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Allegorical plays have a significant place in the field of Sanskrit literature. While on the one hand they contain some important philosophical doctrines and discussions, they also furnish some important clues about the contemporary social and cultural conditions prevailing in medieval India.

The present allegorical plays - Svānubhūti and Rasikavinoda preserved in the manuscripts are critically edited and evaluated for the first time in the present thesis. The reasons for selecting these plays are mentioned in the Statement No.1 given in the Synopsis.

Here the technical procedures in this thesis may be mentioned; the transliteration of Sanskrit words and passages is adopted throughout the thesis. The unspecified references such as I.2, II.15, V.18 etc. and p.4, p.59 always refer to the plays under study. Thus I.2 in case of the play Svānubhūti refers to Act I and verse second ; similarly in case of the Rasikavinoda II.15 refers to Act II and verse number fifteen. Moreover p.4 or p.59 refers to the Devanāgarī page number (i.e.४, ५९) of the critical text of the respective play. The photocopies of the first and the last folios of the manuscripts of the plays under study are included in the thesis to illustrate the script used in the manuscripts.

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