CHAPTER IV

THE CAMPU IN SANSKRIT LITERATURE

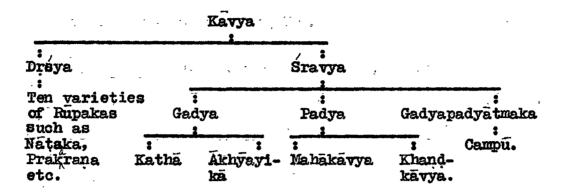
THE FORM CAMPU:

According to Sanskrit Sāhitya Śāstra literary works are divided into two classes viz. (a) the Drśya (b) Śravya. Of these the Drśya consists of ten kinds of Rūpekas and eighteen kinds of Uparūpakas. The peculiarity of this form as distinguished from the works belonging to the other category viz. the Śravya is that it can be staged. Kālidāsa-'s Śākumtala, Bhavabhūti's Uttararāmacarita, Višākhadatta's Mudrārākšasa and similar other works belong to the Dršya variety. The other category consists of all the works which cannot be staged in the form in which they are written. This is a much wider class including works like Aśvaghosa's Buddhacarita, Kālidasa's Raghuvamsa and Meghadūta, Bhāravi's Kirātārjumīya, Baṇa's Kādambarī and Harṣacarita, as also works like Anantabhatta's Bhārata Campū, Bhoja's Ramāyaṇa Campū and Somadeva Sūri's Yaśastilaka Campū.

Bana's Kadambari and Harsacarita have prose as their medium. The former is called a Katha and has a sprinkling of verses in the Vaktra and Aparavaktra metres which are regarded as necessary for a Katha type of work, while the 1. Visvanatha: Sahityadarpana -VI, 332 - 33.

latter is known as an Akhyayika.

The Buddhacarita, the Raghuvamsa, and the Kiratarjuniya are called Mahakavyas by reason of their great length. The Meghaduta is much shorter than the rest, almost equal to a small part of them. It is called by the name Khandakaya. Besides the Katha and Akhyayika kinds of works, typically represented by Bana's Kadambari and Harsacarita, as also the Khandakavyas represented by the Meghaduta and the Mahakavyas represented by the Raghuvamsa etc., one more sub-division of the Śravya variety of literature viz., the Campu represented by the Bharata Campu, the Ramayana Campu and the Yasastilaka Campu has to be taken into account. In this type both prose and verse are used alternately as a medium by the writer. This class of works, however, is not to be confounded with Rupakas though in Rupakas too both prose and verse are employed. For Rupakas fall under the 1 Draya division, while the Campus under the Sravya division of literature. To put this in a tabular form :-



Here, we are concerned with the Campu kind of literature, as the Udayasundarikathā is a Campu.

Campu is a form of literature peculiar to the sanskrit language. On one hand there is the prose romance which is a tale told in prose only, simple or elaborate, and on the other hand there is the verse-form. In other words the above two types can be said to be Akhyayika and Katha forms and the Kavya form respectively; but Campu is classified in neither of the two groups. It is not a prose romance, because prose is not the only medium for the poet's exposition of this tale, nor is it an epic.

Campu differs from other forms of literature in which verse is mingled with prose. As keith says, "It was almost inevitable that the prose form of the romance should come to be freely diversified by verse, as an additional ornament, especially as this type of composition was already current

in the fable literature and the influence of the poetic kavya was already present.

Campu, when compared with the drama or a simple tale, also leads us to the canclusion that it is a novel piece of art. It is different from the drama in the sense that it has nothing like elequent dialogue, rapidity of action, penderable suspense and a climax, and it is different from a Katha and kavya which have prose and verse as their medium respectively. So evidently, no other form of literature can coincide with the Campu. The Campu is a peculiar form.

THE WORD CAMPU AND ITS DEFINITION:

The derivation of the word Campū is not clearly known. The word, however, may be derived from the root Capi (Camp) to go² or to walk. So Campū is a work in which the story-teller narrates the tale while moving to and fro, in the same way as is done the narration of a Harikathā which is also in prose and verse.

In Sanskrit, Campu is a recognised form of classical literature along with the epic and the drama and so its

^{1.} A. B. Keith: Classical sanskrit literature, P. 80.

^{2.} Bhattoji Diksita : Siddhanta-kaumudi, P. 419.

definition has been given by most of the rhetoricians, amongst whom Dandin seems to be the earliest. term Campu is of obscure origin, it is already used by him in his Kavyadaréa to denote a species of composition in mixed prose and verse. His definition is "Gadyapadyamayi Kaciccampurityabhidhiyate". The word kacit here has significance. All compositions of mixed prose and verse cannot be called Campu as Visvanatha has noted another form of such compositions as Biruda, royal panegyric in mixed prose and verse. 2 Hemacandra in kavyanusasana defines Campu as "Gadyapadyamayî sankasocchvasa Campuh". 3 Visvanatha also defines Campu as "Gadyapadyamayam kavyam campurityabhidhiyate".4 In fact, varied are the opinions of rhetoricians as to the extent of the Katha and the Kavya elements in a Campu. So the paucity of a precise definition of a Campu may be compensated by presenting a short description of its relevant features, which every Campukara either gives directly or hints indirectly in the beginning of his work. 1. Dandin : Kavyadarsa I 31, with Com. by Vidyabhusana Pandit Rangacarya Raddi Sastri.

^{2.} Visvanātha : Sāhitya-darpana, VI 337 (i)

^{3.} Sharma Nandakishora : Nala Campu, introduction, 7.

^{4.} Visyanatha : Sahitya-darpana, VI., 336.

Bhoja, the author of Ramayana Campu says, "Let my poetic muse compose a Campu for the benefit of the people interested in its, alone short melodious songs, fused with sentiments and fit to be put to music, co-exist with stylistic prose. This may be taken as suggesting the general features of a Campu. Thus according to Bhoja, a Campu is made up of padyasuktis which are rasamisrita. Further more, he says, that the padyasuktis in a Campu are capable of being put to melody, are charming and conduce to immediate joy. This at once reminds us of a very similar form of literature known in sanskrit as Udaharana, which is also observes verbatism the rules of rhetorics and is referred to in ancient works as having been put to music.

It may, however, be remarked that Campu is mostly a harsh form of literature even though it may be spoken of as melodious and sweet. However, it may be admired as embellished with sentiments and embossed with word jugglery.

1. Bhoja: Rāmāyana Campu, Bālakānda, 3.

गद्यानुबन्धरसिष्ठितपद्यसूति -हृद्या हि वाद्यकल्याकलितेव गीति:। तस्त्राद्द्यातु कविमाग्जिषां मुखाय चम्पूप्रबन्धर्यमां रसमा प्रदीया ॥

2. M. Krishnamachariar: History of Caassical sanskrit literature, P. 523. The fact that it is elaborate and highly artificial in grandeur, the fact that it is harsh and highly restrained in style, is beyond question. Simplicity is ever unknown to a Campu writer.

The author of the oldest Campu, namely Nala Campu, says 1, "What is the use of that poetry or that arrow, which when directed against one's heart, does not make one's head nod?" We may add here in due respect to the poet's bold mataphor, that the superiority of a Campu to an arrow lies in the fact that it makes the readers head nod by the dint of its very appearance, whereas an arrow at least needs a discharge.

Somadeva, the author of Yasastilaka Campu also says, 2

"Some poems are charming on account of their embroidery of
words whereas some others are delightful to the heart due

1. Trivikrama : Nala-Campū I - 5.

कि सबैस्तेन काळेन कि काण्डेन धनुष्मत: । परस्य हृदये त्मानं न द्युणीयति यच्छिर: ॥

2. Somadeva : Yasastilaka Campū I.5

किंचित्साव्यं श्रवणस्प्रगं वर्णनीदीणवर्णं विंचिद्वाच्योदितपरिचयं हु झ्रमत्कारकारि । अत्रास्यति क इह सुकृती किंतु युत्तं तदुत्तं यद्युत्पत्त्ये सकल विषये स्वस्य चान्यस्य च स्यात्॥

prose.1

In the Brahmana portion of the Vedic literature, we find artless prose combined with verses. 2 Dharmasutras have combinations of prose and verse where the rules are enforced by citations. In the Buddhistic literature we have Jatakamala of Aryasura, perhaps in the fourth century A. D. It is written in prose with many interspersed verses, in part gnomic, in part narrative. The majority of Jātakas, in fact belong to that type of literary works which consists of a mixture of prose and verse, a type which is most popular in Indian literature. It was ever a favourite method in ancient India to enliven narrative prose by verses, and to introduce or to garb narrative verses by explanatory prose passages. 3 We find this type of style, in Hitopadesa, Pancatantra and Tantrākhyayikā also. Here we find the summing up of moral or political maxims in verse; while the mere narrative moves in prose. The sources of the verses are various. Most of them come doubtless from the vast body of maxims which were in circulation and of which many are enshrined, in the Mahabharata or in Pali Jatakas. The combination of verse 1. Keith: Classical Sanskrit literature, P. 82.

- 2. Keith: Rgveda Brahmanas, P. 63 ff.
- 3. Winternitz M.: A History of Indian literature, Vol. II
 P. 117, 118.

and prose is also seen in Harisena's prasasti. It is the panegyric of Samudragupta by Harisena, engraved on a piller at Allahabad, in about A. D. 350. It begins with eight stanzas, passes over to prose and ends with a stanza, the whole forming an enormous sentence devoted to extoling the king. The prose shows the characteristic love for long compounds. If the Campu is really a very old literary form, the historical connecting link between Vedic akhyanas of the prose-verse type, it is curious that it appears so late in history.

As Dandin of the sixth century is the first rhetorician to refer to the Campū form, we can easily trace back the origin of the campū to the second or the third century A.D. In this connection M. Krisnamāchariar remarks, "A species/composition with mixed prose and poetry came in vague about the beginning of the Christian era. We have passages in puranas, where prose comes amidst verse, but there is no instance of classical poetry of this recognised class known earlier." Of course this was not the Campu in the strict sense of the form.

Krisnamachariar M.: History of classical Sanskrit literature, P. 496.

Dandin or any other rhetorician has said nothing about the proportion of verse and prose in the Campu. Prose romances make exclusive use of prose and limited use of verse as in the Harsacarita and Kadambari of Bana and thus to have distinction, it has been presumed that the combination of prose and verse in the Campu should not be out of proportion. There is no hard and fast rule for the use of verse and prose. The verse is not always reserved for a special purpose, as it should be for an impressive speech, a moral or sentimental outburst or a poetical description; but it is found that even for a simple description verse is used just as prose. Thus Campu searcely follows a fixed principle in this respect. In this connection De remarks, " The Campu developed quite naturally but haphazardly, cut of prose romance itself, the impetus being supplied by the obvious desire of diversifying prose form freely by verse as an additional ornament under the stress or the lure of the metrical Kavya."

Although Dandin is aware of this type of composition, we possess no specimen of the Campu earlier than the 10th century A. D. The Campu form of composition appears to have been popular and largely cultivated in Southern India,

De S. K.: History of sanskrit literature, P. 434.

but nothing may be gained by pussuing its history further than mentioning some curious developments in the hands of some latter writers.

We find that not only myths and legends were drawn we upon as themes, but that the form came widely and conveniently applied to purposes of description and exposition of various kinds.

The oldest available work in this form is Nala Campu or Damayantikatha of Trivikrama Bhatta, belonging to the 10th century A. D. and the latest available work is Ganga-gunadarsana Campu by Dattatreya Sastri belonging to the 19th century; so the Campu form may be said to have a history of about 900 years.

We have many better known Campus during this period a brief account of which is given below.

NALA CAMPU OR DAMAYANTIKATHA was written by Trivikrama Bhatta. His date is inferred from the fact that he has also composed the Nausari inscription of the Rastrakūta king indra III in 915 A. D.¹ Trivikrama also wrote Madalasa Campu.² The Nala Campu narrates the epic story of Nala Lambu, Vol. IX, 18.

Smith Va A.: Early History of India P. 446.

Sharma Nandakishor: Nalacampu, introduction, 1.

2. Modak J. B. & Sane K. N.: Madalasa Campu.

and Damayanti in its seven Ucchvasas. He mentions Bana in the introductory verses of his Nala Campu and is himself referred to in the Sarasvati-kanthabharana of Bhoja. He believes in the display of verbal complexities after the manner of Bana and Subandhu.

YASASTILAKA CAMPU of Somadeva Suri is an extensive work in eight Asvasas, composed in the reign of the Rastra-kūta king Kṛṣṇa, under the patronage of his feudatory, som of the Calukya Arikesarin III. It relates the legend of Yasodhara, king of Avanti, the machinations of his wife, his death and repeated rebirths and final conversion to the jain faith.

THE JIVANDHAR Campu of uncertain date composed by Haricandra in eleven Lambakas relates the Jain legend of Jivandhara, based on the Uttara Purana.

RAMAYANA CAMPU, ascribed to Bhoja is a popular work in the Sanskrit literature. It embraces the story of Ramayana and the composition with the blended melody of prose and verse in it has the charm of royalty in it. It extends upto Kiskindha Kanda of the epic story. It was left incomplete, unless the rest of it has been lost. The story of the Yuddha Kanda was made up by Laksmana Bhatta later on, he was the son of Gangadhara and Gangambika. Some

manuscripts give the seventh or Uttarakanda by Venkataraja.

UDAYASUNDARIKATHA of Soddhala was probably composed between 1026 and 1050 A. D. during the reign of Vatsaraja. the author was patronised by three Royal brothers Chittaraja, Nagarjuma and Mummumiraja who succeeded on the throne. It is a tale in eight Ucchvasas and describes the events that led to the marriage of Udayasundari, daughter of Sikhandatilaka, king of Nagaloka and Malayavahana, king of Pratisthana. In the first chapter the poet describes his own geneology, the greatness of his race and the occasion for his composition and the story begins with the second chapter.

BHARATA CAMPU of Ananta Bhatta is in twelve Stabakas. It is of uncertain date but has been held in high esteem.

There are several Bhagavata Campus, for instance by Cidambara, by Ramabhadra and by Rajanatha. Cidambara also wrote Pancakalyana Campu and Raghava-yadava-pandaviya (Kathatrayi) in three cantos describing the tales of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata at a time. He was patronized by king Venkata I (1586 A. D. - 1614 A. D.) of Vijayanagar. His Bhagavata Campu relates the story of Kṛṣṇa. There is a commentary on it by his father Ananta Narayana which interprets every verse thrice to carry the meaning threefold. In his Pancakalyana Campu, he shows

further advance in the art and relates at once the story of the marriage of Rama, Krana, Vianu, Siva and Subrahmanya with a commentary by himself.

ANANDAKANDA CAMPU was composed by Mitramisra, on the early life of Sri Krsna, the author of Viramitrodaya. He was a Sandhya Brahmin and belonged to the Pancagauda class. His patron Raja Virasimhadeva of Orccha ruled from 1605 to 1625 A. D. 1

ANANDARANGAVIJAYA CAMPU belongs to Srinivasa kavi, the poet was patronised by Anandaranga Pillai and that he wrote this work glorifying his patron in 1752 A. D. It is an addition to the Historical Kayas in sanskrit and to the materials already available in the life of Anandranga Pillai, Dubhas of the Franch at Pondiceri, and on the history of deccan in the first half of the 18th century. 2

The Purana myths also claimed a large number of Campus; for instance, the Nrsimha Campu by Kesava Bhatta in six Stabakas, by Daivajña Surya in five Ucchvasas, and by Sankarsana in four Ullasas. They deal with the story of Prahlada's deliverance by the man-lion incarnation of Visnu.

^{1.} Mitramisra: Viramitrodaya, Vyavaharaprakasa, introduction.

^{2.} Raghavan: Anandarangavijaya Campu of Srinivasa kavi, preface.

THE PARIJATAKA-HARANA CAMPU of Sesa Krsna who flourished in the second half of the 16th century is concerned with the well known Purana legend of Krsna's explinit. The Nilkanthavijaya Campu of Nilakantha Diksita was composed in 1937 A. D., on the myth of the churning of the occan by gods.

TIRTHAYATRAPRABANDHA or Yatraprabandha was composed by Samarapungava Dikaita, the son of Venkatesa and Anantamma of Vadhula Gotra. It describes in nine Asvasas, the Bacredness of several shrines and waters visited in the course of a pilgrimage which he undertook with his elder brother.

VISVAGUNADARSA OR VISVAGUNADARSANA belongs to Venkatadhvarin or Venkaçarya, the son of Raghunatha and Sitamba of the Atreya Gotra. Two Gandharvas, Visvavasu and Krsavu are supposed to take a bird's eye view of various countries from their aerial car, the former generous in appreciation of merits, the latter ever censorious in their defects. This work was intended to expose the faults of the manners and customs of his time. The device of description planned in Visvagunadarsana has been adopted in some later works.

TATTVAGUNADARSA of Annayarya describes the comparative merits of Saivism and Vaisnavism in the form of conversation between Jaya and Vijaya, a Saiva and Vaisnava respectively.

GANGAGUNADARSA of Dattatreya Sastri relates on the plan of Visvagunadarsa the merits and demerits of the Ganges in a conversation between two Gandharvas, Haha and Huhu and finally the greatness of the river, The author lived in the village of Pangrada in Konkana in 1863 - 1891. In 1891, he was made the Principal of the sanskrit College at Rajpur. He bore the title of Vidyaratna.

Local legends and festivals or praise of local deities and personages also supply the inspiration of many Campus.

THE SRINIVASAVILASA CAMPU of Venkatesa describes the glory of the deity Sri Venkatesvara of Trupati, now in the Andhæa State, in the highly artificial style of Subandhu.

THE CITRA CAMPU of Banesvara Vidyalankara is composed in 1744 A. D., It emlogises the author's patron Citrasena of Vardhamana (Bardawan), Bengal and gives quasi-historical information about the Maratha raid of Bengal in 1742 A. D.

THE GANGAVATARA CAMPU on the story of the Ganges is composed by Sankara Diksita, the son of Balakrana of Bharad-waja Gotra. The author was a poet of the king Sabhasimha of Bundelkhand. He also write Sankaracetovilasa, a Campu on the life of Maharaja Cetasimha, a magnate of Benaras in 1770 - 1781 A. D. in the time of the Governor-General Warren Hastings.

THE VEDANTACARYA VIJAYA of Kavi Tarkikasima Vedantacarya describes the life of the South India teacher, Vedanta-desika, the disputation held by him with Advaitins and his successes.

THE VIDVANMODATARANGINI of Ramachandra Cirajiiva

Bhattacarya brings together the followers of various schools

and sects and by means of their exposition, pools together

the essence of various doctrines.

THE MANDARAMARANDA CAMPU of Krsna, in fact is a regular treatise on rhetoric and prosody having elaborate definitions and illustrations.

The Bengal vaisnava School made use of the Campu literature for religious propaganda. The writers presented their creeds and faith in the Krana legends in eroticoreligious pictures.

THE MUKTA-CARITA of Raghumathadasa, a disciple of Caitanya, narrates the story of the miraculous powers of pearls sown and grown by Krsna on arable fields for the delight of Satyabhama. Gopala Campū of Jiva Goswami, Rupas yonger brother, relates after the Harivamsa and Srimad Bhagavata, the early childhood and youth of Krsna.

ANANDA VRNDAVANA CAMPU (i) by Paramananda dasa (ii) by Kavikarnapura, (iii) by Kesava and (iv) by Madhavananda deal with the early life of Krsna at Vrndavana.

THE LITERARY FORM OF THE WORK :

In the previous section of this chapter, we have already discussed the form of Campu and its definitions given by rhetoricians. Campu is a species of composition in mixed prose and verse. Soddhala, himself says that his work is composed in prose interspersed with verses and it is in the form of a Campu. He remarks that in composition neither prose not poetry is charming; but that which consists of both prose and poetry is better, and it is called Campu. ¹

On a critical examination of several Campus and particularly of Udayasundarikatha, it may be asserted that the Campu form of literature consists of many of the peculiarities of Mahakavyas, Kathas and Akhyayikas.

- 1. UK: 1) साद्धुताप्वसंविधानकमनेक रसानुबन्धपरं प्रबन्धम्। प्रकृषे तु रमणीयं न नाम केवलं गद्यां नापि केवलं पद्यमुभयानुबन्धिनी चम्प्रेव श्रियसी । १. १३
 - 11) अन्येव च हृद्यता पद्यानुषितः गिरास्यिति विचिन्त्य चम्प्रेव क्यां कर्तुमुपजनित निद्ययः ...। ११३
 - 111) मद्वाचि जालेयमात्मजा चम्प्:--- १२ १४

A few points of Campu which coincide with the characteristics of a Mahakavya are mentioned here :-

- 1. The predominant sentiment is Srngara, though
 Vira and Karuna are often introduced as acessories.
- 2. In the beginning of the work, there is a salutation to deities.
- heroine², and every division of the text gets its name from its subject matter; as for instance the text Udayasundarikathā is named after its heroine Udayasundari and the first Ucchvāsa is said to be Kavivamsa-nivedana, in which the peet gives information about his family, patrons and the circumstances that led to the composition of the work.
- 1. Visvanatha: Sahityadarpana, VI 318.
 रहित्र बीर्शान्तानामें को इसि र्घति।
 अङ्गानि सर्वे इपि रसाः---आर्थ नमरिक्याशीकी वस्तुनिर्देश एवं वा।
- 2. Visvanatha : Sahityadarpana, VI 318.

कवेवृत्तस्य वा नामा नायकस्प्रेतरस्य वा । नामास्य संगीपादेयकथया संगीनामं तु ॥ 4. They contain descriptions of the sun and the moon at their rise, the sports in gardens and waters, marriages, separations, battles, forests, seasons, mountains, cities and so on.

These characteristics are more or less found in Campu also; but other characteristics are not necessarily present. The division of the work in Campu is said to be an Ucchvasa; while the same is named as Sarga or canto in a Mahakavya. The story in a Mahakavya necessarily originates from legendary and mythical history; but Campus are sometimes composed out of imagination of a poet, and the story is original, as for instance Udayasundarikatha.

If we accept the views of the theorists the distinction between Katha and Akhyayika would largely turn on the fact that an Akhyayika possesses divisions called Ucchvasas while a Katha lacks this mark. Much more significant is the distinction which is also suggested, that an Akhyayika rests

^{1.} Dandin : Kāvyadarsa, I 14. यहिना कार्या महासाट्यमुख्यते तस्य लक्षणम्।

^{2.} Dandin : Kavyadarsa, I 15.

इतिहासक्योद्धतमन्यद्वापि सदामयम् ।

^{3.} Bhamaha : Kavyalankara I 25-29.

Dandin: Kavyadarsa, I 23-30.

on tradition while a Katha on fancy. The views of the later theorists in generally are plainly based on the view that the Harsacarita is an example of an Akhyayika and the Kadambari of a Katha. Observing the nature of Campus and their treatment, Campus are generally found as divided into Ucchvasas or Asvasas or sometimes Lambakas. Thus the Campu fulfils the point of division Ucchavasa of the Akhyayika as it also sometimes contains the element of fancy of the Katha. If we take Udayasundarikatha, for instance, it is divided into Ucchvasas and it consists of a fanciful tale. Thus Campu can be distinguished from Katha and Akhyayika by its copious mingling of verses in prose while the latter are purely prose with only a stray mingling of verses.

^{1.} Visvanatha: Sahityadarpana, VI 326-327.