

= Manasollasa =

The Manasollasa, also known as Abhilashitartha Chintamani, is an early 12th century Sanskrit text composed by the South Indian king Someshvara III of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty. The text is an encyclopedic work covering topics such as polity, governance, ethics, economics, astronomy, astrology, rhetoric, veterinary medicine, horticulture, perfumes, food, architecture, sports, painting, poetry and music. The text is a valuable source of socio-cultural information on 11th- and 12th century India.

The encyclopedic treatise is structured as five sub-books with a cumulative total of 100 chapters. It is notable for its extensive discussion of arts, particularly music and dance. It is also notable for including chapters on food recipes and festivals, many of which continue to be a part of modern Indian culture.

Another medieval era Sanskrit text with the title Manasollasa also exists, consisting of devotional praise hymns (stotra), and it is different from the encyclopedic treatise.

= Nomenclature =

The title Manasollasa (मनसोल्लास) is a compound Sanskrit word, consisting of Mana (मन) or "mind" and Sollasa (सल्लास) or "rejoicing, delighting". It means "the joy, delighter or entertainer of the mind". Alternatively, the compound word can be broken as Manasa and Ullasa, which mean "happiness of mind".

The work is divided into five sub-books suffixed as Viṃśati (vinshati, विंशति) which means the number twenty, and refers to the 20 chapters in the sub-book. The text, in modern scholarship, is referred by both IAST spellings "Manasollasa", and "Manasollasa".

The text is also known as the Abhilashitartha Chintamani (Abhilaṣitārtha Cintamāṇi) (literally, the precious gem that fulfills wish). This text title is spelled Manasollasa, and there is another medieval era Indian text with the title, Manasollasa (Sanskrit: मनुसोल्लास), written in Stotra (poetry of praise) style related to Dakshinamurti, very different in its scope, and attributed to Adi Shankara or Suresvara.

= Date and author =

The text was completed in 1129 CE, and the author of the text was Someshvara III. He became the king in 1127, was part of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty, and the third king in this dynasty. The year when he succeeded to the throne is approximate, and some scholars state it to be 1125 CE. The author hailed from the medieval Deccan region consisting of large parts of modern Karnataka, Telangana, western Andhra Pradesh and southern Maharashtra.

Epigraphical evidence suggests that the dynasty made numerous land grants and financial awards to the causes of Shaivism and monastic scholarship. These monasteries in the Indian peninsula became centers of the study of the Vedas and Hindu philosophies such as the Nyaya school. Someshvara III composed this text in the initial years of his kingship.

= Structure =

The Manasollasa encyclopedic treatise was written in Sanskrit in a Kannada language speaking region (Kannadiga). The script of the text is Devanagari. The encyclopedia is in poetic verse style.

It is structured into five sub-books and cumulatively contains 100 chapters. The five Vinshatis (sub-book of twenties) are subtitled as Rājyapratikāśa, Rājyasya Sthairyaśa, Bhartur Upabhogakāśa, Pramoda kāśa and the Krīḍā viṃśati. Each chapter deals with a specific topic, ranging from gaining a kingdom, its governance, economics, infrastructure, architecture, medicine, cuisine, ornaments, perfumery and love games, sports, jewelry, painting, music and dance. A major part of the text is dedicated to music and musical instruments,

with 2500 verses dedicated to it .

The number of ?lokas in this work are :

= = Contents = =

= = = Kingdom and qualifications of a king : R?jyapr?ptik?ra?a = = =

The Rajyapraptikarana sub @-@ book describes the qualifications of a king and ministers , their duties and moral characteristics that enable the king to rule a stable , prosperous kingdom .

The chapter asserts that the king should be truthful , avoid anger , be virtuous and lead by example . The king , ministers and citizens should , states the Manasollasa 's first sub @-@ book , refrain from injury to others , practice self @-@ restraint , generosity , have faith in gods , feed and support the poor and helpless , and be friendly . The king , according to the text , should honour his ancestors and all guests .

= = = Governance , economics and political stability : R?jyasya Sthairyak?ra?a = = =

The second sub @-@ book Rajyasya Sthairyakara?a Vimshati is dedicated to governance and economic matters to help a king retain the kingdom . It describes the ministers and their qualifications , the maintenance , equipment and training of an army with a Senapati ( general ) to command the army , the priests and astrologer as advisors to the king , the treasury and methods of taxation .

J Duncan M Derrett , a professor of Oriental Laws , states that chapter 2 @.@ 8 of the text discusses three kinds of constitutions and recommends that the king should delegate large responsibilities to their ministers , a system that implied that the kingdom was virtually ruled through the ministers . The Manasollasa gives a significant role to an astrologer in the council of advisors to the king who would forecast the auspicious time to respond to an attack , which Hartmut Scharfe , a professor of Indo @-@ European Studies , states proved disastrous during Muslim and foreign invasion of the Deccan peninsula .

The delegated form of governance in the existing or acquired provinces is recommended by the text , with the qualification that the province should be ruled by someone born in that province . However , all ministers in immediate vicinity of the king must be born within the long established state . The king , states the text , must watch out and act against bureaucrats and officials who torment his subjects . The text cautions that the king should prevent abuse of his subjects from officials , robbers , enemies , king 's favorites and his own greed .

This sub @-@ book also describes various types of Shulka ( taxation ) . In the 4th chapter , it explains the tax collected at port of entry , on goods that arrive at the border .

The second sub @-@ book includes chapters on veterinary care of animals such as horses and elephants who served the army . Many veterinary ailments are described , ranging from fever to injury to stomach upsets , and the proper nourishment , care of the animals as well as formulations of medicines are outlined in the verses of chapter 2 @.@ 6 for example . The text also includes the names of over forty herbs used for recipes of veterinary care .

= = = Food and entertainment : Bhartur Upabhogak?ra?a = = =

The Manasollasa contains numerous recipes of vegetarian and non @-@ vegetarian cuisines , which according to Mary Ellen Snodgrass , the editor of Encyclopedia of Kitchen History , preceded the cookbook writing history in Europe by a century . While the text is not the first among Indian books to describe fermented foods , it contains a range of cuisines based on fermentation of cereals and flours . Among meat dishes , the text does not include the meat of cow , horse , elephant , parrot , peacock or eggs , but describes cuisines based on pork , venison , goat meat , fish among others .

The text asserts that fresh water is Amrita ( nectar ) of cuisine , and Visha ( poison ) otherwise . Someshvara III recommends fresh water from rains ( autumn ) , springs ( summer ) , rivers and lakes ( winter ) for daily use , after it has been filtered with a clean cloth . The text recommends boiling the water before use , and using the water so prepared within a day . For drinking , if boiling is not possible , the text recommends alternate purification method based on Triphala , and then adding a piece of mango , patala or champaka flower or powder of camphor for flavor and delight . The text mentions fresh coconut water , and various drinks called Panakas .

The art of preparing wine is described in Manasollasa from grape and sugarcane , with unusual sources being based on brewing of Talimadya ( palm ) , Narikelasava ( coconut ) and Khajurasava ( date ) .

= = = Joy and delight : Pramoda k?ra?a = = =

The fourth sub @-@ book of Manasollasa deals with entertainment such as music , dance , songs and competitive sports . The text covers dance and music in exclusive chapters , dedicating far more verses to these two topics than first two sub @-@ books combined . This may reflect the importance of performance arts in 12th @-@ century India , since Someshvara III 's son and successor to the throne king Jagadekamalla II also wrote a famed treatise Sangita @-@ chudamani , literally " crown jewel of music " .

The text describes various types of songs and music , instruments and dances along with occasions of their performance . The Tripadi , states the text in chapter 4 @.@ 16 , was performed during harvesting and husking season , the Shatpadi was performed by folk story tellers , the Dhavala sung at marriages , while festivals such as Holi were celebrated with Mangala and Caccari genre of songs and music . The Charya , asserts the text , were songs of meditation . The text also claims Gana ( ??? ) to be a form of " popular music " , and that Geet that is neither fast nor slow , but contains both high and low notes , where the words and musical meter are equally important to be preferred by spiritual teachers .

Rhetoric is discussed in chapter 4 @.@ 17 of Manasollasa . The text dedicates over 450 verses in chapter 4 @.@ 18 to dance and describes various types of dance forms , musical instruments that go with dance performances , and the various occasions when dances were celebrated . The text discusses six types of performers , their characteristics and their roles ? Nata ( actor ) , Nartaka ( dancer ) , Nartaki ( danseuse ) , Vaitalika ( bard ) , Charana ( wandering performer ) and Kollatika ( acrobat ) . Their body movements ( 6 Anga , 8 Upanga and 6 Pratyanga ) are explained in the text with their significance . This discussion is similar to that found in Natya Shastra , a Sanskrit text composed around 1st @-@ century BCE . The text thereafter presents the 21 Sthanas and 26 Charis of the dance tradition . The discussion on dance movements is compiled by six categories ? mimetic ( natya ) , delicate ( lasya ) , vigorous ( tandava ) , acrobatic ( visama ) , ludicrous ( vikata ) and graceful ( laghu ) .

The fourth sub @-@ book also describes various sports , such as fishing , dog ( greyhound @-@ type ) racing , horse racing , elephant racing as well as archery , wrestling and athletics . The text also describes some unique team sports , such as a form of Indian polo involving two teams of eight members each .

= = = Games , arts and leisure : Kr??? vi??ati = = =

The last sub @-@ book of the text discusses recreation through horticulture and the art of creating gardens , painting , perfumery , architecture and the training and breeding of horses , elephants , lavakki ( a type of quail ) , and other wildlife . A chapter is devoted to the royal sport of hunting deer or other wild game . It deals with 35 different ways of game hunting of deer , in addition to hunting with dogs , falconry and fishing .

The garden design , asserts the text , should include rocks and raised mounds of summits , manicured with plants and trees of diverse varieties , artificial ponds and flowing brooks . It describes the arrangement , the soils , the seeds , the distance between different types of plants

and trees , the methods of preparing manure , proper fertilizing and maintaining the garden , which plants and trees are best planted first , when to plant others , watering , signs of overwatering and underwatering , weeds , means of protecting the garden and other details . Both public parks and woodland gardens are described by the text , with about forty types of trees recommended for the park in the Vana @-@ krida chapter .

Other arts and leisure activities described in the fifth sub @-@ book include activities such as garland making and perfumery , wherein the various flowers are arranged in patterns of pleasing colors and one 's that delight the senses . The text lists various types of aromatic woods , such as sandalwood and their qualities . The text describes the art of painting as three types ? Viddha ( representational ) , Aviddha ( sketch , outline ) and Bhava ( narrative ) . The text includes a recipe for making various types of paints , as well as crayons for drawing , and then recommends the steps in making a drawing .

The 12th @-@ century text describes jewelry and make up of women including those applied to their eyelids , lashes , cheeks and forearms , mentioning different styles and colors of Tilak on their foreheads . In jewelry , those for hairdo and earrings are notable .

= = Reception = =

The Manasollasa has been called an important source on socio @-@ cultural history of medieval India , particularly for the history of food , drinks and cuisines and of sports . Mandakranta Bose , a professor on South Asian studies , describes the text to be of great interest because it is the earliest known text with details on certain dance genre in India . A team consisting of Bruno Nettl , a professor of music and anthropology , has called Manasollasa an enormous treatise with large sections on music , dance and other performance arts .