

# विदुरनीतिः

(VIDURA NĪTIH)



सम्पादकः

डा.मनोरञ्जन् सेनापतिः

उपाचार्यः

प्रकाशकः

संस्कृतविभागः

श्रीचन्द्रशेखरेन्द्रसरस्वतीविश्वमहाविद्यालयः

एनातूर काञ्चीपुरम्

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(VIDURA NĪTIḤ)

Compiled by

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Published by

**Department of Sanskrit & Indian Culture**

**Śrī Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viśva Mahavidyalaya**

(University Established under section 3 of the UGC act 1956)

Enathur, Kanchipuram - 631561

Title of the Book : Viduraniti

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No of Copies : 500

Size : 1/8 Dummy

Year : 2012

Edition : 1

Published by : Department of Sanskrit & Indian Culture,  
SCSVMV University,  
Enathur, Kanchipuram

Printed at : Deepam D.T.P,  
8, Colla Chatram Street,  
Kanchipuram

Copyright : Department of Sanskrit & Indian Culture,  
SCSVMV University,  
Enathur, Kanchipuram

Price : Rs 50/-

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I pay reverential Homage at the Holy feet of Sri Sri Jayendra Sankaracharya Swamigal and Sri Sri Sankara Vijayendra Sankaracharya Swamigal for the grace showered on me.

I express my sincere gratitudes to Prof. P.V.Vaidyanathan, Chancellor and Prof. C.V. Vaidyanthan, Vice-Chancellor of SCSVMV University for the moral support extended in all the endeavours.

I express my hearty thanks to Prof. Vishnu Potty.V.S, Registrar of the university for his kind consent to publish the work.

I extend my hearty gratitudes towards Prof. Narayan Jee Jha, Prof. G.Srinivasu and Prof. S.Ramakrishna Pissipaty, Professors of the department for their wonderful guidance extended in all my efforts.

I express my sincere thanks to Sri. V.Sundar, Administrative officer, SCSVMV University Hostels, for his moral support.

I express my thanks to all of my colleagues for their support and help extended in this work.

I express my sincere gratitudes to all officials of the university.

**-Dr. MANORANJAN SENAPATY**

## PRE-FACE

### Introduction to Mahabharata

Mahabharata, the treasure house of knowledge is one of the great epics in India. It is called the fifth Veda (पञ्चमो वेदः) since it is an illustrative exposition of the fundamental scriptural truths for the benefit of all, even the ordinary men and women who have not the necessary qualifications to take up to the study of the Vedas and Upanisadas. It is the treasure house of ancient Indian wisdom. It has moulded the heart and mind of an entire race in a way no other epic in the world has done. Rightly, it has been observed by our prime minister, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, that the magnificent epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata are 'India's pride and treasure'. Every prominent vernacular language in India has a version of this original Sanskrit work which ranks foremost and exercises a like influence on their literature.

This great work Mahabharata goes also by the name of Itihasa (इतिहासोऽयम्). In the view of late Loka Manya Tripathi, this is not only an Itihasa or epic but a great Arshakavya (आर्ष महाकाव्यम्), satisfying all the tests laid down for a

mahakavya as he has explained, taking his stand on the text found herein (त्वया च काव्यमित्युक्तं तस्मात् काव्यं भविष्यति ।).

The authorship of this great epic is attributed to Vedavyasa who goes on also by other names as Badarayana, Krishnadwaipayana, Parasara and Satyavati suta. The expression Vyasa might denote a mere title as one who has arranged the Vedas instead of the real name of the author, vide:विव्यास वेदान् स तस्माद् व्यास इति स्मृतः ।. Further in Devi Bhagavata it is said there have been 28 Vyasas and their names also are mentioned therein, one in every Dwapara Age of cycle of years, and the last goes by the name of Krishnadwaipayana. Though last in the list, he is said to excel all as laid down in the Gita द्वैपायनोऽपि व्यासानाम्. To him are also attributed the eighteen puranas and the Vedanta Brahma Sutra.

This voluminous work of Mahabharata is divided into eighteen cantos(पर्वणि) and is said to contain 1,00,000 slokas as laid down in the first chapter of the 1st canto एकं शतसहस्रं च मयोक्तं वै निबोधत ।. The central theme of this great epic is an internecine war between two branches of the royal dynasty of kurus in north west India, the sons of two brothers Pandu and Dhritarashtra. The latter being congenitally blind, the rightful heir to the throne on the premature death of the

