PREFACE

Sanskrit literature in Kerala is known outside first through the contribution of Śankarācārya to Vedantic philosophy, secondly through the devotional song Śrīkrṣṇa-karnamrta of Vilvamaṅgalam Swāmī (Līlāsuka), and thirdly through the yamaka poems of Vāsudevabhāṭṭatiri, especially Yudhisthiravijaya.

Though the yamaka poem Nalodaya was considered as a work of Kālidāsa, modern scholars count this among the poems written in Kerala. Nalodaya in four cantos having quadruple yamaka (a set of syllables occurring at four places in a stanza) has got nearly thirty commentaries and this poem has been printed thirteen times. More than two hundred manuscripts are present in the manuscripts collections in India and abroad. This indicates the wide popularity of this poem and the need for critical study.

Fifty selected manuscripts and eight printed copies have been utilised for the present critical edition.
Yamaṇa poems, especially those having quadruple yamaṇa are difficult to understand without a good commentary. Kaviḥrdayadarpāna which has not been published so far, is the best among the commentaries on Nalodaya. This dissertation consists of an edition and study of this commentary along with the critical edition and study of Nalodaya.

The topic, 'A critical edition of Nalodaya with a study of its commentary Kaviḥrdayadarpāna' was taken up by me at the suggestion of the late Dr. K. Raghavan Pillai, who was the Director, Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, Thiruvananthapuram, University of Kerala, (Trivandrum). He, as my supervisor, taught me the lessons of critical edition and I had the privilege of inspiring guidance and encouragement from him. His illness and demise caused great loss to literature and research in Sanskrit and Malayalam. I express my deep sense of gratitude for the immense help and valuable suggestions he has rendered me.

Dr. T. Bhaskaran, Honorary Director, Sree Narayana Study Centre for Social Change, University of Kerala, (Trivandrum), and retired Director, Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, University of Kerala, (Trivandrum), agreed to supervise my work for the remaining portion of this dissertation. His intimacy, guidance, incessant help and inspiration enabled me
to complete this thesis. My indebtedness to him is far beyond words.

The commentary 'Kavihṛdayadūpana' was taught to me by Prof. M.H. Shastry, retired Professor of Vyākaraṇa, Govt. Sanskrit College, Trivandrum, by explaining the grammatical, philosophical and literary implications and merit of the commentary. I take this opportunity to express my debt of gratitude to him.

The late Dr. P.K. Narayana Pillai, founder-president of Pillur Memorial Library and Research Centre, Jagathy, Trivandrum, taught me the different concepts and methods of critical edition by explaining a few specimens. I express my sincere thanks to him.

Dr. N.P. Unni, Head of the Department of Sanskrit, University of Kerala, gave me instructions and encouragement to write this thesis and I take this opportunity to record my obligation to him.

I could collate the manuscripts and printed copies of Nalodaya present in the libraries in the Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, University of Kerala,
I got the sincere co-operation from the authorities and staff. I express my sincere gratitude to all of them. I am specially indebted to the authorities of these institutions for having permitted me to make use of the manuscripts and printed books under their custody. Dr. K. Kunjunni Raja, Honorary Director, Adyar Library and Research Centre, gave me valuable information, especially about the authorship of Nalodaya, and helped me to procure the text Saurikathodhā, the yamaka poem written by Vāsudevabhaṭṭatiri and critically edited by Dr. Carl Suneson.

There exists a copy of Nalodaya printed in Telugu script in Adyar Library and as I could not read the Telugu script, Dr. Raja prepared a copy of the needed portions of the book in Devanagari script and sent it to me. I am indebted to him for the encouragement and immense help he has rendered.
When I wrote enquiring about the availability of the manuscripts of Nalodaya in the manuscripts collections in various institutions, most of the authorities of these institutions replied, specifying the details of the manuscripts of Nalodaya with them. The authorities of the Carl-Marx University Library, Leipzig, German Democratic Republic, sent to me a microfilm copy of the manuscript present with them. The Officer on special duty, Shri Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute, Shri Raghunath Mandir, Jammu, sent to me a xerox copy of a manuscript present in their library. I express my thanks to the authorities of all these institutions.

Prof. V.K. Moothathu was kind enough to edit and improve the language of the dissertation at my request and he deserves my sincere thanks. I am highly grateful to all others who have helped me in preparing this thesis.

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K.K. HARIHARAN.