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## Construction of Kavivallabha's Śīsubodhani, An Unpublished Commentary on the Śīsupālvadha from Manuscript Sources

(First ten verses of the second canto)

Joydev Panda\*

The Śīsupālvadha (ŚV), or as it is better known, the Māgha-kāvya, after the name of its author, is one of the master pieces of Sanskrit literature and it is, no doubt, a famous mahākāvya in Sanskrit literature. This is the only work of the renowned poet Māgha (2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.) that has come down to us. 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 Śīsupālvadha consists of twenty cantos and the total number of stanzas is about 1650. It is based on a legend of the Mahābhārata (Sabhparvan: Adhyāyas 33 to 45). Apparently the story is very simple since the story is based on the slaughter of Śīsupāla by Śrīkrṣṇa. 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, Alaṅkāraśāstra, Chandaḥśāstra 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. Krishnaramachariar in 'History of Sanskrit Classical Literature' is not meager.

But although so many names are recorded, some commentaries are still in manuscript form and are found in the manuscripts repositories of India and abroad, we do not have the commentaries in printed form except those of Vallabhadeva and Mallinātha. We here make an humble attempt to edit critically one of such commentaries- i.e. Kavivallabha's Śīsubodhani.

Of a number of commentaries of the Śīsupālvadha, the concerned commentary Śīsubodhani is obviously an illustrious one. Its composer Kavivallabha was an eminent writer of Bengal in the middle part of 17<sup>th</sup>

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