

The Chronology of Ancient India

First Series

- The Beginning of the Kali Yuga
- The Date of the Mahabharata War
- The Four Yugas

BY
VELANDAI GOPALA AIYER, B.A. B.L.,
PLEADER, CHITTOOR.

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Inscribed
TO THE MEMORY
Of My Beloved Father
V. Sundara Rayer.

PREFACE.

IN this small volume,* I have endeavoured to present to the public a part of the results of an impartial enquiry, conducted by me during the last six years, into a few leading questions concerning the Chronology of Ancient India. In carrying out, however inadequately, so important a task, I have been helped to a large extent by the laborious researches of many erudite scholars, whose names and writings are noticed in appropriate places in the body of the work and to every one of whom I am extremely grateful. This part fixes the date of the most important event in the Ancient History of India,—the great Mahabharata War. Once this is known, the limits of the Vedic period preceding, and of the Epic period succeeding, it, are easily ascertainable. The Third chapter endeavours to give a rational explanation of the Yugas. A glance at the Table of Contents will reveal the many topics of interest and importance incidentally discussed, such as the following:—the identification of Bharani 10°, as given by the Vedanga Jyotisha, with the beginning of the Kritika, the deduction of chronological particulars from the statements of Clau-

* These papers originally appeared in the *Indian Review*.

sical writers, a rational account of the history of the Kollam Andu, and a critical examination of the chronological data of the Rajatarangini. The second part, which in all probability will be issued before the middle of next year, will first show how the Kaliyuga which really began in 1177 B. C. came subsequently to be supposed to have commenced in 3102 B.C., and will discuss the date of the Vishnu Purana, the astronomical explanation of the Yugas and the nature of the epochs and cycles prevalent in India. The next chapter, perhaps the most important in the whole book, will attempt to place the date of the Rigveda beyond all reasonable doubt by a discussion of certain passages in that Veda, hitherto misunderstood, which yield us, not vague generalisations or bare possibilities, but specific unimpeachable testimony. The concluding chapter will examine further fresh materials, fix the date of the Aryan immigration into India and close with a short *resumé* of the leading facts in the History of Aryan India from the earliest times, to the sixth century after Christ, such of the few footprints as can still be traced in the shifting sands of Time.

CHITTOOR, }
November 28, 1901. }

V. GOPALA AIYER.

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