The Epics and the Purāṇas are valuable repository of ancient Indian traditions. The genealogies of several ruling families contained in them, supply ample material for reconstructing the proto-history of India. The narratives pertaining to certain heroes contained in (or sometime supplemented to) the genealogies also serve as an important source of information about it. The works of Pargiter, Pradhan Ray Chudhury, Pusalker and others have considerably drawn upon this valuable material.

As the recent archaeological excavations tend to corroborate Puranic traditions (as shown by Pusalker in his article "Literary and archaeological evidence on the Aryan expansion in India" as well as by Sankalia in his article "Traditional Indian Chronology and C-14 dates of excavated sites"), historical character of the Puranic genealogies has enhanced.

Among the proto-historic genealogies preserved in the Purāṇas the genealogies of the Yādavas, like those of the Ikṣvākus and Pauravas, are comparatively less mutilated than those of other ruling families. Among these the Yādavas have carved a niche for themselves in cultural history of ancient India. The expansion of the Yādavas in central, western and southern India gave impetus to the spread of Aryan culture in those regions and its fusion with local culture. Kṛṣṇa Vāsudeva, the prominent hero of the Yādavas, has been a paramount...
source of inspiration and devotion to millions of minds.

In his *Ancient Indian Historical Traditions* (1922) Pargiter has dealt with the Yadava genealogies along with other Puranic genealogies and pointed some synchronistic relations between them.

In *Chronology of Ancient India* (1927) Pradhan dwelled upon a particular portion of the Yadava genealogy (viz. from Sātvata to Kamsa) along with the corresponding history of contemporary dynasties.

In his article on "The family of the Yadus" published in the collection entitled "Aitihasika Samshodhan" (1941), Durgashankar Shastri has dealt with some historical and cultural aspects.

In section III of *The Glory that was Gūrjaradesa* part I (1943) Pusalker has represented a more comprehensive account of the political and cultural history of the Yadus.

Nevertheless the genealogical accounts including the biographical narratives afford scope for a more minute and more comprehensive study, which unfolds several points of critical investigation.

In the following pages I have made a humble attempt to present the results of my intensive and comprehensive study of the Puranic traditions about the Yadavas and their genealogies.
These traditions occur in eleven Mahāpurāṇas, which seem compiled in different periods. Naturally I have laid emphasis on the earlier texts comparatively.

As Kṛṣṇa Vāsudeva was intimately connected with the Pāṇḍavas, the Great Epic contains several references to him and his kins. Harivaṃśa, the supplement of the Mahābhārata, is the earliest work specially devoted to the biography of the Yādava hero. The traditions given in the Mahābhārata and Harivaṃśa, therefore, deserve special consideration along with those preserved in the Purāṇas. As

As regards the career and character of Kṛṣṇa Vāsudeva, I have confined my study to the historical interpretation and assessment of his career; the various episodes of his life are too well known, to be narrated here.

The inter se synchronisms of the Yādavas of the different families are indicated in the chapter on the Genealogical account, while the synchronisms of the Yādavas with dynasts of other clans are treated in a special chapter supplemented to them.

Lastly a chapter is also devoted to a general survey of the outstanding cultural traits of the Yādavas as obtained in the Epic and the Purāṇas.

Topics of particular problems and comparative studies of secondary sources are treated in Appendixes.
I am deeply grateful to Dr. H. G. Shastri but for whose persistent and valuable guidance it would have been difficult to carry out the research work undertaken by me.

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