CHAPTER VIII
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The folklore of a country which is generally found in an unwritten form, plays a dominant role in bringing to light the various aspects of life of people including their religion, code of conduct, customs and manners, mode of living, description of deities etc. It also includes information relating to the history and geography of a particular region within its fold. It is, therefore, inevitable to preserve and keep alive such a literature by keeping a constant touch with it, the names of important rivers, places, villages etc. also feature in the folk literature of a region. The folklore of the Vaishali region for example includes the names of the Ganga, the Gandak, the Kenhara etc. Similarly, the folk literature of the Bhojpur region includes the names of the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Saryu etc. One can very well explore the sources and possibilities of geographical accounts of the time of Alha and the locations of the songs of Bihula in the folk literature of the region. It also reflects the financial conductions of the people and the standard of their living, their customs and manners relating to marriage, celebration of various festivals, the mood of serving food. A housewife speaks about her husband who, in a great hurry to depart early, leaves the food served to him in a plate of
of gold. This proves that people in these regions also
sent out side the state to earn money, specially to Assam
and Bengal. Besides, the ideal side of life cultured rela-
tions, selfless love among husband and wife, brother and
sister, mother and daughter, father and son, mother and
sister-in-law, has been amply reflected in the folk litera-
ture of the area. The customs and manners prevailing among
the barbarians also have a place in the folk literature of
the region. The worship of some plants like the 'Tulasi',
'Peepal' etc. and their religious importance have been duly
emphasised and estimated the worship of Sun-God known as
'Sasthi-puja', celebrated mainly to be blessed with a son
is perhaps the most important festival of the region. In
this celebration the worshippers offer fruits, flowers,
sweets etc. the the rising and setting Sun. Mother Sitala
is worshipped for the prevention of small-pox. In brief
the folk-literature of a particular region reflects various
aspects of life of the people living in that region, who
are honest, hard-working and God fearing. They lead the
kind of life which has little touch with the dust and
turmoil of the present day politics and financial involve-
ments. It is a mixture of both idealism and realism.

From the description given above it appears that
tfolk literature is a wholesome representation of every
aspect of human life. In this respect its importance is
automatically enhanced. In the words of Dr. Hazari
Prasad Dwivedi folk songs, an aspect of folk literature are very often put on the equal footing of the Vedas because of their shruti traditions. The tradition is still maintained whereas the Vedas are now available in the written form. These folk songs are no less in importance than the inscriptions of Mohenjodaro. The importance of folk literature has rightly been emphasized by the famous scholar Ralph Williams who opines that the folk song neither becomes outdated nor it remains superficial. It is like that wild tree which has its roots hidden deep into the past and is capable of bearing new leaves and fruits from time to time.

In the real sense of the term folksongs are amalgamation of songs of victory, songs of peace and songs of hope. According the famous scholar Grimm folk songs are folk-literature composed for the people and by the people. According to the scholars of folk literature India is the source of all different forms of stories available in the various literatures of the world. It is really an interesting topic of research in order to know which form of Indian folk literature is found in which part of the world. It is also necessary to conduct a research of other dimensions of folk literature namely proverbs, idioms, phrases and riddles since they also incorporate some aspects of the social, and cultural life of the people. Even the death songs help us a great deal in being familiar with the
customs and traditions prevailing among different communities.

All the aspects of folk literature can be easily located in the folklore of Vaishali District. It is the sincere and earnest duty of the growing generation to explore the possibilities of studying and preserving folk literature, which plays a very significant role in the life of a nation.