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**ABSTRACT**

**13. The Śulba Literature in Kerala Vedic Tradition - A Study by D.S.Sivanandan, Amrita University**

The Śulbasūtras are the ancient mathematical treatises primarily dealing with geometry. They form a part of kalpasūtras; one among the six Vedangās. Proper understanding of these texts is essential to the study of the Vedas. The Kerala Vedic tradition firmly follows these geometrical texts. It is relatively small but quite different from the rest of India, and entirely self-contained. The three Vedas, Ṛgveda, Yajurveda (Kṛṣṇa and Śukla) and Sāmaveda, are followed in Kerala.

Baudhāyana Śulbasūtra [BSS] is the main text followed in Kerala’s Vedic tradition. Kārikās of Yogyār [YK] is an independent text based on Baudhāyana Śulbasūtra [BSS] and discusses the construction of fire altars. Yāgam-bhāṣa are manuals used by different Vaidikas of Kerala traditions. Divided in to 64 graamams, the Nambutiris of Kerala has one or two families as Vaidikas, who oversee the Vedic rituals for the village people. Yāgam-bhāṣa is the hand book used by these Vaidikas to conduct the fire ritual. These texts give the details of constructing a Yāga Śalā and the method for performing fire rituals. We could identify at least 3 different Yāgam-bhāṣa texts belonging to the Cherumukku tradition, Thekkāḍ tradition [both from Sukapuram grāmam] and Kaimukku tradition [of Irinjalakkuda grāmam.]

In addition to Yāgam-bhāṣa, there are also supplementary texts which give the thumb rules for various types of measurements and construction of sacred enclosures. These texts are called Śalānirmāṇa Vidhi. We could also collect 5 sets of such supplementary texts. In this paper we will highlight the regional Śulba literature in the light Kerala Vedic Tradition.

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