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**Construction of Kavivallabha's Śiśubodhanī,
An unpublished Commentary on The Śiśupālavadhā
from Manuscript Sources
(First ten verses of the first canto)**

Joydev Panda

The *Śiśubodhanī* is a commentary by Kavivallabha Chakrabartin on the famous Sanskrit mahākāvya *Śiśupālavadhā* (ŚV), composed by renowned poet Māgha (Circa 2nd half of the 7th century A.D.). This work is known as *Māghakāvya* also. Some great scholars include it into the *Bṛhatṭrayī*. According to their view other two mahākāvyas are the *Kirātārjuniya* of Bhāravi and the *Naiṣadhacarita* of Śrīharṣa.

The *Śiśupālavadhā* consists of twenty cantos and the total number of stanzas is about 1650. It is based on a legend of the *Mahābhārata* (Sabhā parvan : Adhyāyas 33 to 45). Apparently the story is very simple since the story is based on the slaughter Śiśupāla by Śrīkṛṣṇa. But Māgha has composed so many verses to describe the small story. In fact, his remarkable erudition in many branches of Sanskrit learning has been profusely manifested through this creation. As a result of this fact, the scholars have taken this poem into good consideration. His commendable scholarship in Veda, Purāṇa, Darśanaśāstra, Epics, Alankāraśāstra, Chandaśśāstra etc., naturally invites the scholars to plunge into his *Kāvya*. We have, therefore, so many commentaries as well as a number of studies on it. The number of the commentators as recorded by M. Krishnamachariar in '*History of Sanskrit Classical Literature*' is not meagre. The commentators are as follows :

Candravardhana, Pedda Bhaṭṭa, Devarāja, Haridāsa, Śrīraṅgadeva, Śrīkantha, Bharatasena, Candraśekhara, Kavivallabha, Cakravartin, Lakṣmīnātha, Bhava(ga)data, Vallabhadeva, Maheśvara pañcānana, Bhagīratha, Jivānanda, Vidyāsāgara, Garuḍa, Ānandadevayāni, Divākara, Bṛhaspati, Rājakunda, Jayasimhācārya, Mallinātha, Śrīraṅgadeva and Padmanābha