

Valmiki Ramayana Critical Edition



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Original VR

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- **Jacobi-** Original *Ramayna* consisted only of five *Kandas*
- *Balakanda* and *Uttarakanda* are added later
- Jacobi observed- three recensions were of different in such magnitude that one third of the verses were having no corresponding with the other
- Learned editors brought out editions of the *Ramayana* on manuscripts belonging to one or the other recensions

Recensions and editions

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- Gorressio published the Bengali (Eastern) recensions of the Ramayana from Paris
- Bhagavaddatta and Ramalabhaya published Western (North-Western) recensions
- Largest editions in number published of Northern (the Bombay) recension
- Two Bombay editions of the Ramayana- Nirnayasagar press (1888) and Gujarati printing press (1912-1920) {based on Devanagari mss}
- Kumbhakonam edition

Project of CE

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- Need for an authentic text of Ramayana felt universally
- G. H. Bhatt formed a team of renowned scholars under the UGC project taken by MS University of Baroda brought out in 1960-1975
- Bhatt and his team collected – more than 2000 manuscripts of the Ramayana ranging between 1020 CE to 1860
- U. P. Shah took the charge after the death of G. H. Bhat
- Manuscripts belonging to different scripts and parts of India
- Criteria of collection was antiquity- purity-completeness

Division of MSS.

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- Editors unanimously agreed – there are two recensions of the VR- Northern and Southern



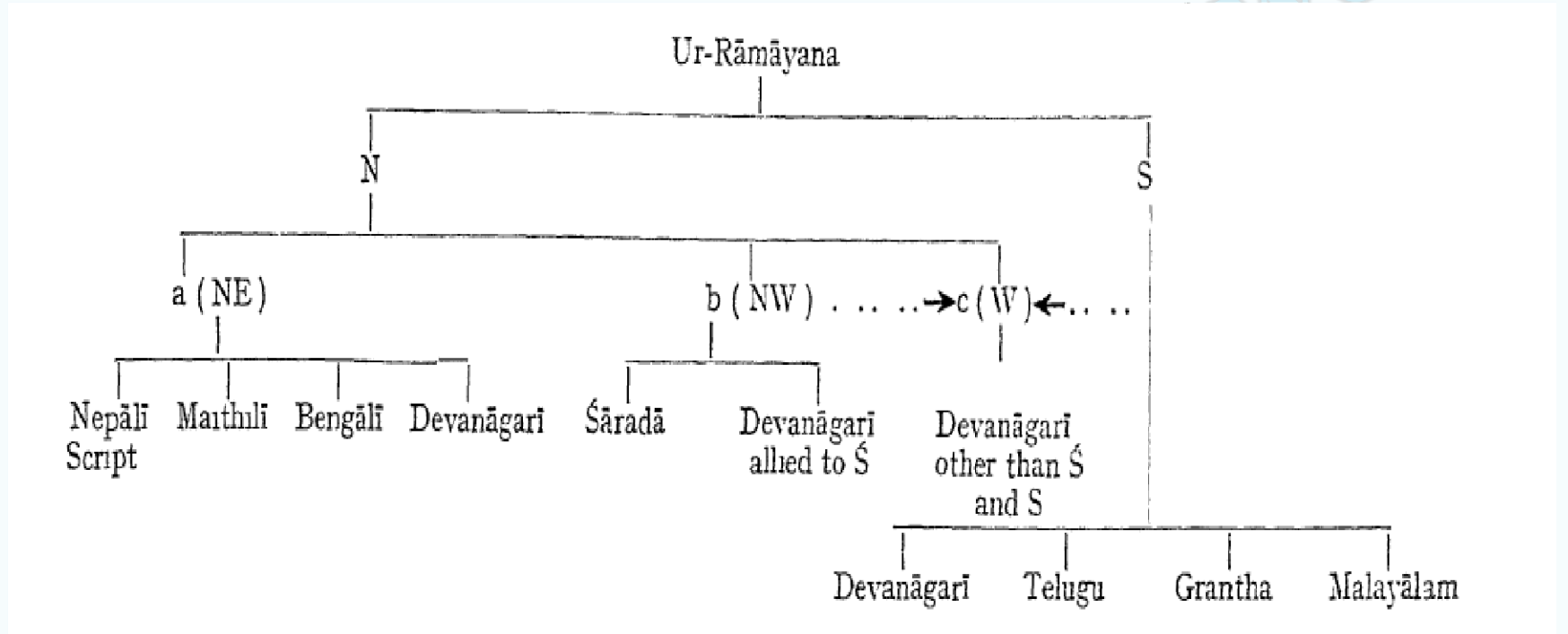
Western Version- Region coming between NW and South
Fusion of the streams of the text on the border lines

Ramayana –originated in North but oral transmission to South after several centuries

Division of MSS.

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Gawde



Grouping of MSS (*Balakanda*)

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CE of Balakanda is based on 37 mss (selected out of 86 mss)

- Northern Recension – 21 mss
- Southern Recension- 16 mss

NR -21 mss

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I. N(orthern) Recension (21 MSS :—ŚÑVB 11+D:0)

(a) North-western Group

Śāradā Version [Ś]

Ś₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14061. Undated.

(b) North-eastern Group

(i) Nepālī Version [Ñ]

Ñ₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14156. Microfilm of MS. no. 934 of the Bir Library, Kathmandu, Nepal, dated Saṁvat 1076 (c. A.D. 1020).

Ñ₂ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14157. Microfilm of MS. no. 905 of the Bir Library, Kathmandu, Nepal, dated Newārī Saṁvat 795 (c. A.D. 1675).

(ii) Maithilī Version [V]

V₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14137. Microfilm of a MS. of the Palace Library, Darbhanga, dated Lakṣmaṇa Saṁvat 241 (c. A.D. 1360).

V₂ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14133. Transcript of MS. No. 273 of the Palace Library, Darbhanga, dated Śaka 1473 (c. A.D. 1551).

V₃ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14130. Transcript of MS. no. 297 of the Palace Library, Darbhanga, dated Śaka 1753 (c. A.D. 1831).

V₄ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14134. Transcript of MS. no. 291 of the Palace Library, Darbhanga, dated Śaka 1758 (c. A.D. 1836).

(iii) Bengālī Version [B]

B₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14122. Photo-stat copy of MS. no. 348 of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, dated Śaka 1610 (c. A.D. 1688).

B₂ = Śāntiniketana, Viśvabhāratī, No. 776. Dated Śaka 1711 (c. A.D. 1789).

B₃ = Calcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. G. 395. Dated Śaka 1754 (c. A.D. 1832).

B₄ = Calcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. II. A. 39. Undated.

Devanagari mss

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Devanāgarī Version [D], Sub-divided into

(i) Devanāgarī Version of Tilaka (Dt), the “ Vulgate ”. (S)

Dt = Jodhpur, Palace Library. Unnumbered. Undated.

(ii) Devanāgarī Composite Version

D₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 14136. Photo-stat copy of MS. no. 123 of 1884-87 of the Bombay Government Collection deposited at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, dated Saṁvat 1512 (c. A.D. 1455). (W).

D₂ = Poona, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, No. 825 of 1875-76. Dated Saṁvat 1650 (c. A.D. 1594). (W).

D₃ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 3937. Dated Saṁvat 1773 (c. A.D. 1717). (W).

D₄ = Baroda, in private possession (of Prof. G. H. Bhatt). Unnumbered. Dated Saṁvat 1829 (c. A.D. 1774). (S).

D₅ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 12864. Dated Śaka 1708 (c. A.D. 1786). (NW).

D₆ = Bombay, His Holiness Gosvāmī Śrī Gokulanāthajīmahārāja’s Baḍā Mandira, No. 100. Undated. About 200 years old (earlier than Saṁvat 1851 = C.A.D. 1796). (S).

D₇ = Hoshiarpur, East Punjab, V V. Research Institute, Sādhu Āśrama, No. 1805. Dated Samvat 1869 (c. A D. 1817) (NW).

D₈ = Ujjain, Scindia Oriental Institute, No 1633 Dated Samvat 1888 (c A D 1831) (S).

D₉ = Vallabha Vidyānagar (via Anand), Vitthalabhai Patel Mahāvīdyālaya. Unnumbered. Dated Saṁvat 1905 (c. A D. 1848). (W).

D₁₀ = Ujjain, Scindia Oriental Institute, No. 1611. Undated (NE).

D₁₁ = Hoshiarpur, East Punjab, V. V. Research Institute, Sādhu Āśrama, No. 2967. Undated. (NW).

D₁₂ = Bikaner, Anup Sanskrit Library, No. 1018. Undated. (NW).

D₁₃ = Jodhpur, Palace Library, No. 4. Undated. (NW).

D₁₄ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 6491. Undated. (S).

SR =16 mss

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II. S(outhern) Recension (16 MSS. —TGM 11+D 5)

(i) Telugu Version [T]

T₁ = Madras, Adyar Library, No 72372. Undated.

T₂ = Madras, Adyar Library, No. 72393. Undated

T₃ = Madras, Adyar Library, No. 75597. Undated.

(ii) Grantha Version [G]

G₁ = Baroda, Oriental Institute, No. 6362 Dated Kollam 993 (c A D 1818).

G₂ = Trippunithura (Travancore-Cochin State), Maharaja's Grantha Library, Sanskrit College, No 152.
Undated

G₃ = Madras, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, No. 9869. Undated.

G₄ = Ahmedabad, in private possession (of Muni Śrī Punyaviṣayajī). Unnumbered. Undated.

(iii) Malayālam Version [M]

M₁ = Chunangad (via Ottapalam), South Malabar, in private possession (of Shri Nilakanthan Nambudiripad). Unnumbered. Dated Kollam 687 (c. A D. 1512).

M₂ = Trippunithura (Travancore-Cochin State), Maharaja's Grantha Library, Sanskrit College;
No. 158. Dated Kollam 865 (c. A D 1690)

M₃ = Kumplangad (P O. Kundanoor, via Wadakkancheri, Travancore-Cochin State) in private possession
(of Shri Sankaran Nampyāthan Nambudiripad). Unnumbered Dated Kollam 998 (c. A.D. 1823).

M₄ = Trippunithura (Travancore-Cochin State), Maharaja's Grantha Library, Sanskrit College, No. 159.
Undated.

Comparative study of NR and SR

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- SR has maintained original
- NR has polished “Sanskrit” of Adikavaya
- Places like Takshshila, Srinagar, Ujjain , Benaras Pataliputra , Nalanda were educational hubs
- North recensions- changes according to situations
- Characterization of Kaikeyi –polished form as she belonged to the country Kaikeya of NW part of India
- Critical apparatus – 1st sarga of Balakanda- Northern MSS-description of Rama
- South India- unflinching devotion towards regional language , preservation of epic

- Editors scrutinized all recensions
- SR has preserved the text of Ramayana in original form
- In SR- additions are made time to time but no tampering with original text
- Bombay text published with Tilaka commentary- representation of SR
- CE records material which is rejected from both recensions with * mark
- Entire Ramayana with all its variants is available at one place for researcher

First *shloka* of *Ramayana*

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तपःस्वाध्यायनिरतं तपस्वी वाग्विदां वरम् ।
नारदं परिपप्रच्छ वाल्मीकिर्मुनिपुङ्गवम् ॥

SR- 3 Adjs for Narada and 1 Adj Valmiki

NR-3 Adjs for Valmiki 1 adj for Narada

Northern recensions glorify Valmiki than Narada

CE- Lower Criticism

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- No Higher Criticism is followed
- Text is reconstructed on the basis of available mss without Higher criticism
- Story of King Sagara appears twice in VR (I.38 and II.36) {*Harivamsha* and *Vishnu P.*}
- Genealogies of the kings of Mithila and Ayodhya (I.70 and 71) {*Vayu P.*}
- *Balakanda* (II-VI) shows the Puranic influence which suggests its lateness.
- These problems are studied in HC

Principles of CE

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- Texts should be accepted when NR and SR agree
- Disagreement between NR and SR- SR should be accepted (SR- text and contexts mismatch then NR)
- When passage is omitted in both or either of them- suspicion
- When passage is omitted in NR or SR-not necessary for context- should be dropped
- When passage is omitted in several mss- then dropped
- Wavy line-
- Emendation should be avoided as far as possible

Abbreviations and signs

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- ❁ ❁ (in the critical footnotes) enclose citations from commentators.
- [] besides their normal uses, enclose *additions* to MS. readings.
- () besides their normal uses, enclose superfluous letters, which should be *omitted* from MS. readings.
- ❁ (superior star) in the text indicates an *emendation*.
- * (in the critical footnotes, before a verse or verses and preceded by a numerical figure) indicates additional or substitute passage.
- * * (in the MS. readings) indicate syllables lost through injury to MS.
- ~~~~ printed below (or along the side-margin of) any part of the constituted text indicates that the reading of it is less than certain.
- C** denotes a "Commentary", prefixed to the abbreviation of the name of a commentator (or a commentary); thus, **Cr** = Comm. of Rāmānuja; **Cm.g.** = Comm. of Maheśvaratīrtha and Govindarāja; **Ck.t.** = Comm. Kataka and Tilaka. A "p" is added on to denote a "pāṭha" or variant; thus, **Crp** = a pāṭha mentioned in the Comm. of Rāmānuja; **Ckp** = pāṭha mentioned in the Comm. Kataka.

- VR -CE

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