

## Preface

In 2003-2004 while studying A Vedic Reader for Students (by A. A. Macdonell) under Prof. Dr. Jaydev Jani (my guiding teacher), I was surprised to learn the incorporeal form of Vedic deity Br̥haspati and many a times I asked Prof. Jani about how incorporeal deity got transformed into a personal and gradually in the shape of a Spiritual Teacher or a Holy Master. Prof. Jani was clear in his explanations and at that time I decided to work further in this field of the literary process of Vedic deity Br̥haspati attaining the corporeal form.

After completing my Postgraduate studies in Sanskrit I joined the course of B. Lib. (2006-2007) and during that period I had an opportunity to collect all the books of my interest. In that course of time I used to visit Prof. Jani's cabin and discussed about the reference books and other available material. Here I happened to look at Dr. Bali Sarasvati's book titled Br̥haspati in Vedas and Puranas. Her study is restricted to the general survey of the character and the exploits of Br̥haspati. This present study however, does not put any stress on Br̥haspati's character and exploits only, but it also presents the textual analysis with clear topics like Br̥haspati's character, qualities, valour, physical appearance, association with Indra and other gods as well as the sacrificers and sacrificial rituals and also gradual development. In this direction the references along with their context from the texts like

Brāhmanas, Arankās, Upanisads and Epics as well as 18 Purānās are taken under discussion for the reason that the complete and perfect picture of Br̥haspati can be drawn.

The present thesis has provided the study under the heads like Br̥haspati's personality, association with other gods, physical appearance, and valiant as well as benevolent nature.

Moreover the sole purpose of the present thesis is to present the gradual development of Br̥haspati's personality from the preceptor of the god to the preceptor of the men and finally the Holy Master depicted as the Creator, Protector, Destroyer, Benevolent and the Supreme Reality.

In this connection the epoch-making work Vaidika Devatā by Dr. G. C. Tripathi (Pub.1982), History of Indian Literature by M. Winternitz by A. B. Keith, by H. C. Agarwal, etc. seem to be satisfied by mere descriptive presentation and hence they remain silent in the providing relevant references and quotations.

The present thesis aims at the study of Br̥haspati on the basis of the quotations from the Vedas and the Purānas. Therefore one may find ample differences in the study, presentation, discussion and even in the conclusion.

The present thesis attempts humbly to bring out the missing and even untouched problems unsolved so far. The most important problem of Br̥haspati's pious and righteous personality is tried to solve on the authority of the Vedic hymns and Puranic mythologies.

At this juncture I would like to thank heartily my guiding teacher Prof. Dr. Jaydev A. Jani who was kind enough to spare much time in his busy schedule of teaching, departmental administration and even sittings with other senior research students. At this juncture I express my hearty thanks to Prof. Jani's wife Mrs. Latika Jani whose moral support and her encouraging words empowered me to complete this work like a crusader. After the registration in September 2008 the work was going on satisfactorily, but since 2010 (after my marriage) I had many personal and social problems that delayed my submission.

But I pay homage to my parents Shrimati Urvashiben and Shri Laxmanbhai Patel for their tremendous support. I extend my blessing to my younger sister Bijal who inspired to devote much time in the work.

I thank my husband Shri Krunal Hemantkumar Patel for all kinds of support, because without his moral and filial assistance this work would have seen the sunlight even later.

I thank my teachers Prof. Dr. R. K. Panda (Head), Dr. Mrs. Shveta Jejurkar and others whose blessings helped me to finish the work. I am thankful to the senior Ph. D. students of my guiding Teacher who extended help in providing books of references, magazines, etc.

Last but not the least is Advait, my son whose loving child-like inquiries about the work, timings and even extending best wishes gave me unending impetus the result of which, is the completion of this thesis in the lotus-like hands of the scholars like you.

Date: 26-11-2014

Vadodara.

Patel Kunjal Laxmanbhai