

Towards a New Critical Edition of the *Nīlamata*

Report on the recensions and grouping of manuscripts

Keisuke Nagata

The *Nīlamata* is a Sanskrit text which narates the Kashmiri myths, annual ceremonies and its sacred places. The critical editions already published are “*Nīlamata or Teachings of Nīla*” by Dr. K. de Vreese in 1936, and “*The Nīlamata Purana. A Critical Edition & English Translation*” by Dr. Ved Kumari in 1973. In the years following the publication of the first edition, Dr. de Vreese collected additional manuscripts of the *Nīlamata*, and he started to prepare a new publication. Unfortunately, he passed away before completing his work.

Prof. em. Dr. Yasuke Ikari, the coordinator of the joint seminar “Studies in Traditional Culture in the Context of Ancient Indian and Indo-European Societies” which was formed during the period of April 1987–March 1991 at the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, visited Jammu and Kashmir and collected photocopies of manuscripts which Dr. Ved Kumari used in her edition. Prof. Ikari kindly provided me with these manuscripts. Furthermore, I was able to consult Dr. de Vreese’s unpublished draft, and as well as photocopies of manuscripts, that were collected by him, by help of Prof. em. Dr. Hans Bakker, University of Groningen.

The first edition of Dr. de Vreese is based on the manuscripts of “Stein Collection”, which were collected by Sir. M.A. Stein in the years of 1888–1905 and the edition of Dr. Ved Kumari, on the other hand, is based on the Jammu and Kashmir manuscripts. In this way, all the manuscripts separately used in both editions are available to me. Thus, I am now in an advantageous position in order to make a new critical edition of this text.

Prior to editing, the relation between manuscripts should be examined. This has not been sufficiently done. Dr. de Vreese and Dr. Ved Kumari did not discuss in own editions. Thererfore, in this presentation, I will explain recensions and examin the grouping of manuscripts of the *Nīlamata* and whether the Stemma Codicum can be established.