

SOME REMARKS IN THE SEXUAL LIFE IN THE RĀMĀYAṆA

The *Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa* (VRā.) and the *Mahābhārata* are the two great epics of India. The VRā. is an *ādikāvya* and is 'one of the finest things in world-literature'¹. It 'enshrines the legend of Prince Rāma and his adventures, when exiled to forest'². Literary works are recognised as one of the sources of ancient Indian history and culture and in the VRā. is embedded the rich cultural data.

In every human society, primitive or civilised, marriage and family are found in one form or another. Marriage is one of the fundamental institutions of human society and its study enables one to understand and appreciate the spirit of culture and civilisation in as much as its percolations and repercussions are felt on the varied facets of social organisation. Family is one of the most important institutions of the social organisation and it plays a very vital role in the psychodrama of an individual, whether it be elementary, compound or joint.

The *gṛhassthāśrama* (the stage of married life) is the bed-rock of family-structure in India. In this paper it is proposed to discuss some aspects of marriage, son and family and some textual problems.

In the VRā., there are glimpses of the Aryan (Vedic-Brāhmanic)

1. WARDER A.K., *Indian Kāvya Literature*, Vol. II, Delhi, 1974, p. 78.

2. BROCKINGTON J.L., *Righteous Rāma: The Evolution of an Epic*, Delhi-Bombay-Calcutta-Madras, Oxford University Press, 1984, p. 1. On the date of Vālmiki vide ALLES GREGORY D., "Reflections on Dating «Vālmiki»", JOIB 38, Nos. 3-4 (March-June, 1989; issued in December, 1990), pp. 217 ff.

culture as well as those of the Vānara and the Rākṣasa-Asura culture; in a way the last two were the 'concurrent cultures' and 'played an important role'³. Vānaras are said to represent a tribe with monkey-like faces⁴. The glimpses of the Vānara-culture are through the episodes of Vālin, Sugrīva, Hanumān and others. The glimpses of the Rākṣasa-culture/Asura-culture are through the episodes of Rāvaṇa, his family and his allies⁵. The glimpses of the Aryan (Vedic/Brāhmanic) culture are through Rāma's family. One of the common traits of these three cultures depicted in the VRā. is a polygamous character of the society⁶.

Rāvaṇa had many wives and mistresses⁷. His harem was very large and it is described as a *strī-vana* (NSP 5.9.66: Cr.Ed. 5.7.62). Amongst them there was also a practice of a girl being given in marriage by a father. Mandodarī was given in marriage by her father Maya to Rāvaṇa (NSP 7.12.19-20: Cr.Ed. 7.12.16-17); possibly this aspect is responsible for Mandodarī's first position. Marriage by capture or abduction was not unknown to them. The abduction of Sītā by Rāvaṇa reflects a situation, namely, that a married woman could be abducted, by force, by a married man⁸.

In the Vānara-society there do not appear to be very hard and fast rules about marital relations, as cases of sexual laxity and promiscuity are met with; but Tārā's lamentations on Vālin's death bear ample testimony to an institution of married life and relations. Her relations with Sugrīva, when the latter appropriated her (who was his elder

3. DWIVEDI LAVA KUSH PRASAD, "Role of the Concurrent Cultures in the *Rāmāyana*", JOIB 36, Nos. 1-4 (September, 1986 - June, 1987), p. 61.

4. BHATT G.H. (Ed.), *The Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa*, Critical Edition, *Bālakāṇḍa*, Vol. I, Fascicule 3, Baroda, 1990, Critical Notes, p. 446.

5. On the identification of *Rākṣasas* vide POLLOCK SHELDON, "Rākṣasas and Others", IT 13 (1985-86), pp. 264 ff, fns. 5 & 6.

6. Forms of marriage and allied topics are dealt with in various works and papers and hence the same are not repeated here, *vide*, e.g. VYAS S.N., *A Study of Social and Cultural Conditions in Ancient India as described in Vālmiki's Rāmāyaṇa*, Delhi, 1967, Chapter VII, pp. 80 ff; SHARMA RAMASHRAYA, *Socio-Political Study of the Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa*, Delhi, 1971, Chapter IV, pp. 46 ff.; VYAS S.N., *India in the Rāmāyaṇa Age*, Delhi, 1967, Chapter 2, pp. 27 ff., Chapter 3, pp. 45 ff., and Chapter 7, pp. 80 ff.

7. *Vide* VYAS S.N., *India in the Rāmāyaṇa Age*, pp. 88 ff.; *vide* VRā. NSP 3.55.17: Cr.Ed. 3.53.17; NSP 5.23.13-14: Cr.Ed. 5.21.12-13.

8. VYAS S.N., *India in the Rāmāyaṇa Age*, pp. 34 ff.

brother's, i.e. Vālin's wife) and Vālin's kingdom, on the assumption that he was slain, as he did not return from the cave, even after a lapse of one year, in his combat with Dundubhi⁹, present another side of sex-life as well as another social situation. Here is a case wherein a younger brother has sexual intimacy with the elder brother's wife (*bhrātrjāyā*; Gujarati and Hindi *bhābhī*¹⁰) and this situation does not seem to be taken very seriously. Even in modern times the sexual intimacy of a younger brother with his elder brother's wife is not unheard of; some times they enter into marital relations and this phenomenon is known as *diyaraṇa* in Gujarati. In this context Lakṣmaṇa stands in stark contrast with Sugrīva.

Vālin had sexual intimacy with Sugrīva's wife Rumā (NSP 4.18.12-23; Cr.Ed. 4.18.12-23). This refers to a case wherein an elder brother has sexual relations with his younger brother's wife and these relations are not favourably looked upon by Smṛtikāras and the punishment is also laid down for the commission of such an act¹¹. Rāma inflicts capital punishment to Vālin for his immoral and *lokaviruddha* relations with Rumā (NSP 4.18.12-23; Cr.Ed. 4.18.12-23). Vālmiki views Vālin's behaviour from an Aryan point of view and inculcates the Aryan philosophy here through Rāma.

The *Matsya-Purāṇa*, which is one of the oldest *Purāṇas*, has references of both the above mentioned types of sexual intimacy. Uśīja's younger brother Bṛhaspati approaches his elder brother's wife Mamatā, when she is *enceinte*; she shows her unwillingness, as she was pregnant, but she has no repulsive feeling otherwise. This indicates, as stated above, that the sexual intimacy of a younger brother with an elder brother's wife was not odious; but the elder brother's sexual relations with the younger brother's wife were met with opprobium¹².

Daśaratha was polygynous, as he had 350 wives (*ardha-saptaśatāḥ*/ NSP 2.34.10; Cr.Ed. 2.31.7; *trayaḥ śata-śatārdhāḥ*/ NSP

9. VYAS S.N., *op. cit.*, p. 52.

10. The vocable *bhābhī* is used in a modern Sanskrit novel entitled "*Gopālabandhuḥ*" (pp. 48,59,60) by Harinarayan Dikshit (Delhi, 1988), concurrently with the Sanskrit vocable *bhrātrjāyā* (*vide ibid.*, pp. 59,61).

11. *Vide Manusmṛti* 9.57; *Matsya-Purāṇa* 227.139.

12. *Vide* KANTAWALA S.G., *Cultural History from the Matsya-Purāṇa*, Baroda, 1964, p. 69.

2.39.36: Cr.Ed. 2.34.32) and three principal queens, viz. Kausalyā, Sumitrā and Kaikeyī. It is interesting and significant to note that he was *anapatya* (childless) (NSP 1.11.5: Cr.Ed. 1.10.5) in spite of his extensive harem (NSP 1.11.5: Cr.Ed. 1.10.5; NSP 1.16.9: Cr.Ed. 1.15.8) and he longed for a son. He, therefore, performs the *aśvamedha* (horse-sacrifice) for getting a son (cf. NSP 1.8.1-28: Cr.Ed. 1.8.1-2) and it helps to remove his sins (cf. NSP 1.14.46: Cr.Ed. 1.13.39; NSP 1.14.57: Cr.Ed. 1.13.44; vide also NSP 1.11 ff: Cr.Ed. 1.10 ff), as the latter were believed to come in the way. He performs the sacrifice and «worships the Lord himself for getting a son»¹³. The *putrīyā iṣṭi*¹⁴ is undertaken after the *aśvamedha* under the guidance of Ṛṣyaśṛṅga, «the leader of the sacrifice, the chief priest *brahmā*»¹⁵. It is significant to note that prior to the commencement of *putreṣṭi* Ṛṣyaśṛṅga blesses Daśaratha to have four sons. (NSP 1.14.59; Cr.Ed. 1.13.46). On his death-bed Daśaratha speaks to Kausalyā about the curse given by Śravaṇa's father, (when he was a *yuvārāja* and very young and not married to Kausalyā) that he would die due to *putraśoka*, as they (*i.e.* Śravaṇa's parents) died (NSP 2.64.53-54; Cr. Ed. 2.58.45-46). This curse was a boon in disguise. On the other side Viṣṇu is foretold to enjoy Daśaratha's sonship with His Self divided into four parts (NSP 1.15.19-20: Cr.Ed. 1.14.18). This *putreṣṭi* is performed with the *mantras* of the Atharva-veda (NSP 1.15.2: Cr. Ed. 1.14.2) and the *Prājāpatya Puruṣa* emerges from the sacrificial altar with the golden vessel full of *pāyasa* (*i.e.* rice boiled in milk with sugar¹⁶), the divine food and he directs Daśaratha to give it to his wives (NSP 1.16.20 ff: Cr.Ed. 1.15.18 ff). The vessel is called *māyāmayī* (NSP 1.16.15: Cr.Ed. 1. 15.3), 'the product of magic' and this gains in significance in the light of the fact, as noted above, that the *mantras* employed were Atharvavedic (NSP 1.15.2: Cr.Ed. 1.14.2).

13. BHATT G.H., *op.cit.*, p. 446.

14. For the difference between *iṣṭi*, *yāga* and *kratu*, vide: *iṣṭis tu caruṇā prokto yāgas tu paśunā smṛtaḥ/etac cheṣaḥ kratuḥ prokto homo'nyat pūjanaṃ smṛtam* quoted by G.R. NANDARGIKAR in *The Raghuvamśa of Kālidāsa*, Delhi, 1982, Notes, p. 796.

15. BHATT G.H., *op. cit.*, p. 444.

16. BHATT G.H., *op. cit.*, p. 446. In the *Rāmacarita-Mānasa* the God of Fire (Agni) appears with the *caru* (offering of rice boiled with milk). (Vide "The *Rāmacarita-Mānasa*", *Kalyāṇakalpataru*, August, 1949, pp. 159-160).

The king gave half of the *pāyasa* to Kausalyā and half of the remaining half, *i.e.* 1/4th part to Sumitrā, whereas he gave the half of the remaining half, *i.e.* 1/8th part to Kaikeyī and the last remaining half, *i.e.* 1/8th part to Sumitrā again, *i.e.* to say Sumitrā got 1/4th + 1/8th parts of the *pāyasa*. In due course of time four sons were born. Rāma, who was the one half portion of Viṣṇu was born of Kausalyā¹⁷; Bharata, who was 1/4th portion of Viṣṇu was born of Kaikeyī; Lakṣmaṇa and Śatrughna jointly representing one half (*i.e.* 1/2) portion of Viṣṇu were born of Sumitrā (NSP 1.18.10 ff: Cr.Ed. 1.17.6 ff). Here then is a peculiar mathematics in the *Viṣṇu-aṃśa* being distributed in Daśaratha's four sons¹⁸. Moreover, there is no coordination between the quantity of the *pāyasa* distributed to the three queens; the apparent coordination that may be thought of is between the number of times the *pāyasa* is distributed to the queens and the number of sons born to them, *i.e.* Sumitrā received the *pāyasa* twice and she gave birth to two sons, whereas Kausalyā and Kaikeyī got the *pāyasa* once and they, each, had one son born to them.

In the *Raghuvamśa* (10.55-56) Kālidāsa simplifies the arithmetic of the quantity of the *pāyasa* that was distributed to the three queens. Daśaratha gives half of the *pāyasa* to Kausalyā and the remaining half to Kaikeyī and they, *i.e.* Kausalyā and Kaikeyī, give half of the quantity received by them to Sumitrā. According to Āśvalāyana 10.6.1 the horse-sacrifice was recommended to one who desired to secure all objects, to win all victories and to attain all prosperity¹⁹. It was a symbol of one's overlordship²⁰ and it is to be noted here that Daśaratha performs the horse-sacrifice for having sons (NSP 1.12.8: Cr.Ed. 1.11.8) and this shows the change in the motive of the performance of the horse-sacrifice.

It was believed, as Vālmiki gives the impression, to remove the

17. *Kalyāṇakalpataru*, December, 1960, p. 60.

18. *Vide* SRINIVAS IYENGAR C.N., "Mathematics in Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa", *Kalyāṇakalpataru*, June, 1956, pp. 643 ff.

19. KANE P.V., *History of Dharmasāstra*, Vol. II, Part II, 1974, Poona, p. 1229; for details *vide ibid.*, pp. 1228 ff.

20. CHAUHAN GIANCHAND, "The Aśvamedha as the Symbol of one's Overlordship", JOIB 39, Nos. 3-4 (March-June, 1990, issued in May 1992), pp. 185 ff.; KULAKARNI R.P., "Critical Path Method to Aśvamedha sacrifice", JOIB 39, Nos. 1-2 (September, 1989 - December, 1989; issued in August, 1991), pp. 5 ff.

sins (NSP 1.14.57: Cr.Ed. 1.13.44) and the *Taittirīya-Saṃhitā* 5.3.12.1-2 states that by the performance of the horse-sacrifice one can annul the sin of brahmanicide²¹. According to the *Mahābhārata* the horse-sacrifice purifies a person of all sins²². At the end of the horse-sacrifice the *ṛtviks* declare Daśaratha to be free from all sins (NSP 1.14.46: Cr. Ed. 1.13.39) and thus Vālmiki follows the old ideology here, even though this horse-sacrifice was for having sons. After the performance of the horse-sacrifice Rṣyaśṛṅga undertakes to perform the *putrīyā iṣṭi* with the Atharvavedic *mantras* for Daśaratha for the purpose of having sons (NSP 1.15.1 ff: Cr.Ed. 1.14.1 ff). According to the *Gopatha Brāhmaṇa* (1.3.23; edited by Khem Karan Das Trivedi, Allahabad, 1924, pp. 216-218) the *pāyasa* prepared in the bovine milk with the recitation of the *mantras* was to be given to the *dīkṣitī jāyā* (the wife of the *dīkṣita*) and S.D. Satvalekar refers to AV 6.11 in the context of the *putreṣṭi* and he observes that juices of useful medicinal herbs might have been added to the *pāyasa* that was prepared²³.

In the *Bhāgavata-Purāṇa-māhātmya* 4.41-62 there is a story of a childless Brahmin. A *sannyāsin* gives him a fruit, which would lead to conception, if his wife eats; but his wife, being afraid, gives that fruit to their cow, who gives birth to Gokaṛṇa. Here «what is important is the belief that a fruit could be thought of as giving a son»²⁴. Now «this belief can be compared with that of a birth in sacrifice or the sacrificial surrounding. The sacrificial ground, the *vedī*, is called the birth-place of all things. Into this *yoni* is poured *ghṛta* which is a well-established symbol for semen (*vīrya*). The *pāyasa* or *kṣīra* by the *yajñapurusa* should (may) (bracket ours) naturally be understood as equal to *ghṛta* because milk is the basis for both, so *pāyasa* (from the sacrificial ground) which is symbolically semen (*vīrya*) given to the queen could produce a son. This *vīrya* is divine, unsullied by any

21. KANE P.V., *op. cit.*, p. 1236, fn. 2674.

22. KANE P.V., *op. cit.*, p. 1237.

23. SATVALEKAR S.D., *Śrī-Rāmāyaṇa-Mahākāvya, Bālakāṇḍa* (with Hindi Translation, Notes and Introduction), Pardi, 1955, pp. 435 ff.; G.R. Nandargikar quotes other *mantras* in the context of the *putrīyā iṣṭi* in *Raghuvaṃśa*. (*Vide, ibid.*, Notes, p. 796).

24. DANGE S.S., *The Bhāgavata-Purāṇa: Mytho-Social Study*, 1984, Delhi, p. 109.

human sexual relationship»²⁵. According to one Purāṇic legend Yauvanāśva was childless and having mercy on him sages performed the *aindrī iṣṭi*. Once, at night, being thirsty he wandered in the sacrificial area and drank the *mantra-jalalpumsavana-jala (pr̥ṣadājya)*²⁶. As a result of drinking this 'water' he became pregnant and Māndhātā was born to him²⁷. This episode also brings out that an 'outward agency' can lead to pregnancy. Can this mytho-social episode be demythologised and be explained 'differently' with the help of the medical science? The distribution of *pāyasa* efficacious for pregnancy has a counterpart in the Thai-version of the *Rāmāyaṇa* wherein the sacrificial balls of rice are distributed to the queens for their pregnancy. The Thai-version is known as the *Ramakien* which finds its Sanskrit version in the *Śrī-Rāmakīrti-Mahākāvya*m by Satya Vrat Shastri (Delhi, 1990)²⁸. According to the Thai-version there is also the sacrifice called *putreṣṭi* with the help of the sage Kalaikoṭi. It says that «in its performance some divine person will appear on the scene with four balls of rice in his hand. At that very moment some person rushing from the south will fly upwards having snatched away half a ball (half of the balls) (bracket, ours). With the remaining two balls may you feed the queens of the king, so that they, possessed of handsome limbs, become pregnant» (*ibid.*, pp. 237-238; Canto III, stanzas 3 ff).

In the *Mahābhārata* when Vicitravīrya died issueless, the sons were obtained by the levirate system (*niyoga*)²⁹. Kuntī had sons through 'some sort' of the levirate system, as Pāṇḍu was incompetent to

25. DANGE S.S., *op. cit.*, p. 109.

26. Vide CHITRAV SIDDHESHWAR SHASTRI, *Prācīnacāritrakōṣa*, (Hindi), Poona, 1964, p. 644.

27. Vide *Bhāgavata-Purāṇa* 9.6.26 ff. Very recently a case of "a 32 year old government employee in the Southern Philippines" having the nickname Carlo, who is a "male" is reported "six months pregnant". He is "a hermaphrodite with both male and female organs". (*Times of India*, Ahmedabad Edition, dated May 25, 1992, p. 1). The *Bhāgavata-Purāṇa* does not give the required information (case-report) about Yauvanāśva.

28. The author is thankful to Professor Satya Vrat Shastri, Delhi, for his kindly drawing the attention to the «"ball of rice" - episode» in the Thai-Rāmāyaṇa.

29. Vide for discussion KANTAWALA S.G., "Marriage and Family in the *Mahābhārata*: Some Aspects", in *Moral Dilemmas in the Mahābhārata*, edited by

have sons in her³⁰. It is significant to note here that Daśaratha does not have any recourse to the levirate system for having sons for the continuation of his family; instead he has a recourse to the *putrīyā iṣṭi*, a brahmanical way, suggesting thereby the advanced Aryan society. There is also another point to be noted here. Vasiṣṭha is the court-priest of Daśaratha and it is under his permission and guidance that the *āśvamedha* and the *putreṣṭi* are performed (NSP 1.12.13: Cr.Ed. 1.11.8). It is significant to note that Vasiṣṭha is in favour of *aurasa* sons (*vide* RV 7.1) and not in favour of other types of sons³¹, because with the *aurasa* sons the purity of blood is maintained. This tends to explain, from another point of view, the introduction of the *putreṣṭi* in the episode of Daśaratha. The family of Daśaratha belongs to the category of the compound type of family³². It will be interesting to mention here that an institution named Centre for Astrological Research and Development (CARD) in Kerala (India) organised the *putra-kāmeṣṭi* for childless couples from 2nd May, 1992 to 10th May, 1992 at Kochi in Kerala and 1128 couples participated in the *yajña* from all over the country except Punjab and Nagaland³³.

The VRā. has several layers³⁴. It is important to note that Rāma is a monogamist and this suggests the advancement in ethical codes in relation to the institution of marriage.

Bimal Krishna Matilal, Delhi, 1989, pp. 89 ff.

30. *Vide* for discussion KANTAWALA S.G., "Genetic Episode of Pāṇḍavas: Some Remarks" in *The Mahābhārata Revisited*, edited by R.N. Dandekar, Delhi, 1990, pp. 61 ff.

31. *Vide* KANTAWALA S.G., "Some Observations on Vasiṣṭha and his Progeny in the *Rgveda*", in "*Professor Krishna Kanta Handiqui Felicitation Volume*", edited by Mukunda Madhav Sharma, Guwahati, 1983, pp. 49 ff.

32. A compound family is illustrated in a polygamous society wherein there is one husband with two or more wives and their respective children. Another form of compound family is produced in monogamous societies by a second marriage giving rise to step relations and such relations are half-brothers. Compound families can be regarded as constituted of families with a common member. (*Vide* RADCLIFFE BROWN A.R., *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*, London, 1952, p. 51).

33. *Vide Sandesh* (a Gujarati Daily) dated 29th March, 1992 (Sunday); *Gujarat Samachar* (a Gujarati Daily) dated 31st March, 1992; *Sandesh* dated 20th April, 1992; *Times of India* (Ahmedabad Edition) dated 22nd May, 1992, 11th May 1992 and 22nd May 1992.

34. *Vide* BROCKINGTON J.L., *op. cit.*, p. 1.

«Rāma is the embodiment of the high ideals of Aryan life»³⁵ and «Vālmīki was for establishing the ideal of a single marriage in the society of polygamy»³⁶ and hence Rāma is depicted as an ideal monogamist. But there are some passages in the VRā. which might suggest that he was a polygamist; e.g. *hr̥ṣṭāḥ khalu bhaviṣyanti Rāmasya paramāḥ striyaḥ* (NSP 2.8.12: Cr.Ed. 2.8.5)³⁷, i.e. «Rāma's excellent women». The vocable *strī* means «woman, female, wife»³⁸. Vālmīki seems to use the vocable *strī* promiscuously in the sense of 'wife', when he uses the vocable *dāra* (wife) (*vide* NSP 2.34.10: Cr. Ed. 2.31.7; NSP 2.34.11-12: Cr.Ed. 2.31.8-9), elsewhere he employs the vocable *pramadā* (NSP 2.34.13: Cr.Ed. 2.31.10) (handsome, buxom lively woman, woman)³⁹ but the vocable *striyaḥ* in 2.8.12: 2.8.5 can be taken in the sense of «female servants»⁴⁰, because «Rāma and Sītā's union is effectively monogamous during their stay in the forest and not in frequent description of Sītā as *dharmapatnī* may point in the same direction....»⁴¹. It may further be noted that Rāma does not take another wife, when he is to perform the Aśvamedha, but the golden image of Sītā as her substitute serves the purpose of Sītā and does away with the necessity of taking a second wife⁴². This reflects a more refined stage of civilisation in comparison with the one reflected in the *Mahābhārata*⁴³, even though «the period of the growth of the VRā. falls within the longer period of the development

35. PUSALKER A.D., *Studies in the Epics and Purāṇas*, Bombay, 1955, p. xiii. There is a rich literature on the Rāmāyaṇa. For bibliographical references. *vide* GORE N.A., *Bibliography of the Rāmāyaṇa*, Poona, 1943; PUSALKER A.D., *op. cit.* pp. 174-195; BOTTO OSCAR, *A Select Rāmāyaṇa Bibliography*, Madras, 1996.

36. DWIVEDI LAVA KUSH PRASAD, *op. cit.*, p. 63.

37. *Vide* VYAS S.N., *op. cit.*, p. 91.

38. MACDONELL A.A., *A Practical Sanskrit Dictionary*, Delhi-Bombay-Calcutta-Madras, Oxford University Press, 1954, p. 363; *Vide* also APTE V.S., *The Student's Sanskrit English Dictionary*, Delhi, 1968, p. 620.

39. MACDONELL A.A., *op. cit.*, p. 179.

40. On 2.8.12 (NSP) the commentary "Tilaka" has *paramāḥ striyaḥ iti bahuva-canelna Sītā-sakhyaḥ!*

41. BROCKINGTON J.L., *op. cit.*, p. 173.

42. BROCKINGTON J.L., *op. cit.*, p. 173.

43. WINTERNITZ M., *A History of Indian Literature*, Vol. I, Calcutta, 1927, p. 507.

44. WINTERNITZ M., *op. cit.*, p. 505.

of the *Mahābhārata*⁴⁴. Passingly, it may be mentioned that the Book I (*Bālakāṇḍa*) and the Book VII (*Uttarakāṇḍa*) are taken as later additions⁴⁵; but some events in the Rāma-story in the *Ayodhyākāṇḍa* has some connections with some events in the story in the *Bālakāṇḍa*; to illustrate, one may note here that in the *Ayodhyākāṇḍa* (NSP 1.37: Cr. Ed. 1.36) Daśaratha says: «When shall I see my son (*i.e.* Rāma) coronated?». This implies a reference to the birth of Rāma in the earlier portion *i.e.* *Bālakāṇḍa*; thus the *Bālakāṇḍa* comes to be correlated with the *Ayodhyākāṇḍa*, even though the former is taken as a later addition. This leads one to assume that there is also another traditional poet; this assumption may be extended for the *Uttarakāṇḍa*. At this juncture it is interesting to note that «according to the *Uttarakāṇḍa* of the VRā. Vālmiki wrote the main story and Bhārgava added the episodes at a subsequent period»⁴⁶ (NSP 7.94.25: Cr.Ed. 7.84.25; NSP 7.94.26: Cr.Ed. Asterisk stanza). Under these circumstances one may hazard a conjecture that Vālmiki is a theoretical amalgam of more than one Vālmiki⁴⁷.

Abbreviations

- AV : *Atharvaveda*.
 Cr.Ed. : Critical Edition of the *Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa* published by the Oriental Institute, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara.
 IT : *Indologica Taurinensia*, Torino.
 JOIB : *Journal of the Oriental Institute*, M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda.
 NSP : *Nirnayasagar Press* (Bombay) edition of the *Rāmāyaṇa*.
 VRā : *Vālmiki-Rāmāyaṇa*.
 RV : *Ṛgveda*

45. *Vide* WINTERNITZ M., *op. cit.*, pp. 501,503. *Vide* also BROCKINGTON J.L., *op. cit.*, Appendix, pp. 329 ff. for the process of growth of the *Rāmāyaṇa*.

46. PUSALKER A.D., *op. cit.*, p. xxxvii.

47. Vyāsa of the tradition is said to be the theoretical amalgam of a series of traditional poets. (*Vide* WARDER A.K., *op. cit.*, p. 77).