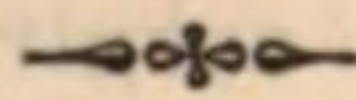




PREFACE.



THE name of Varáha-mihira must be familiar to every Sanskrit scholar from the writings of Colebrooke, Davis, Sir William Jones, Weber, Lassen, and, not least, from the writings of Albírúní, brought to public notice by Reinaud. But, however well known the name of the Hindu astronomer and astrologer may be, his works are disproportionally less generally known, because with one exception they existed only in Manuscripts and were consequently accessible to comparatively few. It is with the desire of extending that knowledge that I have undertaken the editing of the most celebrated of Varáha-mihira's works, the Br̥hat-Sanhitá.

Varáha-mihira, or, as the name is also written, Varáha-mihara, was a native of Avanti and the son and pupil of Ádityadása, likewise an astronomer.* The statement of Utpala that he was a Magadha Brahman† must most likely be understood in this sense, that his family derived its origin from

* We have for this his own testimony in the Br̥haj-játaka, Ch. 26, 5 :

आदित्यदासतनयस्तदवाप्तबोधः

कापित्यके सवित्तलब्धवरप्रसादः ।

आवन्निको मुनिमतान्यवलोक्य सम्यग्

घोरां वराहमिहिरो रुचिरां चकार ॥

“Varáha-mihira, a native of Avanti, the son of Ádityadása and instructed by him, having obtained the gracious favour of the sun, at Kápitthaka, composed this elegant work on Horoscopy, after making himself duly acquainted with the doctrines of the ancient sages.” It may be also that Kápitthaka is the place where he received his education ; it is the name of a village, according to Bhaṭṭa Utpala, the excellent commentator of Varáha-mihira's works.

† Cf. Colebrooke, Algebra, p. XLV. foot-note.