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(*b* Benares, India, *ca.* 1610)

astronomy.

Kamalākara was a scion of a family of astronomers whose origin is traced back to a Mahārāṣṭra Brāhmaṇa, Rāma of the Bhāradvājagotra, who lived in Golagrāma on the west bank of the Godāvārī River (near Pathri, Mahārāṣṭra). Rāma's son was Bhaṭṭācārya, and Bhaṭṭācārya's son was Divākara of Golagrāma, a pupil of Gaṇeśa of Nandod (*b.* 1507). Divākara moved to Benares, where his five sons were born between about 1560 and 1570. Viṣṇu, Mallāri, and Viśvanātha were the main commentators on Gaṇeśa's principal astronomical works. The eldest, Kṛṣṇa, had two sons, of whom Nṛsiṃha (*b.* 1586) continued the family tradition of commenting on Gaṇeśa; the other was Śiva, Nṛsiṃha had four sons: of these Divākara (*b.* 1606), Kamalākara, and Raṅganātha were all noted astronomers in Benares between 1625 and 1675.

Kamalākara, who studied under his elder brother Divākara (himself a pupil of his uncle Śiva), was the leading rival of Munīśvara Viśvarūpa among Benares astronomers. He combined traditional Indian astronomy with Aristotelian physics and Ptolemaic astronomy as presented by Islamic scientists (especially Ulugh Bēg). Following his family's tradition he wrote a commentary, *Manoramā*, on Gaṇeśa's *Grahalāghava* and, like his father, Nṛsiṃha, another commentary on the *Sūryasiddhānta*, called the *Vāsanābhāṣya*, both of which are still unpublished. His chief claims to fame are his *Siddhāntatattvaviveka* (see essay in supplement), written in Benares in 1658, and the later supplement, *Śeṣavāsanā*.

The *Siddhāntatattvaviveka* contains fifteen chapters:

1. On the units of time measurement.
2. On the mean motions of the planets.
3. On the true longitudes of the planets.
4. On the three problems related to diurnal motion.
5. On the diameters and distances of the planets.
6. On the earth's shadow.
7. On the lunar crescent.
8. On the heliacal risings and settings.
9. On the syzygies.
10. On the lunar eclipses.
11. On the solar eclipses.
12. On the planetary transits.
13. On the *pātas* of the sun and moon.
14. On the "great problems."
15. Conclusion.

The *Siddhāntatattvaviveka* has been edited with his own notes by Sudhākara Dube (Dvivedin) (5 vols., Benares Sanskrit Series 1, 2, 3, 6, and 14 [Benares, 1880–1885]; 2nd ed. revised by Muralīdhara Jhā [Benares, 1924–1935]). It was also published with his own commentary by Gangādhara Misra (Lucknow, 1929). The *Śeṣavāsānā* is a collection of additional discussions of various topics in the *siddhāntatattvaviveka*, and is published as an appendix to volume 5 of the Benares Sanskrit Series edition of that work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles on Kamalākara are Sudhākara Dube (Dvivedin), *Gaṇakatarāṅgini* (Benares, 1933), pp. 98–99, repr. from *The Pandit*, n.s. **14** (1892); Ś. B. Dikṣita, *Bhāratiya Jyotiḥśāstra* (Poona, 1896; repr. Poona, 1931), pp. 287–288; Padmākara Dvivedin, “Kamalākaraḥṭṭa,” in *Proceedings of the Benares Mathematical Society*, **2** (1920), 67–80; and D. Pingree, *Census of the Exact Sciences in Sanskrit*, ser. A, II (Philadelphia, 1971), pp. 21–23.

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