



INDIAN WRITERS AND POETS

PINGALI SURANA



Pingali Surana was one of the most accomplished Telugu poets from Andhra Pradesh. He was one of the Ashtadiggajas (eight prominent poets in the court of Krishnadeva Raya) of the Vijayanagar rulers Krishna Deva Raya. The Vijayanagar rulers were a prominent medieval power who had control over parts of Deccan and South.

The information regarding his native village is somewhat debated, while some say that he belonged to the Pingali village, a few other trace his native village in Kurnool district. He is said to be a descendant of the Vedic sage Gautama.

Surana's works are filled by witty remarks, thus he is said to have established the tradition of pun poems i.e. a word also has an underlying meaning to it, that is not so evident on the surface of it. His work is characterised by six major principles that he developed to incorporate in to his new way of writing.

His works include - **Raaghavapaamdaveeyam, Kalaapoornodayamu, Prabhaavateepadyumnamu, Garudapuraanam, Girijaakalyaanamu.**

Raaghavapaamdaveeyam is also a satirical work that narrates the story of Ramayana and Mahabharata in one poem.

According to historian Narayanrao Velcheru, Surana's work **Kalaapoornodayamu** literally meaning art that has fully bloomed evidences literary devices and techniques that were previously not known when one studies the development of classical Indian literature. This work is considered to be one of the first novels written in South – Asia.

This work also throws light on the general development of Telugu literature, which was previously being seen on the sidelines of classical Sanskrit literature. It shifts focus from North India to South India. It is now widely known that literature in South India is not a mere translation of Sanskrit literature and that they developed a style on its own.

His work **Prabhaavatee Pradyumnamu**, translated in English as Demon's Daughter is dated to the sixteenth-century. This novel was translated by the renowned Indologist David Shulman. This story is inspired from Hindu mythology it recounts the tale of demons trying to overthrow the kings. The story is about Krishna's son Pradyuman who is sent to defeat the demons by entering their highly protected city. Pradyuman is made to fall in love with the demon's daughter because Krishna uses a matchmaking goose to ensure the success of his plan. While the original story is of the animosity between gods and demons, Pingali gives it its own style by portraying it as a love story, which has a modern touch to it as it shows the characters trying to transcend their individual boundaries and socio – cultural barriers.

In conclusion by looking at Pingali Surana's life story we come to know a lot about this great Telugu Poet, and his remarkable work in taking forward Telugu literature.

Activity

1. Find out some more information on the other Ashtadiggajas of Krishna Deva Raya's Court?

2. Write a biography of one regional language author/poet belonging to your state.

References

www.vepachedu.org ,www.hindu.com