APPENDIX-I: Life and Works of Sant Surdas

Mahakavi Sant Surdas is one of the celebrated writers of Hindi literature, who became a legendary person. But his life and works are not completely known to us as there is no authentic writing about him. There are different opinions about his birth, birth-place and works.

As regards his date of birth, opinions differ and as a working hypothesis we can assume that he was born in between Sambat 1530 and 1550, same is the case with his birth place. There are two views; according to one, he was born at a place 'Saahi' near Agra and to another 'Seehee' near Delhi. There is no definite conclusion about it.

There are controversies even about his parentage and works. Some say he came from a Sarswat Brahmin family; others say he is from a Brahmabhatt family and so on. There is no end of such controversy. It is also found that he was blind. But scholars differ about his being blind as some opine that he was not blind since his birth. Whatever these are, we are least concerned about these in this research monograph.

Surdas left home and accepted 'Sannyasa'. With the initiation into 'Dixa' by Acharyya Ballabhacharyya he became a devotee of Lord Krishna and began to write in praise of Krishna. His way of Bhakti was the pusti-margiya prem Bhakti. Since he accepted Sannyas, he was a lifelong bachelor.
Coming to his writings, to which we are more concerned, we are also at bay. There are more controversies about his creations. It is because there were some lesser poets by the name 'Surdas' and had been some interpolation. But generally the following 25 books are regarded as his creations:

1. Sursagar,
2. Sur Sarawali,
3. Sahitya Lahari,
4. Bhagawat Bhasa,
5. Dasam Skandh Bhasa,
6. Sur Sagar Sar,
7. Sur Ramayan,
8. Bal Lila,
9. Radha Ras Keli Kautuk,
10. Gobardhan Lila,
11. Daan Lila,
12. Bhanwar Geet,
13. Naag Lila,
14. Vyahali,
15. Pranpyari,
16. Drist Kut Ke Pad,
17. Sur-Jhotak,
18. Sur-Sathi,
19. Sur-Pachisi,
20. Sewa Phal,
21. Surdas Ke Vinay Ke Pad,
22. Hari Vansh Tika,
23. Ekadashi Mahatmya,
24. Nal-Damayanti,
25. Ram Janm.

But there is no controversy about three books — Sursagar, Sur Sarawali and Sahitya Lahari.