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TWO LAW-TALES FROM THE KATHĀSARITSĀGARA

(Summary)

Several law-tales are included in the Sanskrit *kathā*-literature, in particular in the *Pañcatantra*, but we also find some in the *Kathāsaritsāgara*. The tale of Devadāsa deals, in particular, with the extent of property, right to the land, the obligation of the contract of purchase, the question of adultery of women and the right of the betrayed husband to repudiate his unfaithful wife. The story of Upakoṣā deals with the question of deposits and, in particular, with the placing of some objects in the hands of the depositary and proving this fact as well as the duty of the depositary to find witnesses who could testify before the judge the veracity of such an assertion. It will be shown that these juridical questions were solved in the *kathā*-stories in accordance with the existing legal rules laid down in the *Smṛti*-s.