

STATEMENT - 1

The present work tends to the advancement of knowledge in the following way :

The Mahābhāgavata Purāṇa was critically edited by Dr. Pushpendra Kumar for the first time in 1983 and thus its existence came to the notice of all and sundry since then. As late as 1983 this purāṇa remained in the manuscript form only especially in the east Bengal and Assam (Kāmarūpa) and adjacent places. Thus its existence was noticed by a few persons only before 1983.

A critical study of this Mahābhāgavata Purāṇa (Śākta Purāṇa) wherein all the questions regarding the Purāṇa, its place in the relevant literature throwing light on the social, religious, cultural and literary study might have been discussed was a long felt desideratum.

This is an humble attempt to fill up this gap.

I have also discussed some controversial topics such as the part played by Mahābhāgavata Purāṇa in spreading pure devotion to Śakti setting aside the ritual part of the worship of Devī and thus showing development in the treatment of Devī worship found in the Devī Bhāgavata, a work mostly a senior contemporary of the Mahābhāgavata.

Moreover the deep influence of Śivapurāṇa on the Mahābhāgavata as shown in chapter IV definitely helps to make more definite the date of Śivapurāṇa at a time preceding the time of composition of the Mahābhāgavata, thus reducing the span of time of its composition by at least ^acentury or two i.e. in the 8th or 9th century A.D. This is another controversial topic solved by the said influence.

I have attempted to give a picture of the society as reflected in the Mahābhg. which is a source of useful information for the cultural history of mediæval India.

It is in this way that my humble contribution tends to the general advancement of knowledge.

STATEMENT - 2

In the preparation of the present work, I have drawn upon all the available literature in print. Acknowledgements have been fully made to all the cases and a complete bibliography has been also attached.

I have studied the text, and the relevant literature and have tried to express my own views in the light of this critical study.