

S Y N O P S I S

STATEMENT NO. I

HOW THE PRESENT WORK TRENDS TO THE GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE:

(1) DEVALA - AN ANCIENT AUTHORITY ON DHARMA :

Devala is one of the most prominent and ancient authorities on Dharma. Saṅkarācārya mentions him as a Dharmasūtrakāra in his commentary on the Brahmasūtras¹. He is also mentioned as a Smṛtikāra (law-giver) in the several lists, those of eighteen, twenty-one and thirty-six Smṛtikāras. The commentators and digest-writers on Dharmasāstra, have unequivocally accepted Devala, as one of the greatest authorities on Dharmasāstra.

(2) A MISFORTUNE-LOSS OF DEVALASMRITI IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM :

Unfortunately, the genuine, original and complete work on Dharmasāstra of such a great Smṛtikāra, has become extinct, in the course of time.

1. Cf. I/4/28.

There is a metrical Smṛti, ascribed to Devala, in the printed collections of Smṛtis². It contains merely ninety verses, that treat the subject of purification of persons, associated with Mlecchas. Mm.P.V.Kane remarks, "This appears to be a late compilation."³. Hence, it is evident that it is a fragmentary and a later work ascribed to Devala.

(3) SOURCES OF RECONSTRUCTION :

But his genuine Smṛti has been unconsciously preserved and is still surviving through the multifarious quotations, in the Dharmasāstra works. The digests and commentaries on Dharmasāstra abound in quotations, from very ancient Smṛtis of numerous sages, like Manu, Yājñavalkya, Kātyāyana, Brhaspati etc. Among them, Devala is one of the most profusely and every now and then quoted ancient Smṛtikāras, whose views have been given great prominence and importance by almost all the famous writers on Dharmasāstra, whose authority, regarding authenticity of quotations is evidently unquestionable.

(4) NATURE AND PECULIARITY OF DEVALA'S VIEWS :

The quotations, ascribed to Devala, found in the digests and commentaries on Dharmasāstra, are not only numerous, but are also varied. They cover almost all the topics, dealt with

2. Smṛtisandarbhā - Part III, pp.1655-1663, Smṛtīnām Samuccayah - pp.85-88, Astādasasmṛtayah - pp.64-67.

3. History of Dharma - Vol.I, Part I, p.282.

in other Smrtis, such as ācāra, vyavahāra and prāyaścitta and their various sub-divisions. Though Devala deals with these subjects, similar to those found in other Smrtis, he has many a distinct and novel view, about various Smṛti-topics which display his originality & accord him an independent and prominent status as a Smṛtikāra (law-giver).

(5) HIGH WEIGHTAGE GIVEN TO DEVALA BY EMINENT MODERN SCHOLARS :

The importance & value of the numerous & varied quotations of Devala, have been well-understood and recognized by eminent modern scholars, in the field of Dharmaśāstra. To illustratively indicate, the reputed scholars like Mm.P.V.Kane⁴, Dr.K.P.Jayaswal⁵, Dr.Bhabatosh Bhattacharya⁶ etc. have emphasized the importance and necessity of reconstructing the lost text of Devala.

It is surprising and noteworthy that the work of reconstruction of such an invaluable text of Devala, in its entirety, has remained a dream, in spite of the fact that hundreds of quotations, ascribed to Devala, are available, as pointed out earlier.

(6) RECONSTRUCTED TEXT, COUPLED WITH ITS CRITICAL STUDY :

Not only the reconstruction, but the critical study thereof also is felt quite necessary. It will not only throw light upon

4. History of Dharma.-Vol.I, Part I, p.284 & Vol.I,Part II,p.723.

5. Manu and Yājñavalkya, p.300, note 2.

6. Studies in Dharmaśāstra, p.10.

the distinctive features, on various Smṛti-topics of Devala, but will also be an aid to the historical understanding of the then socio-cultural set-up. The Sāṅkhya-Yoga philosophy, elucidated by Devala, in accordance with the ancient & lost Tantra works of Sāṅkhya-Yoga, is of great value from the point of view of history of Sāṅkhya-Yoga philosophy & for understanding the nature, import and purport of the ancient Tantras of these systems, the information about which is very rarely available. Devala, in a way, is singled out and the only ancient authority, who deals elaborately with the problem of re-admittance by purification of persons, converted by mlecchas.

(7) CONCLUDING REMARKS :

Hence this present research work was undertaken, with a view to satisfying a long-felt desideratum, in respect of retrieval and preservation of an ancient text of Dharmasāstra. It is felt that this sort of research work of reconstructing of almost a lost text, coupled with its critical study would enhance its utility in general.

STATEMENT NO. II

SOURCES, INDEBTEDNESS AND ORIGINALITY

A list of works - both published and unpublished consulted and utilized for the reconstruction of Devalasmṛti text and the critical study thereof, has been given in the Appendix (Bibliography). The researcher has gratefully acknowledged, at proper places, his indebtedness, to the authors and works, wherefrom the quotations and references have been reproduced and as a natural sequence, logical, reasonable & judicious conclusions, have been arrived at, after having given due weightage to the evidences and general information available, during the course of referring, studying and scrutinizing the textual and allied material.

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OUTLINE OF THE THESIS

(A SYNOPSIS)

PART I

SECTION I (INTRODUCTION)

CHAPTER I :

Introductory Remarks.

Necessity and Importance of Reconstruction of the Text of
Devalasmṛti.

CHAPTER II :

Devala - His Bio-data

(A) Devala - An Ancient Reput@d Sage.

(B) Devala-life, Personality, Character and Contribution.

(C) Devala- An Ancient Authority on Dharma.

(D) Devala - His Date.

CHAPTER III :

Smṛti

(A) Smṛti - General Information.

(B) The Extinction of Smṛtis-Causes Thereof.

CHAPTER IV :

Methodology of Reconstruction.

SECTION : II

(TEXT IN ITS RECONSTRUCTED FORM)

(Note : Figures in brackets indicate the extent as expressed in the form of Ślokas and/or Sūtras).

I. Ācārādhyaḥ (1-1530) :

- (1) Dharmasvarūpam (1-50)
- (2) Varnāśramajātīdharmāḥ (51-328)
- (3) Samskārah (329-468)
- (4) Paribhāṣā (469-511)
- (5) Āhnikam (513-706)
- (6) Bhakṣyābhakṣyam (707-808)
- (7) Deśadharmāḥ Kāladharmāśca (809-884)
- (8) Dānam (885-1050)
- (9) Dravyasuddhiḥ (1051-1140)
- (10) Āśāncam (1141-1182)
- (11) Antyeṣṭiḥ (1183-1306)
- (12) Śrāddham (1307-1530)

II. Vyavahārādhyaḥ (1531-1613) :

- (1) Rājadharmāḥ (1531-1539)
- (2) Ātatāyinaḥ (1540-1542)
- (3) Strīpūṇḍharmāḥ (1543-1562)
- (4) Dāyavibhāgaḥ (1563-1613)

III. Prāyascittādhyaṃyāḥ (1614-2475) :

- (1) Prāyascittam (1614-1812)
- (2) Mlecchitasuddhiḥ (1813-1884)
- (3) Anugrahaprāyascittam (1885-1907)
- (4) Vratāni (1908-2154)
- (5) Tīrthayātrā (2155-2199)
- (6) Nihsreyasam (2200-2475)

IV. Parīṣiṣṭam - Devalaktam Jyotiṣam (1-81) :

- (1) Saṃskārāḥ (1-15)
- (2) Kṛṣiḥ (16-38)
- (3) Grahacārāḥ (39-72)
- (4) Ariṣṭāni (73-81)

PART II

(A) List of Consulted Dharmaśāstra works in their Abbreviated Forms.

(B) Sources and Variants.

PART III
CRITICAL STUDY

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Reconstructed Text - Outline.

CHAPTER II :

Reconstructed Text - Date.

CHAPTER III :

Reconstructed Text - Home.

CHAPTER IV :

Reconstructed Text - Summary.

CHAPTER V :

The Distinctive Features of the Text (General) :

- (A) The Distinctive Religious Features.
- (B) The Distinctive Social Features.
- (C) The Distinctive Sacramental Features - Part I.
- (D) The Distinctive Sacramental Features - Part II.
- (E) The Distinctive Sacramental Features - Part III.
- (F) The Distinctive Ritualistic Features.
- (G) The Distinctive Legal Features.
- (H) The Distinctive Expiatory Features.

CHAPTER VI :

Further Distinctive Features of the Text (Philosophical Aspect).

SECTION I

- (1) Relevance of Philosophical Exposition.
- (2) The Twofold Puruṣārtha.
- (3) The Sāṅkhya Philosophy.
- (4) The Yoga Philosophy.
- (5) Pāpadoṣas - (The Treatment of the Threefold Vices).
- (6) Concept of Bondage and Liberation.

SECTION II

- (A) Devala's Indebtedness to the works on Sāṅkhya and Yoga.
- (B) Devala - A Brahmovādi Sāṅkhya
(A Happy Blending of Sāṅkhya and Vedānta)

CHAPTER VII :

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PART IV

APPENDICES

- (I) Authors and Works, mentioned in the Text.
- (II) Mantras, quoted and indicated in the Text.
- (III) Place-Names, occurring in the Text.
- (IV) Bibliography :
(List of works, utilized for quotations and references,
during the Process of Reconstruction and Critical Study).