

MANASOLLSA - The Rules Guide

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Somesvara III, was ruled at Kalyana in the twelfth Century A.D., is one such luminary. His work Manasollasa is a well-known encyclopedic work in Sanskrit literature. This work was composed in Sanskrit verses by Somesvara-III (1127-1138 AD), a distinguished scholar. He was the son of the great king Vikramaditya VI. Somesvara proved to be a monumental figure in the history of Chalukyas, who ruled at Kalyana in Karnataka, India from the 10th to the end of the 12th Century.

This work “Manasollasa” or “Abhilasitarthacintamani” has elaborate information from almost all branches of ancient lores. Hence it serves as a storehouse of information on all leading topics of learning. This interesting work is useful to the common man to lead a peaceful life. Manasollasa propounds time-tested knowledge, and accordingly gives fresh inspiration to human beings even in changing times.

It consists of five Prkaranas of twenty chapters each of unequal length and encompasses several related subjects on almost all the Prakaranas.

The topics explained in the first Prakarana are general and religious ethics, social service, manufacture of idols, diseases and their remedies. In the second Prakarana, polity is treated in detail under seven different heads. Law, both private and interstate, and other aspects such as peace, war, invasion, neutrality, and alliance, are also dealt with. The third Prakarana is devoted to the description with minutest details of architecture, picture-drawing, painting, iconography and pleasure of domestic life. The fourth and fifth Prakaranas explain the various forms of amusements and entertainments. Incidentally, brief reference is also made to arithmetic, decimal notations, preparation of calendars, astrology, omens, augury, palmistry, training of horses and elephants along with the treatment of their diseases, mining, alchemy, gems and precious stones, marriage and child-rearing, cookery, liquor, beverages, music, conveyance, scents and so on.

The matter from Manasollasa included in this paper gives a summary of the life, date and works of Somesvara III. According to Somesvara social services, ethics, education, health, justice and the role of Administrator are very important in the welfare state. Education, imparted with devotion and dedication, enables a society to be mentally alert to face increasing challenges posed by the changing times. Health, meticulously guarded, keeps the society physically fit and mentally calm and peaceful to utilize all energies for the well-being of mankind. Somesvara opines that the well-being of State depends upon mental, physical and social health of its subjects. Mental health depends upon the imparting of all round education aimed at intellectual, emotional and spiritual advancement of all people in the

Society. Physical health is assured by taking timely precautions in warding off diseases. Social health is assured by the dispensation of speedy and impartial justice without fear or favour.

Somesvara has indeed given us considerable information about his ancestors, original home, learning and the date of the Manasollasa. The date of composition of this work is 1051 Saka i.e., 1129 A.D. According to Prof. B. R. Gopal, it is completed in 1130 A.D. Dr. Mishra opines, Manasollasa was composed by Somesvara III in 1129 A.D.

King Vikramaditya VI and Queen Chandraladevi are parents of Somesvara. Vijayapura was the capital of the Calukya of Kalyana. Vikramaditya had left nothing to be achieved afresh by his successor. 'Vikaramanakabhudayam' was the second work of Somesvara. This work, one of the very few of this kind in Indian languages deals specially with Karnataka.

In this paper the selected portion from the Manasollasa here seeks to focus attention on the richness and vertices of the contents of this encyclopedic Sanskrit work.
