

# Sripati | Encyclopedia.com

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(*fl.* Rohinīkhanda, Mahārāstra. India, 1039–1056)

*astronomy, astrology, mathematics.*

Śrīpati, who was the son of Nāgadeva (or Nāmadeva) and the grandson of Keśava of the Kāśyapagotra, is one of the most renowned authorities on astrology in India, although his works on astronomy and mathematics are not negligible: in many he follows the opinions of Lalla (*fl.* eighth century; see essay in Supplement), His numerous works include not only Sanskrit texts but also one of the earliest examples of Marāthī prose extant. They include the following:

1. The *Dhīkotidakarana*, written in 1039, a work in twenty verses on solar and lunar eclipses. There are commentaries by Harikrsna (*fl.* 1708–1714 at Delhi) and Dinakara. The *Dhīkotidakarana* was edited by N. K. Majumdar in *Calcutta Oriental Journal*. **1** (1934). 286–299—see also his “DhīkotiKaranam of Śrīpati,” in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, n.s. **17** (1921), 273–278 —and by K. S. Shukla, in *Rtam*, **1** 1969), supp.

2. The *Dhruvamānasa*, written in 1056, is a short treatise in 105 verses on calculating planetary longitudes, on gnomon problems, on eclipses, on the horns of the moon, and on planetary transits. It is very rare and has not been published

3. The *Siddhāntaśekhara*, a major work on astronomy in nineteen chapters, follows, in general, *the Brāhmapaksa*, The chapters are on the following subjects:

1. Fundamentals.
2. Mean motions of the planets.
3. True longitudes of the planets.
4. On the three questions relating to the diurnal rotation.
5. Lunar eclipses.
6. Solar eclipses.
7. On the syzygies.
8. On the *pātas* of the sun and moon.
9. On first and last appearances.
10. On the moon.
11. On transits of the planets.
12. On conjunctions of the planets with the constellations.
13. Arithmetic.
14. Algebra.
15. On the sphere.
16. On the planetary spheres.
17. On the cause of eclipses.
18. On the projection of eclipses.
19. On astronomical instruments.

A commentary on this work, the *Ganitabhūšana* was composed by Makkibhatta (*fl.* 1377); unfortunately. only the portion on the first four chapters survives. The *Siddhāntaśekhara*, with Makkibhatta’s commentary on chapters 1–4 and the editor’s on chapters 5–19, was edited by Babuāji Miśra 2 vols. (Calcutta, 1932– 1947).

4. The *Ganitatilaka* is a mathematical treatise apparently based on the *Pāṅganita* or *Trīsatikā* of Śrīdhara; there is a commentary by Simhatilaka Sūri; (*fl.* 1269 at Bijāpura, Mysore). Both text and commentary were published by H. R. Kapadia (Baroda, 1937).

5 and 6. The *Jyotisaratnamālā*, in twenty chapters, is the most influential work in Sanskrit on *muhūrta* or catarchic astrology, in which the success or failure of an undertaking is determined from the time of its inception. It is based largely on the *Jyotisaratnamālā* of Lalla. Śrīpati himself wrote a Marāthī commentary on this (edited and studied for its linguistic content by M. G. Panse [Poona, 1957]): but of much greater historical importance is the commentary *Gautamī* composed by Mahādeva in 1263, for it contains numerous citations from lost or little-known astronomical and astrological texts. There are also commentaries by Dāmodara (*Bālāvabodha*), Paramakāraṇa (*Bālābodhinī* in Prākṛt), Śrīdhara (*Śrīdharīya*), and Vaijā Pandita (*Bālāvabodhinī*). The *Jyotisaratnamālā* was published twice with Mahādeva’s *Gautamī*: at Bombay in 1884 and by

Rasikamohana Caṭṭopādhyāya (2nd ed. , Calcutta, 1915). The first six chapters were edited by P. Poucha, “La Jyotiṣaratnamālā ou Guirlande des joyaux d’astrologie de śrīpatibhaṭṭa,” in *Archiv orientální*, 16 (1949), 277-309.

7. The *Jātakapaddhati* or *Śrīpatipaddhati*, in eight chapters, is one of the fundamental textbooks for later Indian genethliology, contributing an impressive elaboration to the computation of the strengths of the planets and astrological places. It was enormously popular, as the large number of manuscripts, commentaries, and imitations attests. The more important of these commentaries are Sūryadeva Yajvan (b. 1191), *Jātakāṅkāra*; Parameśvara (ca. 1380-1460); Acyuta (fl. 1505-1534), *Bhāvārthamanjarī*-see D. Pingree, *Census of the Exact Sciences in Sanskrit*, ser. A, I (Philadelphia, 1970), 36a-36b; Krsna (fl. 1600-1625), whose udāharana was edited by J. B. Chaudhuri (Calcutta, 1955)- see also D. Pingree, *Census*, 11 (Philadelphia, 1971), 53a-55b; Sumatiharsa Gani (fl. 1615); Mādhava; and Raghunātha. Acyuta Piṣārati (ca. 1550-1621; see D. Pingree, *Census*, 1, 36b-38b) wrote an imitation. the *Horāsāroccava*. The *Jātakapaddhati* was edited with an English translation by V. Subrahmanya Sastri (Bombay, 1903; 4th ed. , Bangalore, 1957).

8. A *Daivajnarallabha* on astrology, in fifteen chapters, sometimes is attributed to Sripati and sometimes to Varāhamihira (fl. ca. 550); its real author remains unknown. It was published with the Hindī translation, *Subodhinī*, of Nārāyaṇa (fl. 1894) at Bombay in 1905, in 1915-1916, and in 1937.

There is no reliable discussion of Śrīpati or study of his works.

David Pingree