

# Śrutabodha

by

Śrīmat Kālidāsa

edited by

Vāsudev Laxman Shāstrī Paṅśīkar

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(Bombay, 1906)

## A Note on this Edition

What follows is a transliteration of the text of Śrutabodha as it appears in the edition by Paṇṣīkar, which was published in Bombay in 1906<sup>1</sup>. The text is found alongside the same editor's edition of Śrī Kedārabhaṭṭa's Vṛttaratnākara, the main work in the book, and Śrī Gaṅgādāsa's Chandomañjarī.

39 of the main metres in use in Sanskrit verse compositions are described in this work,<sup>2</sup> and it therefore acts as a handy reference work for anyone with an interest in the subject. Other works on prosody, like Śrī Piṅgala's Chandaḥśāstra, and Śrī Kedārabhaṭṭa's Vṛttaratnākara, provide a more comprehensive list that include metres that are found only occasionally in the literature.

For reference in this edition I have added in the metrical markings (◡ = a light syllable; and – a heavy syllable). I have also compiled a Table of Contents, and an Index arranged in the Sanskrit alphabetical order, and added a few notes to clarify certain points.

Ānandajoti Bhikkhu  
2003/2547

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<sup>1</sup> Śrutabodha in this edition is attributed to Śrī Kālidāsa, but according to Monier-Williams (SED), it is elsewhere attributed to Śrī Vararuci, so that its exact authorship appears to be uncertain.

<sup>2</sup> These are also the main metres found in classical Pāṇini verse texts.

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 Hariṇīplutā = 11 + 12 syllables  
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Indravaṁśā = 12 syllables  
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 Sragdharā = 21 syllables

## Alphabetical List of the Metres

Āryā = 30 + 27 mātrā  
 Ākhyānakī = 11 syllables  
 Indravaṁśā = 12 syllables  
 Indravajrā = 11 syllables  
 Upajāti = 11 syllables  
 Upagīti = 27 + 27 mātrā  
 Upendravajrā = 11 syllables  
 Gīti = 30 + 30 mātrā  
 Campakamālā = 10 syllables  
 Toṭaka = 12 syllables  
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 Hariṇīplutā = 11 + 12 syllables

## Śrutabodha

- ॐ - - | ॐ - - - - || ॐ ॐ - - | ॐ - ॐ -      *Śloka*  
 chandasām lakṣaṇam yena śrutamātreṇa budhyate |  
 ॐ - - - - | ॐ - - - - || ॐ ॐ - ॐ ॐ - ॐ -  
 tamaḥ saṁpravakṣyāmi śrutabodhamavistaram || 1 ||

- - | - - | - - || - - | - - | ॐ - ॐ | - - | -      *Āryā*  
 saṁyuktādyaṁ dīrghaṁ sānusvāraṁ visargasaṁmiśram |  
 - - | ॐ - ॐ | - ॐ || - - | - - | ॐ | - - | -  
 vijñeyamakṣaraṁ guru pādāntasthaṁ vikalpena || 2 ||

- ॐ - - | ॐ - - - - || ॐ - - - - | ॐ - ॐ -      *Śloka*  
<sup>1</sup> ekamātro bhaveddhrasvo dvimātro dīrgha ucyate |  
 ॐ - - - - | ॐ - - - - || ॐ - ॐ - - | ॐ - ॐ -  
 trimātrastu pluto jñeyo vyañjanam cārdhamātrakam || 3 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> P fn: some add the following verse at this point:

*ādīmadhyāvasāneṣu bhajasā yānti gauravam*  
*yaratā lāghavaṁ yānti manau tu gurulāghavam.*

As Śrutabodha dispenses with the description by gaṇas, it seems that this verse is unwanted here, though it provides a fine summary of the gaṇa system.

## [Mātrāchandas]

[Āryā = 30 + 27 mātrā]

--|--|UU--||--UU|--|U--U|--|--  
yasyāḥ pāde prathame dvādaśa mātrāstathā tṛtīye 'pi |  
--|U--U|--|--||--UU--|U--U--|U--UU--|U--  
aṣṭādaśa dvitīye caturthake pañcadaśa sāryā || 4 ||

[Gīti = 30 + 30 mātrā]

--|--|UU--||U--U|UUUU|U--U|--UU|--  
āryāpūrvārdhasamaṁ dvitīyamapi bhavati yatra<sup>1</sup> haṁsagate |  
--|U--U|--|--||--|UU|U--U|--|--|U--  
chandovidastadānīm gītiṁ tāmamṛtavāṇi bhāṣante || 5 ||

[Upagīti = 27 + 27 mātrā]

--|U--U|--|--||UU--|UU--|U|--|--|U--  
āryottarārdhatulyaṁ prathamārdhamapi prayuktaṁ cet |  
--UU--|UU--|--||UU--|U--|U--UU--|U--  
kāmini tāmupagītiṁ pratibhāṣante<sup>2</sup> mahākavayaḥ || 6 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> yatra bhavati.

<sup>2</sup> prakāśayante.

## [Akṣaracchandās]

[Pāṅkti = 5 syllables]

— 0 0 — — ,  
ādyacaturtham  
pañcamakam cet |  
yatra guru syāt-  
sākṣarapaṅktiḥ || 7 ||

[Śaśivadanā = 6 syllables]

0 0 0 0 — — ,  
agurucatuṣkam  
bhavati gurū dvau |  
ghanakucayugme  
śaśivadanāsau || 8 ||

[Madalekhā = 7 syllables]

— — — 0 0 — — ,  
tūryam pañcamakam ced-  
yatra syāllaghu bāle |  
vidvadbhirmṛganetre  
proktā sā madalekhā || 9 ||

[Śloka<sup>1</sup> = 8 + 8 syllables]

-----|-----||-----|-----  
śloke śaṣṭham guru jñeyam sarvatra laghu pañcamam |  
-----|-----||-----|-----  
dvicatuḥpādayorhrasvam saptamaṁ dīrghamanyayoḥ || 10 ||

-----|-----||-----|-----  
pañcamam laghu sarvatra saptamaṁ dvicaturthayoḥ |  
-----|-----||-----|-----  
śaṣṭham guru vijānīyādetatpadyasya lakṣaṇam || 11 ||

[Māṇavakākṛīḍa<sup>2</sup> = 8 syllables]

-----  
ādigataṁ turyagataṁ  
pañcamakaṁ cāntyagataṁ |  
syādguru cetsamkathitaṁ<sup>3</sup>  
māṇavakākṛīḍamidam || 12 ||

[Nagasvarūpiṇī<sup>4</sup> = 8 syllables]

-----,  
dvituryaṣaṣṭhamaṣṭamam  
guru prayojitam yadā |  
tadā nivedayanti tām  
budhā nagasvarūpiṇīm || 13 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> This metre is also known as Anuṣṭubha, and Vaktra. In the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> positions of the prior line, the following variations are allowed: ---; ---; -,--; & ,---.

<sup>2</sup> This metre is called simply Māṇavaka in Vṛttaratnākara.

<sup>3</sup> *tatkathitam*.

<sup>4</sup> This metre is known as Pramāṇikā in Vṛttaratnākara.

**[Vidyunmālā = 8 syllables]**

-----,  
sarve varṇā dīrghā yasyām  
viśrāmaḥ syādvedairvedaiḥ |  
vidvadvṛndairvīṇāvāṇi  
vyākhyātā sā vidyunmālā || 14 ||

**[Campakamālā = 10 syllables]**

---o---,  
tanvi guru syādādyacaturtham  
pañcamaṣaṣṭham cāntyamupāntyam |  
indriyabāṇairyatra virāmaḥ  
sā kathanīyā campakamālā || 15 ||

**[Maṇimadhya = 9 syllables]<sup>1</sup>**

---o---,  
campakamālā yatra bhaved-  
antyavihīnā premanidhe |  
chandasi dakṣā ye kavayas-  
tanmaṇimadhyam<sup>2</sup> te bruvate || 16 ||

**[Hamsī = 10 syllables]**

-----,  
mandākrāntāntyayatirahitā  
sālamkāre yadi bhavati yā |  
sā vidvadbhirdhruvamabhihitā  
jñeyā hamsī kamalavadane || 17 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> As the sequence of metres is ascending in quantity, this would appear to be out of place, as it is preceded, and followed, by metres of 10 syllables.

<sup>2</sup> -*maṇibandham*.

[Śālinī = 11 syllables]

-----U,---  
hrasvo varṇo jāyate yatra ṣaṣṭhaḥ  
kambugrīve tadvadevāṣṭamāntyaḥ |  
viśrāntiḥ<sup>1</sup> syāttanvi vedaisturaṅgais-  
tām bhāṣante śālinīm chāndasiyāḥ || 18 ||

[Dodhaka = 11 syllables]

---UUUUUU---,  
ādyacaturthamahīnanitambe  
saptamakam daśamam ca tathāntyam |  
yatra guru prakāṣmarasāre  
tatkathitam nanu dodhakavṛttam || 19 ||

[Indravajrā = 11 syllables]

---UUUUUU---,  
yasyāstriṣaṣṭasaptamamakṣaram<sup>2</sup> syād-  
hrasvam sujaṅghe navamam ca tadvat |  
gatyā vilajjikṛtahaṁsakānte  
tāmindravajrām bruvate kavīndrāḥ || 20 ||

[Upendravajrā = 11 syllables]

UUUUUUUU---,  
yadīndravajrācaraṇeṣu pūrve  
bhavanti varṇā laghavaḥ suvarṇe |  
amandamādyanmadane tadānīm-  
upendravajrā kathitā kavīndraiḥ || 21 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> viśrāmaḥ.

<sup>2</sup> yasyām [triṣaṣṭ-].

**[Upajāti<sup>1</sup> = 11 syllables]**

--o--oo--o-- ,                    *Indravajrā*  
yatra dvayorapyanayostu pādā  
o--oo--oo--o-- ,                    *Upendravajrā*  
bhavanti sīmantini candrakānte |  
--o--oo--o--o-- ,                    *Indravajrā*  
vidvadbhirādyaiḥ parikīrtitā sā  
o--oo--oo--o-- ,                    *Upendravajrā*  
prayujyatāmityupajātireṣā || 22 ||

**[Ākhyānakī<sup>2</sup> = 11 syllables]**

--o--oo--o--o-- ,  
ākhyānakī sā prakāṭikṛtārthe  
o--oo--oo--o-- ,  
yadīndravajrācaraṇaḥ purastāt |

---

<sup>1</sup> There are 14 possible types of Upajāti metre having a mixture of Indravajrā and Upendravajrā lines, all of which have been given names. The example verse is a variety called Bhadrā. Upajāti may consist of a mixture of other metres also, including ones that are not 11 syllables in length. So that, for example, we may find a verse consisting of one line each of Indravajrā, Upendravajrā, Vamśasthā, & Vasantatilakā - still the verse would be known as Upajāti.

<sup>2</sup> Ākhyānakī is normally counted as an Ardhasamavṛtta, having the structure of Indravajrā in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines, and Upendravajrā in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Here the definition is slightly different with the 1<sup>st</sup> line being Indravajrā, and the rest are defined as Upendravajrā.

Viparītākhyānakī is defined in the verse here as being the reverse of the above, i.e. having first an Upendravajrā line, then three Indravajrā lines.



**[Toṭaka = 12 syllables]**

∪-∪-∪-∪-∪-,  
satṛtīyakaṣaṣṭhamanaṅgarate<sup>1</sup>  
navamaṁ viratiprabhavaṁ guru cet |  
ghanapīnapayodharabhāranate  
nanu toṭakavṛttamidaṁ kathitam || 27 ||

**[Bhujāṅgaprayāta = 12 syllables]**

∪-∪-∪-∪-∪-∪-,  
yadādyam caturtham tathā saptamam syāt-<sup>2</sup>  
tathaivākṣaram hrasvamekādaśādyam |  
śaraccandraividveṣivaktrāravinde  
taduktam kavīndrairbhujāṅgaprayātam || 28 ||

**[Drutavilambita = 12 syllables]**

∪∪∪-∪∪∪-∪∪∪-,  
ayi kṛśodari yatra caturthakam  
guru ca saptamakam daśamam tathā |  
viratigaṁ<sup>3</sup> ca tathaiva sumadhyame<sup>4</sup>  
drutavilambitamityupadiśyate || 29 ||

**[Pramitākṣarā = 12 syllables]**

∪-∪-∪-∪∪∪-∪∪-,  
yadi toṭakasya guru pañcamakam  
vihitam vilāsini tadakṣarakam |  
rasasamkhyakam guru na cedabale  
pramitākṣareti kavibhiḥ kathitā || 30 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> -anantarate

<sup>2</sup> cet.

<sup>3</sup> viratijaṁ.

<sup>4</sup> vicakṣaṇaiḥ.

**[Hariṇīplutā = 11 + 12 syllables<sup>1</sup>]**

prathamākṣaramādyatṛtīyayordrutavilambitakasya hi<sup>2</sup>  
pādayoḥ |

yadi nāsti tadā kamalekṣaṇe bhavati sundari sā hariṇīplutā ||  
31 ||

**[Vaṁśasthavila = 12 syllables]**

upendravajrā caraṇeṣu santi ced-<sup>3</sup>  
upāntyavarṇā laghavaḥ pare kṛtāḥ<sup>4</sup> |  
madollasadbhrūjitaḥkāmākārmuke  
vadanti vaṁśasthaviḥ<sup>5</sup> budhāstadā || 32 ||

**[Indravamśā = 12 syllables]**

yasyāmaśokāṅkurapāṇipallave  
vaṁśasthapādā gurupūrvavarṇakāḥ |  
tāruṇyahelāratiraṅgalālase  
tāmindravamśām kavayaḥ pracakṣate || 33 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> This is an example of an Ardhasamavṛtta.

<sup>2</sup> *ca*.

<sup>3</sup> *cenna*.

<sup>4</sup> *kṛtā yadā*.

<sup>5</sup> *vaṁśasthamidam*. Vaṁśastha is, in fact, the more usual name for this metre.

[Prabhāvatī = 13 syllables]

---,UUUU-U-U-  
yasyām priye prathamakamakṣaradvayam  
turyam tathā guru navamam daśāntimam<sup>1</sup> |  
sāntyam bhavedyatirapi cedyugagrahaiḥ  
sālakṣyatāmamṛtarute<sup>2</sup> prabhāvatī || 34 ||

[Praharsīṇī = 13 syllables]

---,UUUU-U-U-  
ādyam cettritayamathāṣṭamam navāntyam  
dvāvanyau<sup>3</sup> guruviratau subhāṣite syāt |  
viśrāmo bhavati maheśanetradiḡbhir-  
vijñeyā nanu sudati<sup>4</sup> praharsīṇī sā || 35 ||

[Vasantatilaka = 14 syllables]

---UUUU-,UU-U-  
ādyam dvitīyamapi cedguru taccaturtham  
yatṛṣṭamam ca daśamāntyamupāntyamantyam |  
aṣṭābhirinduvadane viratiśca ṣaḍbhiḥ<sup>5</sup>  
kānte vasantatilakam kila tam<sup>6</sup> vadanti || 36 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> daśāntikam.

<sup>2</sup> bhavedyadi viratīyugagrahaiḥ sā lakṣitā hyamṛtalate.

<sup>3</sup> dve cāntye.

<sup>4</sup> subhage.

<sup>5</sup> kāmāṅkuśāṅkuśitakāmimataṅgajendre.

<sup>6</sup> tām.

[Mālinī = 15 syllables]

U U U U U - - , - U - - U - -

prathamamaguruṣaṭkaṁ vidyate yatra kānte  
tadanu ca daśamaṁ cedakṣaraṁ dvādaśāntyaṁ |  
giribhiratha turaṅgairiyatra kānte virāmaḥ  
sukavijanamanojñā mālinī sā prasiddhā || 37 ||

[Hariṇī = 17 syllables]

U U U U U - , - - - - , U - U U - U -

sumukhi laghavaḥ pañca prācyāstato daśamāntimaḥ<sup>1</sup>  
tadanu lalitālāpe varṇau tṛtīyacaturthakau<sup>2</sup> |  
prabhavati punaryatropāntyaḥ sphuratkanakaprabhe<sup>3</sup>  
yatirapi rasairvedairaśvaiḥ smṛtā hariṇīti sā || 38 ||

[Śikhariṇī = 17 syllables]

U - - - - - , U U U U U - - U U U -

yadi prācyo<sup>4</sup> hrasvaḥ kalitakamale<sup>5</sup> pañca guravaḥ<sup>6</sup>  
tato varṇaḥ pañca prakṛtisukumārāṅgi laghavaḥ |  
trayo 'nye copāntyāḥ sutanujaghane<sup>7</sup> bhogasubhage  
rasairīśairyasyām<sup>8</sup> bhavati viratiḥ sā śikhariṇī || 39 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> *daśamāntikam.*

<sup>2</sup> *yadi tricaturdaśau.*

<sup>3</sup> *sphuratkarakaṅkaṇe.*

<sup>4</sup> *yadā pūrvo.*

<sup>5</sup> *kamalanayane.* This footnote has no corresponding reference number in the text.

<sup>6</sup> *ṣaṣṭhakaparāḥ*

<sup>7</sup> *-jaghanā.*

<sup>8</sup> *rudrair-.*

[Pṛthvī = 17 syllables]

U-U-U-U-U, U-U-U-U-U

dvitīyamalikuntale guru ṣaḍaṣṭamadvādaśam<sup>1</sup>  
caturdaśamatha priye guru gabhīranābhīhrade |  
sapañcadaśamāntimam<sup>2</sup> tadanu yatra kānte yatir-  
girīndraphaṇabhṛtkulairbhavati<sup>3</sup> subhru pṛthvīti<sup>4</sup> sā || 40 ||

[Mandākrāntā = 17 syllables]

U-U-U-U-U, U-U-U-U-U

catvāraḥ prāksutānu guravo dvau daśaikādaśau<sup>5</sup> cen-  
mugdhe varṇau tadanu kumudāmodini dvādaśāntyau |  
tadvaccāntyau yugarasahayairyacca<sup>6</sup> kānte virāmo  
mandākrāntām pravarakavayastanvi tām saṁgirante || 41 ||

[Śārdūlavikrīḍita = 19 syllables]

U-U-U-U-U, U-U-U-U-U

ādyam yatra guru trayam<sup>7</sup> priyatame ṣaṣṭham tataścāṣṭamam<sup>8</sup>  
santyekādaśatastrayastadanu<sup>9</sup> cedaṣṭādaśādyāntimāḥ<sup>10</sup> |  
mārtaṇḍairmunibhiṣca yatra viratiḥ pūrṇendubimbānane  
tadvṛtam pravadanti kāvyarasikāḥ śārdūlavikrīḍitam || 42 ||

---

<sup>1</sup> ṣaḍaṣṭamam.

<sup>2</sup> -daśamantikam.

<sup>3</sup> -phaṇi- .

<sup>4</sup> pṛthvī hi.

<sup>5</sup> dvādaśau [in place of dvau daśai-].

<sup>6</sup> -yatra [in place of -yacca].

<sup>7</sup> ādyāścedguravastrayam.

<sup>8</sup> ṣaṣṭhastathā cāṣṭamam.

<sup>9</sup> nanvekādaśa-.

<sup>10</sup> -aṣṭādaśādyau tataḥ.

[Sragdharā = 21 syllables]

-----,-----,-----

catvāro yatra varṇāḥ prathamamalaghavaḥ ṣaṣṭhakaḥ saptamo  
'pi  
dvau tadvatṣoḍaśādyau mṛgamadatilake<sup>1</sup> ṣoḍaśāntyau  
tathāntyau |  
rambhāstambhorukānte munimunimunibhirdṛśyate cedvirāmo  
bāle vandyaiḥ kavīndraiḥ sutanu nigaditā sragdharā sā  
prasiddhā || 43 ||

*iti śrīkālīdāsaviracitaḥ śrutabodhaḥ sūpūrṇaḥ*

---

<sup>1</sup> -*mudite* [in place of -*tilake*].