

# Banabhatta: (part-2) बाणभट्टः (भाग-2)

(M.A HISTORY , SEM-3, PAPER CC:10)

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# Life of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: का जीवन)

Banabhatta's visit to different places reached king Harsha ears and the king had formed a wrong notion about him on the basis of the information of those wicked persons. He was summoned to the court through *Krisna* (a brother of king). As neither Banabhatta nor his family had ever been in contact with the royal court, he, first, hesitated, but at last decided to go to the royal court. When he reached the royal court, the king treated him with scant respect and called him '*a wanton*'. Banabhatta in a spirited reply told the king that it was unfair to judge him like that. He was a Brahmana, born into well known family of those who had performed the Soma sacrifices, had studied the Vedas with their auxiliary branches and various *Sastra*.

# Life of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: का जीवन)

He was a married man and there could be no question of his been wanton. King Harsha became satisfied with his reply and changed his mind in Banabhatta's favour. Within a few days of his stay in court, Harsha was so much impressed by his genius that he became his trusted friend. After enjoying the royal favour, Banabhatta returned to his native place, Pritikuta. He was greeted with cordial welcome by his friend and relatives. Once he was requested by his cousin *Syamala* to narrate an account of the life of king Harsha. He agreed and created the work *Harshacharita*.

# Works of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: की कृतियाँ)

The Harshacharita and Kadambari are the two celebrated prose works of Banabhatta.

## Harshacharita (हर्षचरित)

- ❖ A historical romance
- ❖ Clearly mentioned his authorship
- ❖ Divided into different *ucchvasas* which furnishes some account of the life of Harsha
- ❖ This work begins with an autobiography where he has given an account of his early life and his sojourn at the royal court of Harsha.
- ❖ Narrated the chief incidents in the life of Harsha

# Works of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: की कृतियाँ)

- ❖ This work contains a few references of the conquest of king Harsha.
- ❖ Harshacharita is very important for the study of ancient Indian history as it contains a lot of information on the state of ancient Indian society, social and religious observances, military organization and so on.

# Works of Banabhatta (बाणभट्टः की कृतियाँ)

## Kadambari (कादम्बरी)

- ❖ Masterpiece of Banabhatta
- ❖ He clearly stated that Kadambari is a Katha and it is unsurpassed in excellence, i.e. without parallel
- ❖ This work seems to be later composition than the Harshacharita
- ❖ From literary point of view it turns out to be superior to the Harshacharita
- ❖ Its refine treatment of the subject, extraordinary construction and its polished style prove it to be a product of Banabhatta's mature genius

# Works of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: की कृतियाँ)

- ❖ Kadambari has for its theme is a long tale narrated by a parrot called *Vaisampayana* to king Sudraka of Vidisa. It describe the love story of Ujjayini and Kadambar, a Gandharva princess. The love-episode of Kadambaris friend Mahasveta and Pundarika is interwoven in it.
- ❖ Unfortunately, Banabhatta died before he could finish the work and his worthy son Bhusanabanabhatta completed it.
- ❖ The part of the Kadambari written by Banabhatta is known as *Purvabhaga* and the later part composed by his son is called *uttaradha*.

# Works of Banabhatta (बाणभट्ट: की कृतियाँ)

## Other works

- ❖ Chandisataka(a devotional poem)
- ❖ Parvatiparinaya (drama)
- ❖ Mukutataditakam (drama)
- ❖ Sivastuti (devotional poem in praise of Lord shiva)
- ❖ Saradachandrika (drama)

(To be continued)