme of Transliteration

अ	a	ऊ	ña
आ	ā	च	ca
ई	ī	छ	cha
ऊ	ū	ज	ña
ओ	o	ण	ṇa
औ	au	क्ष	kṣa
ऋ	ṛ	ज्ञ	jña
ॠ	ṝ	श	śa
ऌ	ḷ	ष	ṣa

CONTENTS

	Pages
Foreward by Dr. Karan Singh	i
Introduction by Dr. K. M. Panikkar	iii-iv
Preface	v-vii
Abbreviations	viii
Scheme of Transliteration	ix

CHAPTER I

Introductory	1-15
I. Title of the work of our study and its claim to be a Purāṇa	1
II. Contents of the Nilamata	5
III. Date of the Nilamata	9

CHAPTER II

The Geology and the Geography	16-45
I. Birth of Kaśmīra	16
(i) Legend of the origin of Kaśmīra	16
(ii) Results of modern geological observations	17
(iii) The origin of the legend	19
II. Geographical Data	19
(I) Geographical data in general	19
(II) Geography of Kaśmīra	21
(i) The name Kaśmīra	21
(ii) Mountains	23
(iii) Rivers	25
(iv) Other sacred sites	37
(III) Geography of other parts of India	42
(IV) The Influence of Geography on the history and culture of Kaśmīra	44

CHAPTER III

Tribes in the Nilamata	46-76
I. The Nāgas	46
(i) Views of different scholars	46
(ii) Nāgas in the Nilamata	48
(iii) Nāgas in the Vedic literature	51
(iv) Nāgas in the Indus Valley Civilization	52
(v) Nāgas in the Epics	53
(vi) Nāgas in the Purāṇas	56
(vii) Nāgas in the Buddhist literature	56
(viii) Conclusion	57
II. Piśācas	58
(i) Views of different scholars	58
(ii) Piśācas in the Nilamata	59
(iii) Piśācas in the Vedic literature	59
(iv) Piśācas in the Mahābhārata	62
(v) Piśācas in the Gaṇapātha	64
(vi) Piśācas in the Purāṇas	64
(vii) Piśācas and the Paiśāci Prākṛta	66
(viii) Evidence from geographical names	68
(ix) Evidence of the characteristics of the Piśācas	69
(i) Cannibalism	69
(ii) Paiśāca Vivāha	70
(x) Conclusion	71
III. The Dārvas	71
IV. The Abhisāras	72
V. The Gāndhāras	72
VI. The Juhṇḍaras	73
VII. The Śakas	73
VIII. The Khaśas	74
IX. The Taṅgaṇas	74
X. The Māṇḍavas	75
XI. The Madras	76
XII-XIII. The Antargiris and the Bahirgiris	76
XIV. The Yavanas	76

CHAPTER IV

Social and Economic Organization	77-98
I. Social Organization	77
(I) Varṇas	77
(i) Brāhmaṇas	78
(1) Brāhmaṇas and the rituals	78
(2) Brāhmaṇas and the Vedic studies	78
(3) Brāhmaṇas and the recitation of the Purāṇas etc.	79
(4) Brāhmaṇas and gifts	80
(5) Brāhmaṇas and politics	82
(6) General attitude towards Brāhmaṇas	84
(ii) Kṣatriyas	84
(1) Duties and social status of the Kṣatriyas	84
(2) Brāhmaṇa-Kṣatriya relations	85
(iii) Vaiśyas	86
(iv) Śūdras	86
(v) Other castes and Varṇasaṅkara	87
(II) Āśramas	88
(i) Brahmacharya	88
(ii) Absence of the terms Sannyāsa and Vānaprastha	88
(iii) Family life	88
(1) Children	89
(2) Position of women	90
(a) Women in the family	90
(b) Women outside marriage	95
(3) Friends and guests	96
II. Economic organization	96

CHAPTER V

Social and Economic Life	99-130
I. Means of recreation	99
(I) Music	99

(i) Varieties of vocal music	100
(ii) Professional singers	101
(iii) Musical instruments	101
(1) Viṇā, (2) Veṇu, (3) Śaṅkha, (4) Paṭaha, (5) Muraja	
(II) Dancing	104
(III) Popularity of music and dancing in Kaśmīra	105
(IV) Nature of music and dancing	107
(V) Theatrical performances	108
(VI) Other sports	109
(i) Garden sports	109
(ii) Water sports	111
(iii) Wrestling	111
(iv) Gambling	111
(v) Hunting	112
(vi) Playing with toys	112
II. Arts and crafts	112
(i) Architecture	112
(ii) Image-making	113
(iii) Painting	114
(iv) Handicrafts	115
III. Dress and ornaments	116
IV. Cosmetics and other requisites of personal decoration	117
V. Food and drinks	118
Alphabetic list of the articles of diet and cosmetics	119
VI. Cattle, beasts and birds	124
VII. Agriculture	125
VIII. Trade	128
(i) Coinage	129

CHAPTER VI

Political Thought and Organization	131-138
I. King and his functions	131
II. Territory	134
III. Ministers	135

IV. Army and War	136
V. Republican elements	136

CHAPTER VII

Religious Cults	139-188
I. Vaiṣṇavism	139
(I) Viṣṇu	139
(i) Viṣṇu in the early literature	139
(ii) Viṣṇu in the Nīlamata	140
(1) Incarnations	142
(a) Matsyāvatāra	143
(b) Kūrmāvatāra	144
(c) Varāhāvatāra	145
(d) Haṃsāvatāra	145
(e) Aśvaśiras Avatāra	146
(f) Narasiṃhāvatāra	147
(g) Vāmanāvatāra	148
(h) Rāmāvatāra	149
(i) Kṛṣṇāvatāra	150
(j) Buddhāvatāra	153
(2) Other legends about Viṣṇu	153
(a) Killing of Madhu	153
(b) Fight with Naraka	153
(c) Releasing of the Elephant-Chief	154
(d) Killing of Jalodbhava	154
(e) Paraśurāma and the image of Viṣṇu	154
(II) Lakṣmī	155
(III) Different Vaiṣṇava sects	156
(IV) Popularity of the Vaiṣṇava cult in early Kaśmīra	157
II. Śaivism	158
(I) Śiva	158
(i) Rudra in the early literature	159
(ii) Non-Vedic character of Śiva	159
(iii) Śiva in the Nīlamata	160
(1) A member of the triad	160
(2) Śiva's names and myths	161
(3) Śiva's non-Vedic character	162

(II) Umā	163
(i) Umā in the Nilamata	163
(ii) Origin of Umā	164
(iii) Durgā and Śārādā	164
(III) Śiva's sons Gaṇeśa, Skanda and their associates	165
(i) Gaṇeśa	165
(ii) Skanda Kārttikeya	166
(iii) Śākha, Viśākha and Naigameśa	167
(IV) Popularity of Śaivism in Kaśmīra	167
III. Other Brahmanic deities	168
(I) Brahmā, (II) Varuṇa, (III) Agni	
(IV) Revanta etc. (V) Yama, (VI) Indra,	
(VII) The Sun and the Moon, (VIII) Kubera,	
(IX) Baladeva, (X) Chandodeva,	
(XI) Groups of gods, (XII) Goddesses,	
(XIII) River goddesses	
IV. Buddhism	175
(I) Buddhism in the Nilamata	175
(II) Buddhism in other Purāṇas as compared with that of the Nilamata	176
(III) Popularity of Buddhism in early Kaśmīra	179
V. Nāga-cult	179
(I) Origin of Serpent Worship	180
(II) Serpent Worship in different parts of the world	180
(III) Serpent Worship in India	181
Śaivism and Nāga-cult, Vaiṣṇavism and Nāga-cult, Nature of the Nāga deities, Worship of the Nāga deities in the Nilamata	
VI. Resume	188

CHAPTER VIII

Festivals and other Religious Practices	189-214
I. Account of the vratas and the utsavas	189
II. Other religious practices	209
III. Nature and significance of vratas, utsavas and other religious practices	212

CHAPTER IX

Philosophy	215-234
I. Philosophical thoughts in the Purāṇas	215
II. Cosmogony and cosmology	216
(I) Concept of the universe	216
(i) Worlds	216
(ii) Heavenly bodies	217
(II) Creation of the universe	218
III. Various theocratic cults	219
(I) Polytheism	220
(II) Henotheism	220
(III) Monotheism	222
(IV) Theriomorphism	222
(V) Animism and animatism	223
(VI) Pantheism	223
(VII) Monism	223
IV. Eschatology	224
V. Ritualism and Bhakti-cult	225
VI. Ethics	227
VII. The philosophy of the Nilamata in comparison with the Monistic Śaiva philosophy of Kaśmīra and the Pañcarātra philosophy	228
VIII. Conclusion	233

CHAPTER X

Literary value of the Nilamata	235-241
I. Language	235
II. Figures of Speech	236
III. Metre	240
IV. Rhyme	241

CHAPTER XI

Conclusion	242-244
Bibliography	245-256
Index	257-287
Errata	288