PREFACE

The purpose of the present thesis is a critical evaluation of the role of a physician as depicted in the tradition of the Āyurvedic literature in general and in the Mānasollāsa in particular.

The idea of writing on this subject was suggested to me by Dr. B.R. Modak and Dr. M.B. Paraddi, Retd. Professors, Department of Studies in Sanskrit, Karnatak University, Dharwad. According to their suggestions I took this tough work under the guidance of Dr. M.N. Joshi, Reader, Department of Sanskrit, KUD. Mānasollāsa or Abhilasitartha Cintāmaṇī is a unique encyclopaedic work, composed by King Bhūlokamalla Someśvara-III who ruled over the state of Kalyana Calukyas from 1126 to 1139 A.D. in Karnataka. This voluminous work is called a “जगदाचार्यपुस्तकं”, ‘A book for the teachers in the world’. The scope of the book is so extensive that it can rightly claim that epithet. This work is written mainly in Anuṣṭubh metre with occasional prose passages introduced in between. Mānasollāsa treats of many subjects and gives maximum information in the minimum space. Hence it serves as a storehouse of information which king Someśvara has collected after consulting various ancient Indian Sanskrit works.

Mānasollāsa is very important in the field of medicine. It is as much useful to the physicians as to the administrators, teachers, research workers and students. The work suggests as a general rule of the health that any change in the normal health condition of the health is due to food and the bad actions of a man.

The Manas is the controller of the human body. The Āyurveda in general and Mānasollāsa in particular attaches considerable importance to the intimate relationship between the functions of the mind and the activities of the body.
Any disturbance in the one affects the other and causes diseases. Therefore, both the mind and the body are required to be kept in proper condition.

The entire work, Mānasollāsa or Abhilāṣitārtha Cintāmaṇi consists of one hundred Adhyāyas or chapters grouped under five Prakaranas or parts. It covers almost everything relating to human life.

King Bhūlokamalla Someśvara was a great philosopher and a great well-wisher of the mankind. This is the reason for which his Mānasollāsa has become the source of wide interest in the society of all the ages. There are no two opinions that this work is a great contribution to Sanskrit literature by King Someśvara from Karnataka.

The Mānasollāsa as noted above is a good source for researchers. Many have already worked on this work in Hindi and English. Dr. Shiva Sheikhar Misra has brought out his thesis in Hindi entitled “Someśvara’s Mānasollāsa – A Cultural Study” (in 1966). The same author has written in English - with a different title viz., Fine Arts and Technical Sciences in Ancient India (in 1982). In this same direction Dr. Mahadev N. Joshi has worked for his Ph.D. on the topic viz., “Treatment of Secular Arts and Sciences in Someśvara’s Mānasollāsa” (in 1984).

A committee in the Karnataka University Dharwad, under the headship of Dr. M.M. Kalaburgi has brought out two volumes of the translation of Mānasollāsa in Kannada in the year 1998. In this direction this present topic connected with the Āyurveda was not at all brought into focus by any researcher. Hence I have tried my best to highlight the topic in the present thesis.

In this thesis I have tried to arrange subjects under different headings. The work is divided into seven main chapters. The reference in the footnotes regarding the number, the number and chapter of the verses

The imbalance of Vāta, Pitta and Kapha are called Tridoṣa in the Āyurveda. These are the basic concepts for the treatment of all the diseases. As such, it appears to be a good repeat as we find these concepts very often in this thesis. The present thesis aims to bring out certain aspects of the physician and his profession as recorded in the Mānasollāsa which may be of contemporary value. However, Mānasollāsa of Someśvara deals with the maintenance of health of the members of society who constitute the wealth of a strong and progressive state. The present thesis seeks to focus attention on the richness and of the various topics dealt with in this Sanskrit encyclopaedia.

Dharwad
2001

B. S. Hebballi M.A.