

P R E F A C E

The early mediaeval period of Indian history attracted the attention of the present author during his study of Indian history. A good deal of scope for research in it was realised. It was felt that a particular dynasty and its times should be selected for an intensive study. The choice fell on the Yadavas of the Deccan and Their Times. The research was started under the guidance of the late Dr.B.Subbarao. I am highly indebted to him for his kind encouragement to this work. But his untimely and unfortunate death gave a severe blow to it. It is so pathetic that he was not destined to see the completion of the project, started under him.

Yet the work continued uninterrupted under the guidance of Dr.R.N.Mehta who also gave all encouragement to it. Under him I obtained all the facilities for research and also the freedom necessary for such a work. I cannot be sufficiently obliged to him.

During the course of my study I received kind help from Mahanta Muralidhar Sastri of Bhusaval who became my teacher for the Mahanubhava literature. I am especially indebted to the authorities of the Oriental Institute, Baroda and Deccan College, Poona. I have taken advantage of the research done in the Deccan College, Poona and it was due to the kindness of Dr.H.D.Sankalia who extended all facilities to me in his institution.

The work in its own course assumed larger proportions and new meaning at every stage and was always felt incomplete to be

submitted as a final work. Thus it went on prolonging. But it had to be finalised at some stage as has been done here. The subject is extremely wide, covering all aspects of human life and affords much further scope for research. So the author honestly feels that the submission of the thesis is only one of the advanced stages in his study.

Baroda,
Dated April, 2, 1964.

Y.A. Raikar
(Y.A. Raikar)

The Cover symbolises the four attainments of life - Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha with special reference to the Period. A page from Lila-Caritra in Sakali script provides the back-ground.

Yadavas of the Deccan and Their Times :

A Cultural History

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH

The thesis is a comprehensive cultural history of the Yadava period in the annals of the Deccan. It is an attempt to encompass as many aspects of life of the times, as would be warranted by the sources. Apart from being a dynastic history it is also a regional study in Indian history and culture.

No adequate standard work on the Yadavas and Their Times has been published so far. The present thesis is expected to fulfill the need. It is a definite advance over any single earlier work concerning the subject.

The chosen period is studied as a part of the dynamic course of Indian history. A definite approach towards Indian history as already developed in the author's monograph Indian History - a Study in Dynamics (1960), has been briefly discussed as a background.

The author has enlisted 528 Yadava inscriptions. For the first time the existence of such a large number of epigraphs of the dynasty has been brought to light and used for the reconstruction of its history. The inscriptions have been variously classified so as to bring out their historical value.

The political history has been revised and exhaustively written. The history of the Early Yadavas has been so exhaustively attempted almost for the first time. The author has given his own

interpretations on a number of major or minor points like Simghana's invasion on Gujarat, Mahadeva's defeat of Visaladeva etc.

The administrative division of the Yadava empire, historical trade-routes and probable routes of invasion have been studied anew. Attempt is also made to bring out the cultural aspect of geography and to represent geography as understood by contemporaries.

A survey of the Art and Architecture of the period, has been taken as one aspect of life. The characteristics of the Yadava temples as distinguished from other styles have been brought out with the help of illustrations. The problem of the so-called Hemadpanti style is discussed. A number of temples and sites of the period have been visited and studied by the author. Photographs taken by him are reproduced.

The social and economic life is reconstructed as known from the inscriptions, Jnanesvari and the Mahanubhava works. An attempt is made to deal with as many aspects as possible and yet to comprehend life as a whole.

The place of Cakradhara is ascertained and the problematic figure of Hemadpant is critically studied and interpreted. The religion of the ignorant as well as of the intellectual is dealt with. The entire thought and philosophy of the age is given a new interpretation as a struggle between Materialism and Asceticism, resulting in Mysticism as a synthesis of the two. Hemadpant, Cakradhara and Jnanesvara are said to be representing the three trends of thought and could be regarded as the makers of the Yadava age.

As a comprehensive cultural history, the thesis considerably depends upon the work done by other scholars in various allied branches of study. All such work has been reviewed with a view to ensure its use, for the final reconstruction of history.

The work is expected to claim originality in the approach, and the entire presentation of the subject as such. Its contribution also lies in the use of the inscriptional as well as literary data and of allied researches for reconstruction of the life of the period. The thesis in one sense, is an essay in understanding human life though its scope is limited in time and space.