Introduction to our literature - 2

Class objective: I will be able to learn more about various Authors of Sanskrit Epics and literary work.

We came across the names of eminent Sanskrit authors. Today lets us learn about Adikavi Valmiki, Maharishi Veda Vyasa, Kalidasa, and Bhasa's contribution in Sanskrit literature.

Concept A: Adikavi Valmiki

Valmiki is a sage of an excellent power of pen and wisdom. He is called Adikavi since the moment he cursed a hunter on killing Kraunch bird in a totally original chhandas. Narada advised Valmiki to write in the same poetic meter the life and deeds of Rama. Accordingly Valmiki wrote Ramayana, the Adikavya, in seven sections and 24000 couplets full of the most compelling imagery, idioms and metaphors, wisdom and nobility. He gave birth to a unique literary and philosophical masterpiece, one of the greatest works in world literature. Valmiki loved and respected life in all its splendor and diversity, the birds, the trees, the rivers, the seasons, forests and even scientific inventions.

Very little is known about the personal life of this sage except that before becoming a saint he was earning his livelihood as a decoit. One day Rishi Agastya met him and asked him why he committed such crimes. 'To support my family' replied Mrigavyadha the decoit. 'Will they be sharing your sins also?' questioned Agastya' Mrigvyadha was deeply disappointed when he received the reply in negative by his parents, his wife and the other members of his family. Shocked and under a deep sense of remorse, he started meditating and went into Samadhi. Ants build their nests around him and his body takes the shape of an ant-hill. God Varuna, feeling very much moved by his condition and his austere penance, washed off the mud and cured his wounds. Thereafter he was called Valmiki – arising out a Valmika - an ant hill. God blessed him and called him a sage. The fundamental teaching of the Ramayana is the sanctity of the institution of the family which is society in miniature.

Ramayana is the source of many other works in other Indian Languages like Ramacharitamanasa of Tulsidas in Hindi, the Ramayana in Assamese by Madhava Kandali, Ramayana in Bengali by Krittibas, Ramayana in Marathi by Eknath, Kamba Ramayana in Tamil by Kamban, Mulla – Ramayana in Telugu by Mulla, Adhyatma Ramayana in Malaylam by Ramanuja Edutachhan and also in many other Indian and foreign languages.

वाल्मीकि लेखनी और ज्ञान की एक उत्कृष्ट शक्ति के ऋषि है, जिन्हें आदिकवि कहा जाता है। शिकारी द्वारा क्रोञ्च पक्षी की हत्या करने पर शिकारी को शाप देते हुये एक श्लोक द्वारा श्राप देने के समय वाल्मीकि को आदिकवि की उपाधि दी गयी। ऋषि नारद ने वाल्मीकि को एक ही काव्यात्मक छन्द में राम के जीवन-चरित लिखने का परामर्श दिया गया। तदनुसार वाल्मीकि ने रामायण के रूप में आदिकाव्य को सात खण्डों में लिखा। 24,000 दोहों में सबसे सम्मोहक कल्पनाशीलता, मुहावरों और रूपकों में रामायण का प्रणयन हुआ। आदिकवि ने अपनी बुद्धि और कल्पना से अद्वितीय साहित्यक और दार्शनिक कृति को जन्म दिया, जो विश्व-साहित्य में सबसे महान कार्यों में से एक है। वाल्मीकि ने जीवन के सभी पक्षों के प्रति प्रेम और आदर की दृष्टि अपनायी है, जिससे प्राकृतिक

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