

PREFACE

Śāstras are the science of disciplines. The need of the hour is to study all these disciplines from the different perspective especially the critical and analytical study of the Sanskrit texts on grammar. It is an interesting thing that even though many studies or researches have been carried out on some particular treatises, nevertheless there remains a scope for further studies of such treatises. The same is the case with a text like VBS of Kaṇḍabhaṭṭa. We know it very well that the text of VBS is very popular and has received enormous appreciations and respect for not only the erudite delineation of the text content but for its sophistic representation and appraisable style. Whenever we deal with a general question that arises in mind ‘how does a text survive and continues to have same sublime respect and appreciation’, the answer naturally comes to my mind that it is the inherent qualities of the text. Let us talk about the quality of VBS.

VBS is one of the excellent works on the philosophy of Sanskrit Grammar. It is an abridged form of VB written by Kaṇḍabhaṭṭa, the renowned grammarian of the 17th century. This VB is also an excessive commentary on the *Vaiyākaraṇmatonmajjana* of Bhaṭṭojidīkṣita. The *Navya-nyāya* style of the text is a hard nut to crack with; nevertheless it catches the attention of learners of the grammar, *Nyāya* and *Mīmāṃsā*. There are approximately fourteen commentaries available on VBS, the earliest of which is of 17th century by Kṛṣṇa Miśra and latest of which belongs to the 21th century by Rāmayatna Śukla. This tells about the popularity of VBS.

The text of VBS contains 74 *Kārikās*. These *Kārikās* are divided into fourteen chapters. The titles of the chapters are as follows:

Dhātvartha, Lakārārtha, Subartha, Nāmārtha, Samāsaśakti, Śakti, Nañartha, Nipātārtha, Tvādibhāvapratyayārtha, Devatāpratyayārtha, Abhedaikatva-saṁkhyā, Saṁkhyāvivakṣā, Ktvādyartha and Sphoṭa.

I have divided these fourteen chapters into group of four different chapters depending upon the similarity of the point of discussion. The first chapter discusses some sublime aspects of the philosophy of Sanskrit grammar. The second chapter is on the life, date and works of Kauṇḍabhaṭṭa. The third chapter has two sections. The first section is on the meaning of the verbal root and the succeeding is on the meaning of the tense. The fourth chapter is a collection of five major topics of grammar. They are Nominal case affix and syntax, nominal stem, power of word, compound and negative particles. The fifth chapter combines the six small but significant topics like *tvādibhāvapratyaya*, the secondary suffix *devatā*, undifferentiated singular number, intended or unintended denotation of number and the primary suffix *ktvā*. The sixth chapter is on the most remarkable theory of grammar i.e. the theory *Sphoṭa*. The last chapter presents a brief account of the six chapters and the significance of the present study. The thesis is appended with the text of VBS which has been prepared by critically examining the variation of the available commentaries. It is followed by the text of VBK of Bhaṭṭojidīkṣīta. After this, some citations and quotations of different treatises which were referred to by Kauṇḍabhaṭṭa in his VBS are listed separately. At the end of the thesis, a list of the specific terms is given in order to make the reading of the text uncomplicated and apparent.

The present research thesis presents a critical study of VBS especially from the point of view of problems of the appropriate expression in the spoken language with the help of grammar. It is a unique and innovative attempt for the study of the Sanskrit *Śāstras*. *Śāstras* state different techniques and theories for the sake of betterment. They are not meant for concocting the imaginary theories which

do not have any practical aspect. I think it is a need of an hour to redefine and represent our *Śāstras* with altogether new and practical approach.

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