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DECLARATION

I, *Smt. T.N. Jaya* hereby declare that this *THE SUNDARA RĀMĀYANA* of *Sri Sundaresa Sāstri* - A study has been prepared by me and that this has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma or any other title of this or any other University.

Date: 25.07.04

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PREFACE

आत्मनोऽन्यस्य सद्भावे पूर्वस्थित्यनुयाय्यपि ।
वस्तु भातितरां तन्व्याः शशिच्छायमिवाननम् ॥

Dh. A. Udyota -IV .14

“So long as there is a separate life of its own, even a poetic theme bearing close correspondence to an earlier one will acquire exceeding beauty; just as the delightful face of a woman will appear exceedingly charming in spite of its strong resemblance to the moon”.

This statement of Ānandavardhana holds good with the Sundara Rāmāyaṇa, the subject of the current study.

INFLUENCE OF RĀMĀYAṆA

Rāmāyaṇa holds a unique place in the literary history of the world. Based on the original Rāmāyaṇa many authors have composed the Rāmāyaṇa in Sanskrit and other languages. The influence of the Rāmāyaṇa could be seen not only in poems, in the dramatic literature but also in other species of literature throughout the centuries. Many

authors who got inspired have contributed their ideas on the themes of the Rāmāyaṇa. Some of them are adaptations or deviations or abridgement.

Adhyātma Rāmāyaṇa, Ānanda Rāmāyaṇa, Vāṣista Rāmāyaṇa, Adbhuta Rāmāyaṇa, Bāla Rāmāyaṇa, Śuka Rāmāyaṇa and so on, are many works worth noticing in the development of the Rāmāyaṇa literature.

The Sundara Rāmāyaṇa is a Kāvya in seven Cantos with 1209 verses condensing the original Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa composed by the 20th century author Śrī Sundareśa Śāstri. He has also rendered a Tamil translation of the entire work. This work gives a comprehensive survey of Rāmā's story fulfilling the features of an interesting Kāvya.

The Sundara Rāmāyaṇa of Śrī Sundareśa Śāstri the work taken for the study was highly appreciated by the erudite scholars of his time. Vaṅgipuram Śri. Rangāchariar, a scholar under the kingdom of Śri. Rājagopala Thondaman observes that,

“गोकर्णाभिजनेन सुन्दरबुधा वाल्मीकिसंबोधित
श्रीरामायणसंग्रहस्सुरचितो विद्वन्मनः कर्षति ।

बालानां सुखबोधकस्सुरुचिरोऽलंकारवृत्तादिभिः
सौशब्देन च कालिदासकवितासादृश्यमभ्यश्नुते ॥”

“ This work the epitome of Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, well composed by the scholar ‘Sundara’ belonging to the place called Gokarṇa attracts the hearts of all these scholars. It easily enters into the minds of the young. It is so sweet with the accomplishment of figures of speech, prosody and chosen words similar to Kālidāsa”

Sri. N. Rāghava Śāstri, Headmaster of Veda Śāstra Pāṭasāla of Pudukottai, observes this work thus.

“अत्र च श्रीरामायणे प्रतिसर्गं प्रदर्शिताः कथांशाः प्रायेण संगृहीताः ।
प्रसिद्धानि च पदानि संघटितानि । मधुरा च सरणी हृदयंगमा च वर्तते ।”

“In this work, mostly the narrative episodes of every sarga are brought out in a condensed form. Popular words are being used. The style is sweet and pleasing to the heart”.

The Sundara Rāmāyaṇa was printed at the ‘Śrī Janārdhana Printing Works Limited’, Town High School Road, Kumbakonam, in the year 1938. Before proceeding to analyse Sundara Rāmāyaṇa, a brief survey of the sources of the Rāmāyaṇa is also given.

Since no attempt has been made by the scholars to investigate and critically analyse this interesting Kāvya, the present study is undertaken.

This study extends to seven chapters. The place of Sundara Rāmāyaṇa its author and his family, the glory of Rāmāyaṇa and a brief survey of the poems on the theme of Rāmāyaṇa are dealt with in the First Chapter.

The Second Chapter gives the prose rendering of the poem in English with phalaśruti.

The Third Chapter deals with expressions and parallel expressions.

The Fourth Chapter contains commentary on allusions and character sketches.

The Fifth Chapter analyses the figures of speech, observation, description and rare grammatical usage.

The Sixth Chapter deals with the words of wisdom and omens as motifs.

The concluding chapter critically estimates the overall presentation of the author.

Note on Methodology

All the relevant references in this thesis are given at the end of every chapter as per the superscript number given in the body of the thesis. So also, the relevant portion of the quotations alone are given in the chapter notes for the sake of brevity.

The appendices contain the relevant materials referred to in the body of the Thesis. Select Bibliography is added at the end.

Despite the care taken, there may be some inadequacies, but they may be pardoned. They are not neglected items, but left out to keep the thesis within its limit.

I owe my sincere thanks to **Dr. R. Thiagarajan, M.A., Ph.D,** **Head of the P.G. & Research Department of Sanskrit, Presidency College, Chennai-5,** who was instrumental for my undertaking this work. I also thank him for his incessant guidance and support for all the help rendered by him, but for which, it would have been otherwise an incredible task for me. I offer my heart felt thanks to **Dr. (Sri) N.V. Vasudevachariar,** correspondent, Sri Ahobila Math Oriental Higher Secondary School, West Mambalam, Chennai, 600 033 for all the encouragement and support rendered to me for completing this work. Thanks are due to **Sri. R. Ramakrishna Iyer,**

retired professor of Sanskrit, A.M. Jain College. I sincerely thank
~~profusely thank~~ Mrs. V. Gowri who is the Grand daughter-in-law of the
author **Sri. Sundaresā Śāstri**, for giving me all information about the
author and also for the photograph of the author. I profusely thank
Mrs. Uma, M.A. M. Phil., M.Ed., PGCTE, P.G. English Teacher as well
as my colleague in Sri Ahobila Math Oriental H.S.S, for her best
assistance to me while executing this work. I will be failing in my duty,
if I do not express my appreciation to **V. Pratibha** for the abundant and
meticulous care she has bestowed on executing this work. I thank my
parents-in-law and my parents for having encouraged me to pursue my
research. I thank my husband and also my son for helping me from time
to time. I am rather moved since my grand father is not alive now, as he
always wished me to pursue a doctorate degree.

S. N. Jayar

ABBREVIATIONS

Ādi.	Ādi Parva
Anu.	Anuśāsana Parva
A. Pu.	Agni Purāṇa
Ar. K.	Āraṇya Kāṇḍa
Ay. K.	Ayodhyā Kāṇḍa
Āraṇya	Ārnya Parva
BG	Bhagavad Gītā
B. K.	Bāla Kāṇḍa
B. Pu	Bhāgavata Purāṇa
BSNK	Bṛhad Saṁskṛta Nibandha Kalikā
Ch.	Chapter
D. Bh	Devi Bhāgavatam
Dh. A	Dyanyāloka
H.C. S. L	History of Classical Sanskrit Literature
Mt.	Mountain
Ska.	Skanda
S. K.	Sundara Kāṇḍa
S.R	Sundara Rāmāyaṇa
Udy.	Udyoga Parva
U.K	Uttara Kāṇḍa
U. R	Uttara Rāmāyaṇa
V.	Verse
V. R.	Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa
Y. K.	Yuddha Kāṇḍa



Śri Sundareśa Śāstri
Author - The Sundara Rāmāyana
and
his wife Smt Maṅgalam

FAMILY TREE OF THE AUTHOR
VENKATESVARA

