

even the greater majority of Sâyaṇa's explanations of the more difficult words and sentences of the Saṁhitâ, it would have been at any rate advisable for the compilers of a Sanscrit Dictionary, which includes the Vedic words, to give Sâyaṇa's explanations along with their own. Even granted that all Sâyaṇa's explanations are only either guesses of his own, or of the great Bhaṭṭâchâryas\* before him, whose labours he principally used, they nevertheless deserve all attention as the opinions and observations of men who had a much deeper knowledge of the Sanscrit language in general, and the rites of the Vedic religion, than any European scholar has ever attained to. It is quite erroneous to presuppose, as the editors of the Dictionary appear to do, that Sâyaṇa himself made the majority of explanations in his Commentary. All Pandits who have any knowledge of the subject unanimously assert that he used a good many predecessors, and that comparatively few explanations are entirely his own. The so-called Kâus'ika Bhâshya is said to be more ancient than that of Sâyaṇa, and also the Râvana Bhâshya. Both are said to be still extant, but I have not yet been able to obtain copies of them.

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\* This is the name of those Hindu scholars who not only learn, as the Bhaṭṭas do, one of the Vedas completely by heart, but who study the meaning of each verse and word, so as to be able to give orally the explanation of any passage required. The number of this class of scholars who represent the Doctors of Hindu theology, is now very small. In this part of India, though there are many hundreds of parrot-like repeaters of the sacred texts, there is not a single one to be found. Some (three or four) are said to be at Benares. They are highly respected, and, as incarnations of Brihaspati—the Pandit of the Gods, at certain occasions regularly worshipped.