

THE
MRICHCHHAKATIKA
OF
SUDRAKA

Edited with the Commentary of Prithvidhara (enlarged where necessary), Various Readings, A Literal English Translation, Notes, and an exhaustive Introduction.

M. R. KALE



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P R E F A C E

No apology is needed for this new edition of the *Mrichchhakatika*, as there is at present no suitable edition available which satisfies the needs of the University students, who have often to study this play for their examination. I have tried to make this book as comprehensive and useful as possible, inspite of the short time at my disposal, as the edition was undertaken at the urgent request of the publishers somewhat late in the beginning of this year. To the commentary of Prithvidhara, which is somewhat abrupt and meagre in places, I have made considerable additions where I felt them to be necessary for the elucidation of the text. The relation of this play to Bhasa's *Charudatta* has been fully discussed in the Introduction, along with other usual matters. The Prakrit passages, which prove a hindrance to the student in the class, have been printed below the text, as in my other editions of Sanskrit plays, along with the text, only the Sanskrit rendering being given above; the utility of this contrivance has been established in actual use. I have fully availed myself of the labours of my predecessors in this field; but I must make special mention of the editions of Jivanand Vidyasagar and N. B. Godbole, and the scholarly translation of Dr Ryder, as also his supplementary *Notes* issued in the Journal of the American Oriental Society. To all these my best acknowledgements are due. But I have specially to thank a friend of mine who materially assisted me in the preparation of this edition and but for whose able help in every way the edition could not have been brought out in the short space of six months. Any suggestions or corrections, &c., that might help to make this edition still more useful, will be most thankfully received.

June 1924.

M. R. KALE.

February 1962.