

# SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

## STATEMENT NO. 1

### RELEVANCE OF THE PRESENT WORK AS WELL AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERN SANSKRIT LITERATURE

Bhīṣma is one of the central and the most honoured characters of the epic *Mahābhārata*. He occupies a glorious position in the galaxy of the personages of the *Mahābhārata*. Bhīṣma was born as Devavrata and is the grandsire of the heroes and villains of the epic *Mahābhārata*. He gave up marriage and throne for his father's sake. To the people of India, he is the symbol of mature wisdom. The life and message of Bhīṣma have been a constant source of inspiration to many Sanskrit poets and scholars. Being influenced by his life and philosophy, the poet Hari Narayan Dikshit composed *Bhīṣmacaritam* on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1991. It is an epic poem comprising of 20 cantos and 1118 verses.

This mythological poem is worthy of note for a number of reasons. As very clear from the title, life and activities of Bhīṣmapitāmaha is dealt with in this poem in a proper order. It is also one of the excellent biographical poems, composed so far in modern Sanskrit literature. It holds a special place for its intrinsic merit, originality, superb presentation, fine language and an appropriate blending of poetic elements. The present study intends to analyse various literary as well as linguistic aspects of the epic. The present study will be a valuable contribution to the field of modern Sanskrit literature and will be very helpful to those who want to pursue their study in this field. The reason is that among the different languages of the world Sanskrit has its own rank and position, as it has been a vehicle of Indian traditional wisdom. The modern Sanskrit epic *Bhīṣmacaritam* is an example of the same with its plot based on the mythology of the *Mahābhārata*. It will be first of its kind, significant and pioneering work on the life-sketch of Bhīṣmapitāmaha in English language.

## STATEMENT NO. 2

### METHODOLOGY, SOURCES AND ORIGINALITY

I have divided my study into nine chapters with specific sub-heads for the better presentation. The critical and analytical method has been adopted in the preparation of the thesis.

In the preparation of the present thesis, I have fully drawn upon all the available relevant published and unpublished literatures.

I have studied the epic poem, relevant literatures and have attempted to express my own views after critically evaluating the epic.

To the best of my knowledge, an attempt is made for the first time to make a comprehensive literary and critical study of the *Bhīṣmacaritam* in English. It is supposed to bring a systematic account of Bhīṣma's life history from the present Sanskrit epic.

This study is presented in the following nine chapters based on original text.