The Monolithic Pillar of Asoka at Kolhua (Vaisali)
(Third Century B.C.)
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Utility of the subject:

Folk literature is the vital expression of the deep feeling of the heart which has the capacity to enter deep into the heart of any reader or any audience. From the point of view of quality, different scholars express their views on folk literature differently. But all of them are of the opinion that the Oza (splendour); the Prasad (pleasure) and the Madhurya (sweetness) are the required qualities for a successful folk literature. The most important thing about it is that whatever the writer wanted to say should reach the reader or the audience in its original form. This quality of folk literature is known as its 'Preshaniyata'.

The Bajjika folk literature does not contain less preshaniyata in comparison to other folk literatures. At least it contains the tinge of 'anna-pani' and soil of the locality in it. It is true that the written folk literature is quite underdeveloped, yet whatever is stored in the shape of a song or any other form, it is not less than any other folk literature. It can touch the heart of the mass people and can inspire their mind. The area of Bajjika covers Muzzafarpur, Samastipur district of Darbhanga and Sonepur
of Nepal. It is also true that although the folk literature of this region does not get any government aid yet it preserves the customs, convention, religious rites etc. of the people in it.

Stress has been given in all societies for the creation of ideal character. The term character is quite wide one and many things are included in it, which are abundant in a folk literature. It is also found that the responsibility of character-making is entrusted on women. It is infused in the mind of a woman from early days that she is not an ordinary woman but a woman of the status of the Sita or the Sambita; and therefore, she must live up to the image of these women. On the other hand the man does not take the character of Ram with one woman but takes the character of Krishna with several women. But a woman is not given the status of the Draupadi with five husbands. This tendency is quite evident in the folk literatures.

Bajjika itself is a great folk literature; and it develops modern literature also. This land is inspired by Ram, Sita, Buddha, Mahabir, Amrapali, Bajji and others and therefore, a close study of its literature is important one. Now, the rural culture is one of the elements of the great culture of India. Therefore, to serve the culture of these places is to serve the great culture of India. Now-a-days, the influence of Western culture begins to destroy Indian culture. Under such circumstance the importance of the study
of rural culture of India becomes a must. At the same time a study of folk literature reveals many things of our past — history, culture, economy, geography and what not.

1.2 **Subject-matter of the thesis:**

The Bajjika region is rich in her folk literature. In her folk literature several elements of literature like novels, dramas, stories, epical episodes, uses of proverbs and sayings etc. are found in abundance. But I have selected the subjects related to folk literature which are regarded as the chief components of a folk literature, viz, the Lokgeet (folk songs), Loknatya (folk drama), Lokgatha (ballads) and Lokvarta. It is believed that the study of folk literature will remain half-done of all the sides of folk literature are not touched. Therefore, while studying the folk literature of Bajjikanchal, all the Loknatyas, lokgeets, lokgathas and lokvartas prevalent in this region are classified and analysed in details. So, in this thesis, the folk-literature of Bajjikananchal is situated primarily and all the subjects related to folk literature are studied secondarily and are analysed accordingly.

1.3 **The scope of the thesis:**

The scope of the study of folk literature is quite wide one. All the feelings and emotions of the mass people are
reflected in the folk literature, whether it is the birth of a son or a death of somebody; whether it is 'kuk' of a koel or 'pukar' of a papri; whether the thrill of spring or the touch of winter; whether it is greenness or it is desert, all are the subject-matters of a folk literature and are depicted in it very vividly. All these get life in the folk literature through the simple expression of mass people. In the case of the folk literature of the Bajjika region also all these about the mass mind and warmth of the simple rural people are applicable with slight variation the folk literature of the Bajjika region contain all the salient features of folk literature in general.

In this monograph — "A Critical Study of the Loksahitya of Vaishali District", special stress has been given on the folk literature of the region which can be called the 'Bajjikanchal'. Considering from this view point introduction has been given to historical, social, religious and cultural aspects of the Vaishali district. Further, the folk literature of Vaishali has been classified and all the aspects related to Lokgeets, Loknatyas, Lokgathas and Lokvartas are analysed and examined. All these include in the subject-matter of this thesis.

1.4 Art of the thesis:

As the very little suggests, loksahitya of Bajjikanchal has been analysed critically in this monograph. All the
subject-matter of the critical analysis has been studied from the point of their thought, beauty and expression and importance has been given to its artistic aspect.

I have classified folk literature and side by side advance their proper analysis in different relevant chapters. The analysis becomes social and cultural rather than a 'Shastriya alochana' only. It is natural because folk literature is related to the society and culture.

Less stress has been given in the conclusion part in the monograph. Whenever necessary only some definitions are prepared. Further more stress has been given on the literary and cultural aspects of folk literature. Because it gives the reflection of mass life.

According to necessity examples are furnished to justify our statement. Sometimes, examples are also furnished to amplify our hypothesis and classifications, so that things may be more clear and understandable. In most cases the statement and findings of some renowned scholars are also cited to justify our statement. In this manner endeavour has been made to make all the arguments more logical and reasonable.