CHAPTER VII
* In the previous pages we have carried out a cultural study of ARM. An attempt is made there to reconstruct the life style of people in ancient and medieval India. It could be realized that the facts recorded by Halāyudha receive corroboration from the findings of modern historians. He has recorded the facts about the culture and life style of his period as well as of past. Hereby, we may revise some of the highlights in course of our study.

* Monarchy was there. From the references of Halāyudha, we come to realize that Kṣatriya-s occupied a predominant position next to Brāhmaṇa-s. We also get enough descriptions of various types of royal palaces, various grades of royal servants and their duties, the privileges and luxury given to the royal personalities. The kṣatriya-s received help from able ministers and advisers in the matter of administration. They in due course of time renounce the world to attain wisdom by the help of their kulaguru.

* We know that Brāhmaṇa-s received much respect and favour from kings. The superior designations like ministers, priests, teachers and astrologers were usually held by them. Hinduism and Vedic practices did not lose their dominance though there were many religions practised.

* As the professions were identified with castes, they had become hereditary. Thus a son of king became a king, a carpenter's son a carpenter. This fact has been confirmed by modern historians too.

* The state was divided into nagara-s and upanagara-s for effective administration. The administrator of the upanagara is a
manḍalesvara. Village was the smallest unit of the state, and the chief of a village is called grāmaṇi.

* The city was well guarded with gopura, ramparts and moats to ensure safety. It can be realized that the cities were ideal in concern to town-planning and architecture. It is also stated that the cities were well connected with good roads for travel.

* Trade and commerce flourished well and the economy of the state was well balanced. The barter system was prevailing then. Trade relationship with foreign was also maintained as it can be known from the horses imported from Arab countries besides many items were exported. This information has also been proved by the findings of the historians.

* From the description of ARM it can be known about the standard of living of the different section of the society. Most of the people had enough to meet their daily needs. Rich people had an extravagant and luxurious life.

* ARM sheds much light on the educational system. The vedic studies were carried out through gurukula system. Besides there were well-equipped institutions to learn the art of warfare like archery. We also know about the unique relationship between teacher and his pupils. It seems that students stayed and studied in the teacher’s house only.

* The family was the starting point of the social organization. Halāyudha offers handful of information about the family system. The position of women was slightly inferior to men whereas her role as one devoted to her husband was prominently emphasised.
Different religions were practised and all are respected.

The caste system seemed to have a firm foot. Among the four castes, the Brāhmaṇa-s enjoyed a special status. Besides the four primary castes, the Caṇḍāla-s were treated as belonging to as fifth caste. We also know about many tribes as bhilla, niśāda, mātaṅga, kirāta, pulinda, etc.

We also hear about numerous types of food items and many types of intoxicating beverages. The culinary art was well developed as a science.

It is also noted that the people were acquainted with many diseases and they were also well versed with the method to cure it.

The different types of clothes and the various modes of wearing them reveals us the matured taste of Indians.

Similarly number of ornaments, various types of hair dressing and innumerable cosmetic items they used, suggest us the refined taste of the ancient Indian society.

ARM also gives much interesting details about arts and architecture during its time. It can be detected that the ancient Indians were experts in the science of architecture.

They also had a good knowledge of numerous weapons and the art of warfare.

In short it can be observed from the recordings of Halāyudha that people were leading a satisfactory, moral, traditional and economically well balanced life.

*    *    *