

Bhawabhuti was an 8th century scholar of India noted for his plays and poetry, written in Sanskrit. His plays are considered equivalent to the works of Kalidasa. Bhawabhuti was born in a Deshastha Brahmin family of Padmapura (Tah.Amgaon) in Gondia district, of Maharashtra . His real name was Srikantha Nilakantha, and he was the son of Nilakantha and Jatukarni. He received his education at 'Padmapawaya', a place about 42 km SW of Gwalior. Paramhans Dnyananidhi is known to be his Guru. He composed his historical plays at 'Kalpi', a place on bank of river Yamuna. He is believed to have been the court poet of King Yashovarman of Kannauj. Kalhana, the 12th century Historian, places him in the entourage of the king, who was defeated by Lalitaditya, King of Kashmir, in 736 AD.

Famous Creations of Bhawabhuti

1. Mahaviracharita (The story of highly courageous young prince), depicting the early life of Rama
2. Malatimadhava a play based on the romance of Malati and Madhava (the story of Rama's later life), depicts Rama's coronation, the abandonment of Sita and their reunion.



Sanskrit Dramatist and Great Poet Bhawabhuti:

Bhawabhuti, the great poet and Sanskrit dramatist, belonged to 8th century. He has composed three Dramas- Mahaveercharit, UttarRamcharit and Malti-Madhav. Out of these three dramas, the first two are based on the story of the great hero Ram and the third one is social. In the beginning of his dramas, Bhawabhuti has given his autobiographical information. He was born in a Krushnayajurvedi Brahman family of Traitreeya branch. His dynasts were Agnihotri. His clan was Kashyap. The names of his Father and Mother were Nilkanth and Jatukarni respectively. Bhawabhuti's pet name was Udumbar and he had acquired the title 'Shrikantha'. Bhawabhuti used the terms 'Shrikanthanpadlanchhan: Bhawabhutinarm' while giving the name of poet in self composed dramas. The critics accepted that as the name of Bhawabhuti's Father was Nilkantha so he must have kept the name of his son as Shrikantha. It is said that Nilkantha (Udumbar) got the name 'Bhawabhuti' after the following beautiful hymn composed by him

का तपस्वी गतो वस्थामिती स्मेताविव स्तनौ /
वन्दे गौतीधनाश्लेषभवभूतिसिताननी //

But, Dr. Mirashi opines that the original name of the poet is Bhawabhuti and he got the title 'Shrikantha' because of his singing style and melodious voice (Shri+ Kantha, where Shri stands for Goddess of literature and Kantha stands for melodious voice) Bhawabhuti composed dramas in the Veer Rasa, Shringar Rasa and Karun Rasa at equal intensity. It shows his command and excellence in Sanskrit Language He has studied thoroughly the Vedas, Upanishads, Swanky and Yoga's. Similarly he has acquired command over so many other subjects such as Grammar, Economics, and Science of logic and

Science of Sex. His Fore fathers were inhabitant of the village Padampur which is situated in Dakshinapatha (this means the South beyond the limits of the Saptasindhu - the region of the culture of the Rig Veda) Dr, Mirashi has proved that present Padampur, nearest to Amgaon town in Gondia District of Vidharbha, is the ancient Padampur. Bhawabhuti was born in this village in the 8th century A.D. His Dramas were enacted in the popular folk-theatre of Kalprianath According to Dr. Mirashi, Kalprianath Means 'Sun' and Kalpriya is the place which is situated on bank of the river Yamuna in the Western Kanauji-'kalpi'. Bhawabhuti migrated to Malwa (a region in western India occupying a plateau of volcanic origin in the western part of Madhya Pradesh state and the south-eastern part of Rajasthan) after getting the Patronage of King Yashoverma of Kanauj. It appears that Bhawabhuti had to struggle a lot in his life to achieve honor and reputation from the style of dramas of Bhawabhuti. It appears that he must be a man of serious and hot-tempered nature. He was confident about his own talent as a poet. After the composition of five acts of Mahavircharit, Bhawabhuti showed this to the contemporary scholars and appreciators for the comments. The scholars declared his drama as of low standard and found out some faults just out of malice against him. Listening to the comments of the scholars, Bhawabhuti got annoyed and said to them

ये नाम केचिदिह नः प्रथयन्तववज्ञां
जानन्ति ते किमपि तान प्रति नैष यत्नः /
उत्पत्सयेते स्ति मम कौ पि समानधर्मा
कालो ह्य निरवाधिर्विपुला च पृथ्वी //

Meaning :- I have not Written this drama for those proudly people who want to humiliate me. I proudly believe, as the time is endless and earth is colossal, that an appreciator, (equivalent with Bhawabhuti) will born in future, will meet me somewhere and will do justice to my intellect. Only such appreciators would evaluate correctly my work. Bhawabhuti left the place Padampur in a fit of anger saying one should not have the company of knowledgeable proudly scholars. After leaving Padampur, Bhawabhuti came directly to the place Padamawati in Madhya-Pradesh. He composed the drama Malti-Madhav in Padamawati itself. The reference of rivers, temples and places of Padamawati are found in Malti-Madhav. All three dramas of Bhawabhuti namely Mahavircharit, Uttarramcharit and Malti-Madhav were enacted on the stage not because of royal patronage but because of communal support.

The great poet Kalidasa tried to cover the helpless life of females in a male dominated society with love of affectionate husband but Bhawabhuti tried to burst out the miseries of the woman. And it is his chief contribution to the dramas. Bhawabhuti's dramas have been translated in other languages.

Mahavircharit in - English

Uttarramcharit in - English and French.

Malti-Madhav in - English, French and German.

Late Shraddhey Laxmanrao Mankar Guruji named the Education Society as Bhawabhuti Shikshan Sanstha with the sole reverence of keeping in memory forever the name of such a great Sanskrit Dramatist and poet Bhawabhuti.