



Human life and Sanskrit Epics

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Introduction

Maharshi - Sages spent their lives in making India " Vishwa - Guru ". The style of human life has been continuously changing due to the sadhna of the seekers. The culture and education of India is the gift of Maharishi. To discover the secrets of human life, Maharishi used to sit in solitude and search far and wide. They used to spend time studying for research work in the lap of nature, forests, gardens and mountains. Whenever a person turned away from religion, man used to deviate from religion, then through the spiritual practice of Maharishi, new knowledge was born. Today's modern literature has been created from Vedic literature only for the advancement of human life. The various poems and epics that have been created till today are ultimately for the upward movement of human life.

There was a time when man was slowly moving away from religion and indifference towards religion was increasing and unrighteousness towards religion was increasing. Then Brahmaji sent Narada to Maharishi Valmiki to enjoy the epic. In the course of time, Ram made a place in the lives of the people with his characteristic influence. Brahmaji ordered Valmiki to sing the divine story of Rama through Narada, "कुरु रामकथां दिव्याम्" (01) then the separation of the birds from the Tamsa coast appeared in the form of Ramayana in the form of Rama Katha from Valmiki's throat.

मा निषाद प्रतिष्ठां त्वमगमः शाश्वतीः समाः ।

यत्क्रौंचमिथुनादेकमवधी काममोहितम् ॥(02)

Here the divine Rama story became famous in the name of Ramayana by being bound in verse which became famous as "Sitayascharitam" which was also the anthem of Sita's character and also the anthem of Rama's character.

रामस्य चरितं कृत्स्नं कुरु त्वमृषिसत्तम ।

धर्मात्मनो भगवतो लोके रामस्य धीमतः ॥

वृत्तं कथय धीरस्य यथा ते नारदाच्छ्रुतम् ।

रहस्यं च प्रकाशं च यद् वृत्तं तस्य धीमतः ॥(03)

The epics are filled with the mystery of Vedas, Shastras, History and Puranas, in which Purushartha Chatushtaya - Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha and Shanti are the best. The original seed of the Sanskrit epic is found in the Rigveda. Vedas hymns are mainly of praise of God, however some hymns are interactive and full of music. Due to being praised in some hymns, it is also known as charity praise. Hence it is proved that the inspiration of epic is derived from Vedic literature. The Yama-Yami dialogue, Pururava-Urvashi dialogue, Indra-Varuna dialogue Varun-Agni dialogue are well known in Rigveda. Therefore, it can be said without a doubt that Vedic literature has been the inspiration for the epic. There is also a hymn about praise in Atharvaveda. In which there is an interesting statement of the qualities of the opposition of kings, they have been named as "Kuntap Sukta". Heroic poetry was composed through words like charity, praise etc. (04) Inspiration was provided to the people through the description of virtues like charity etc. The society used to get the imagination and life vision of an ideal life from the poetic epic written on ideal Life Character. The original purpose of the epic was to help make human life meaningful. Therefore it is said in Mahabharata that -

धर्मं चार्थं च कामे च मोक्षे च भरतर्षभ।

यदिहास्ति तदन्यत्र यत्रेहास्ति न तत्कचित् ॥(05)

The knowledge and science of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha is present in the Mahabharata. What is present in Mahabharata is not in any place. All the knowledge of world is present in Mahabharata. From this we can imagine that there are themes present in the epic, they act like a mirror as a guide to the society. The Puranas have been composed from legends, anecdotes and saga etc , in which character descriptions are received. Poets have presented the then prevailing events and stories in the form of poetry for understanding of humankind. The epic is the developed form of folk tales and the mythological cycle. On the basis of the life character depicted in the Puranas, the epic was created. It is known in the Vayu Purana that the history Puranas etc have developed from the stories and saga cycles - पूरा परम्परां वक्तिं पुराणं तेन वै अमृतम् ।(06)

Ramayana and Mahabharata is called epic poetry. In the Ramayana, there is also a mention of the sub-tales like Savitri, Urvashi, Pururava, Manu, Yayati etc. (07) Keeping these stories and sub-tales in the center, the great poets have been composing their epics by making necessary changes and additions. The epic Ramayana originated from the time of Lord Rama. The Ramayana was composed by Valmiki and sung by Luv Kush on the occasion of Rama's Ashwamedha. (08) It is proved from this evidence that Ramayana was composed during the time of Lord Ramachandra, in fact the epic had started from the time of Lord Ramachandra. Taking inspiration from the Arsha epic, the epic began to be created, in this tradition, the foundation stone of the epics like Kalidas, Sriharsha, Bharvi, Ashvaghosh was laid on the basis of texts like Ramayana.

Major epics based on Ramayana

रघुवंश महाकाव्य - Kalidasa

सेतुबंध महाकाव्य - Pravarsena

रावणवध महाकाव्य - Bhatti

जानकी हरण महाकाव्य - Kumar Dasa

रामचरित महाकाव्य - Abhinanda

रामायण मंजरीकाव्य - Kshemendra

रामपाल चरित काव्य - Sandhyakaranandi

रघुनाथ चरित काव्यम - Vamana

बाल रामायण - Rajshekhra

जानकीजीवन महाकाव्य - Abhiraja Rajendra Mishra

Major epics based on Mahabharata

किरातार्जुनीयम् - Bharavi

शिशुपालवध - Magha

भारतमंजरी - Kshemendra

नैषधीयचरितम् - ShreeHarsha

बालभारत - AmarchandraSuri

नरनारायणानंद - Vastupala

कीचकवधकाव्य - Nitivarmana

युधिष्ठिरविजय - Vasudeva

राघव पण्डवीय - Dhananjaya

The tradition of epics from the Vedic period was kept intact by modern poets. In everyday life, in the family, for the events happening and for the age-appropriate era, the poets continued to contribute by composing modern epics in the Sanskrit epic stream, and this epic tradition has survived even today.

In ancient Sanskrit literature, mainly two types (09) of poetry and ten types of visual (10) and three types of audible prose, verse and champu are found. In their territories, the stories of prose and the epics of poetry, Khandakavya (11) and Mukataka, (12) Champu are found. In modern Sanskrit literature, all this knowledge is completely safe even today, almost all these disciplines have got many distinctions. Even in today's scientific age, modern epics are being composed.

major modern epics

Shree Taloatreekakara- गांधी गीता

Shree Sadhu sharan Mishra- गांधी चरितम्

Shree Satyavrata Shastree- बोधिसत्व चरितम्

Shree Vishnu Datta Shukla - गंगा सागरीयम्

Shree Loknatha Shastree - गांधीविजय

Shree Sudhakara Shukla - गांधीसौगन्धिकम्

Shree Dwijendranatha Shastree - स्वराज्यविजय

Shree Vishwanatha Keshava Chhatre - स्वातन्त्रोदयः

From the Vedas to the present day, Sanskrit epics have been composed for the formation of the personality of man. In the epics, the representation of the principles of ideal life character and life values is present in the form of epics. The solution of today's problems is depicted in the Sanskrit epic. There is no doubt that the Sanskrit epics will remain eternal and immortal. As long as there is sun and moon, the Sanskrit epic should live.

Reference :-

(01) रामस्य चरितम् कृत्स्नम् कुरु त्वम् ऋषिसत्तम ।

धर्मात्मनो भगवतो लोके रामस्य धीमतः ॥

वाल्मीकि रामायण 01/02/32

(02) मा निषाद प्रतिष्ठां त्वमगमः शाश्वतीः समाः ।

यत्क्रौंचमिथुनादेकमवधी काममोहितम् ॥

वाल्मीकि रामायण 10/02/15

(03) कुरु रामकथां पुण्यां श्लोक बद्धां मनोरमाम् ।

यावत् स्थास्यन्ति गिरयः सरितः च महीतले ॥

तावत् रामायण कथा लोकेषु प्रचरिष्यति ।

यावत् रामस्य च कथा त्वत् कृता प्रचरिष्यति ॥

वाल्मीकि रामायण 01/02/36-37

(04) अथर्ववेद मंडल 20/127 से 136

(05) धर्मे चार्थे च कामे च मोक्षे च भरतर्षभ।

यदिहास्ति तदन्यत्र यत्रेहास्ति न तत्कचित्॥

महाभारत आदिपर्व 56/33

(06) पूरा परम्परां वक्तिं पुराणं तेन वै अमृतम् -

वायु पुराण 01/02/53

(07) महाभारत आदीपर्व 01/220/225

(08) वाल्मीकि रामायण उत्तर काण्ड 93

(09) साहित्य दर्पण - 06/01

(10) साहित्य दर्पण - 06/03

(11) साहित्य दर्पण - 06/33

(12) साहित्य दर्पण - 06/35