

An Indian Source of the Dame Sirith  
Hisashi Matsumura (Otsuma University, Tokyo, Japan)

An anecdote "the weeping puppy" was circulated widely in Medieval Europe and many versions appeared. One of the most representative examples is the Middle English shorty story entitled "Dame Sirith." Medievalists investigated its numeras versions but its origine remains obscure. The oldest appearance in the Western world may be an episode narrated in the *Disciplina Clericalis* and this fact suggests that the origine of the story would have been Oriental. In this paper I would like to mention one episode in the *Kathasaritsagara* (2.5.54ff.) as its Indian counterpart. Of course we do not have an evidence which proves that Petrus Alfonsi, the author of the *Disciplina Clericalis*, would have used the *Kathasaritsagara* as its direct source, but if we take into account the fact that some other episodes of the *Disciplina Clericalis* are thought to be derivations from some Indian traditions, it is very probable that the origine of "the weeping puppy" might be Indian.

According to some version an animal which the wicked old lady (Dame Sirith) used for her trick is a cat insetead of a dog. If we consult the Indian version, it is possible to determine which is more authentic. Pointing out not merely this but some other examples, I reevaluate the significance of the episode of the *Kathasaritsagara*.