

ŚYAINIKA ŚĀSTRA:

OR

A BOOK ON HAWKING

By

RĀJĀ RUDRADEVA OF KUMAON.

EDITED WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

By

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self-importance makes the enjoyment of women all the more pleasant after hunting.

29, 30, 31, 32. In the matter of the intensity of pleasure no distinction is found between hunting and the enjoyment of women. The *Śāstrakāras*, however, have shown this minute difference, that in the enjoyment of women pleasure grows less with repetition (which apparently is not the case with hunting). Their causes and effects are equal in respect to the keenness of enjoyment, afforded both in union and in separation (in the case of hunting, in success and in failure). Of these, in respect to women much has been said in dramas and in rhetoric, and also in works on Erotics. Therefore it will not be treated of here. But something should be said in brief about hunting, for the diffusion of its knowledge.

33, 34, 35. The capture of birds from afar by means of hawks, and the sudden hitting by the arrows of bowmen, of moving and stationary objects, produce intense joy, which finds expression in tears, in the hair standing on the end, and in the choking of the voice. If unsuccessful the disappointment is great and it leads to needless apprehension of evil recollections of the past, a change of complexion and lamentation. These and other things happen therefore equally both in hunting and in the love of women. Therefore hunting, too, is desirable for the attainment of the three objects of life.

36, 37, 38. In an open space, with followers spread down-wind and acting in concert, the hunting of animals proves an easy success.

Five or six horsemen are quite enough for hunting rhinoceros. The horses should be quiet and well-trained in their motion. A horseman should strike the rhinoceros with small darts in quick succession on the back.

39, 40. If it turns back, then the horseman relying on the dexterity of his horse should at once run in its front;

others should hit it from behind or skilled archers should pierce it with arrows on the sides.

41. With fleet horses, expert bowmen hit an infuriated lion, sometimes in an open field and sometimes from ambushes, and kill it like a cat.

42, 43. (2) That is called hunting by snares in which animals are killed by tricking, and in which men capture fish, conches, otters, and oysters. Infinite are the means resorted to in this sort of hunting. It is used by low people, by the *Niṣādas* and others.

44. But it is useful in the capturing of elephants, etc. Therefore kings should also have recourse to it as it is exceedingly profitable.

45. Practising stratagems in this is not at all to be blamed. For it has the sanction of Vālmīki, who described the killing of Bālī by such stratagem in battle :—

46. “ Men capture many animals by means of various kinds of nets, traps, and nooses, or by keeping themselves concealed in a hidden place. Experts in the art of hunting also pierce with arrows animals coming towards them.”

47. When, on account of their training, deer capture deer, and birds capture birds, that is also included under this head (*Sajālā*).

48. (3) Hunting by stratagem is that in which success is attained by many, some standing in front, some behind, acting in concert, although standing apart. This is of four kinds :—

49. (a) *Bahukarnikā* is that in which deer are hunted by the hurling of a trident or a similar weapon by two or three persons standing to the windward and shouting at the top of their voices.

50. (b) *Mūlagnikā* is that in which animals are deceived and killed by many people standing under cover of trees and gradually coming close to each other behind them.

PREFACE.

Literature is generally an index of the life of a nation. Every important act of a national life is faithfully represented in literature. Ancient Indians were very fond of manly sports; and Sanskrit literature is full of the stories of Mṛgayā. It is no wonder, therefore, that hawking should have engaged the attention of Indian writers. The work now presented with an English translation to the public, is a book on hawking in Sanskrit by Rudradeva (or Candradeva or Rudracandra Deva as the MS. C calls him), a Rājā of Kūrmācala or Kumaon. The Royal author is systematic in his treatment of the subject. Nowhere does he indulge in theories. His book is thoroughly practical.

The first chapter is devoted to the defence of what Paṇḍitas would call "vices"; and the defence is eminently practical. These should be indulged in for the enjoyment of life. But none should be wholly given up to them. In the second chapter these "vices" are enumerated and defined. The last of the vices is **सुगया** or hunting. In the third chapter various kinds of hunting are enumerated and defined, the last of which is **श्वेनपाता** or hawking. In the fourth chapter various kinds of hawks are enumerated and described. Their training and their capacity for hunting birds and beasts are also described there in great detail. The fifth chapter is devoted to the kind and quantity of their food, their tending in different seasons, and the treatment of their diseases. In the sixth, various methods of sport with these birds are described; and, in accordance with the time-honoured custom of Indian Paṇḍitas, the enjoyment of the eight different Rasas or emotions can be derived from the sport of hawking. In the seventh are the

after-enjoyments of the sport. The Royal poet is methodical, and he rarely uses a word that is not necessary.

It is difficult to find when Rudradeva flourished. The same Rudradeva of Kumāon has a Smṛti compilation, written in the same style and in the same methodical way. In the *Śyainika Śāstra* he uses many words that are of Turkish or Persian origin. That is no proof of date. For it is known for certain that Indians had connections with Turks from very remote antiquity. In a work written by the Kashmirian poet Dāmodara, the Turkish leather-shoes are described as much in vogue at Benares in the ninth century. In the inscriptions of Govindacandra of Kanauj, the trade in Turkish articles is discouraged by imposing a high tariff on them. The Turks came in and settled in India by hundreds after the eruption of Jengis Khan into their country in the thirteenth century. So the use of Turkish words is no criterion to fix the date. The absence of any mention of guns and gunpowder shows that the book was written when gunpowder was not known in India, that is, at least three hundred years ago. The fact that this Rājā wrote a *Nibandha* shows that he did not belong to the Hindu but to the Mahommedan period of the Indian History. For the *Nibandhas* began to be written only after the Mahommedans had set their foot in India. Nor could he have written the book in the first century of the Mahommedan conquest. For, we know from the Gayā and Buddha Gayā inscriptions that the kings of Kumāon of that century were Buddhists. The composition of the book, therefore, would range from between the thirteenth to the sixteenth century of the Christian era. This period may be still more contracted by the fact that Rudradeva in his Smṛti work, entitled *चैवर्णिकधर्मनिर्णय*, quotes from Kullūka Bhaṭṭa who flourished about the middle of the fifteenth century. Rudradeva, therefore, must come after him.

I have gratefully to acknowledge the assistance and encouragement which I have always received from Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Phillott. A good falconer himself, he has written many treatises on hawking, and without his help I could not have translated the book in the technical style in which it now appears.

In the preparation of this edition three MSS. have been used. The first is a MS. acquired for the Asiatic Society of Bengal, but not yet registered. The first and the last leaf of this are missing. This has been called A. It has a peculiar way of correcting mistakes. They are corrected in the next line to that in which they occur, just below where the mistakes are. They are separated from the second line by a rude sort of bracket. This MS. is generally correct. The second MS. B has not yet been permanently acquired. It has the beginning and the end, but some leaves are missing in the middle. The paper is very thin and the writing bad. But it is generally correct. The third MS. called C is No. 8245 of the Government collection. It has the first leaf restored, and it ends abruptly in the middle of the sixth chapter. A commentary has also been acquired, No. 8244 of the Society's collection. It is called *शैनिकशास्त्रटीका*. It is written in the same hand as B. It is very nearly complete. It deals more with rhetorical discussion than with the technical terms of hawking. Some use has been made of the commentary in the translation.

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