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## DECLARATION

I, Nabanita Sarma bearing Registration Number Ph.D./1803/2012 Dated – 11.04.2012, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled “THE VASIṢṬHA DHARMA-SŪTRA : A SOCIO –CULTURAL STUDY” is the record of work done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University / Institute.

Place :

(Nabanita Sarma)

Date :

## **PREFACE**

The utterance of a famous poet runs thus,

*kothāy svarga kothāy narak ke bale tā bahudūr |*

*mānuṣer mājhe svarga-narak mānuṣete surāsur ||*

Indian Judiciary has its roots in the themes of the Dharmaśāstras, the resemblance of both Dharmasūtras and the *Smṛti* works. The word *Dharma* can be used in many senses. In the Judiciary it is used as Law. In ancient time, the very word is used in the sense of righteousness or code of conduct or duties of every individuals etc.

Man as a social animal, it has inborn and acquired instincts. Due to the influence of those instincts people are compelled to divert themselves from their peaceful behavioural life. Dharmaśāstras are such type of works which help them to control their instincts and to lead a healthy and peaceful behavioural life.

When I was a student in the Graduation level, my immediate elder sister was a student of LLB Course. She had a paper on the Hindu Law and she had discussed many points and had taken many materials from my studies. Even we had discussed the ancient laws through the modern views. At that time the wonderful activities of the ancient Law makers arrested my attention. Basically, I would like to do research in the status of women in the *Dharmaśāstra* works. So, when I get the chance to study on the *Vasiṣṭha*

*Dharmasūtra*, I think my desire will partially come in true. But after the study, I feel that Vasiṣṭha's views are more different in comparison with the other *Dharmasūtra* works.

In fact with high intellect, astounding talent, extra ordinary knowledge about human psychology, depth in human conduct, sound knowledge of penology and exact feelings about the need of society, the Great Vasiṣṭha has enlisted some code of conduct for the welfare of the human race. The present research work seeks to focus a pen picture about the social and cultural aspects enlightened in the *Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra* with the touch of the contemporary views.

In fine, I must add that I am fully conscious of the probable shortcomings in my work. I, however, humbly submit here –

*dr̥ṣṭam̐ kimapi lokesmin*

*na nirdoṣam̐ na nirguṇam̐ |*

*āvṛṇudhvamoto doṣān*

*nivṛṇudhvaṃ guṇān budhāḥ ||*

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Place: Assam University, Silchar

Nabanita Sarma

Date:

## SCHEME OF TRANSLITERATION

### VOWELS

अ = A	ऋ = R̄
आ = Ā	ए = E
इ = I	ऐ = Ai
ई = Ī	ऑ = O'
उ = U	औ = Au
ऊ = Ū	

### CONSONENTS

क = K	त = T	ष = Ś
ख = Kh	थ = Th	स = S
ग = G	द = D	ह = H
घ = Gh	ध = Dh	क्ष = Kś
ङ = ṅ	न = N	Anusvāra [·] = Ṃ
च = C	प = P	Visarga [ː] = Ḥ
छ = Ch	फ = Ph	त्र = Tra
ज = J	ब = B	ज्ञ = Jñ
झ = Jh	भ = Bh	Avagraha (s) = O'
ञ = Ñ	म = M	
ट = Ṭ	य = Y	
ठ = Ṭh	र = R	
ड = Ḍ	ल = L	
ढ = Ḍh	व = V	
ण = Ṇ	श = Ś	

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>A.B.</i>	:	<i>Aitareya Brāhmaṇa.</i>
<i>ĀDS</i>	:	<i>Āpastamba Dharma Sūtra.</i>
<i>AV.</i>	:	<i>Atharvaveda.</i>
<i>ĀŚV. Gr.</i>	:	<i>Āśvalāyana Gr̥hyasūtra..</i>
<i>BDS</i>	:	<i>Baudhāyana Dharma Sūtra.</i>
<i>Bṛ.Up.</i>	:	<i>Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad.</i>
chapt.	:	Chapter.
<i>Ch.Up.</i>	:	<i>Chāndogya Upaniṣad.</i>
ed/Ed.	:	Edition
Edt/edt.	:	Edited.
fn.	:	foot note.
<i>GDS</i>	:	<i>Gautama Dharma Sūtra.</i>
GB.	:	Govindasvāmin's commentary on <i>BDS</i> .
H. G.	:	Haradatta's Commentary on <i>GDS</i> .
<i>HOD</i>	:	<i>History of Dharmasāstra</i> by P.V. Kane.
<i>Kau. Gr.</i>	:	<i>Kauṣitakī Gr̥hyasūtra.</i>
<i>M. S.</i>	:	<i>Manu Smṛti.</i>
M.W.	:	<i>Sanskrit English Dictionary</i> by Monier Williams.
MB.	:	Maskari-bhāṣya, Commentary on <i>GDS</i> .
<i>Mai. S.</i>	:	<i>Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā</i>
<i>NS</i>	:	<i>Narada Smṛti.</i>
<i>PMS</i>	:	<i>Pūrvmīmāṃsāsūtra</i>

p.	:	Page.
pp.	:	Pages
pub./Pub.	:	Published
<i>RV.</i>	:	<i>Ṛgveda.</i>
<i>Śān. Gr.</i>	:	<i>Sāṅkhāyana Gṛhyasūtra..</i>
<i>T.A.</i>	:	<i>Taittirīya Āraṇyaka.</i>
<i>T.S.</i>	:	<i>Taittirīya Saṁhitā.</i>
UĀ	:	Ujvalā, Harradatta's Commentary on <i>ĀDS.</i>
<i>VDS</i>	:	<i>Vasiṣṭha Dharma Sūtra.</i>
<i>VS.</i>	:	<i>Viṣṇu Smṛti.</i>
<i>Vi. DS</i>	:	<i>Viṣṇu Dharmasūtra.</i>
<i>Yāj. S.</i>	:	<i>Yājñavalkya Smṛti.</i>



# CONTENTS

	<i>Page No</i>
• <i>DECLARATION</i>	I
• <i>CERTIFICATE</i>	II
• <i>PREFACE</i>	III - IV
• <i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</i>	V - VI
• <i>SCHEME OF TRANSLITERATION</i>	VII
• <i>ABBREVIATIONS</i>	VIII - IX
• <i>CONTENTS</i>	X - XIV
<b><u>CHAPTER- I</u> : INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1 – 40</b>
: Meaning of <i>Dharma</i> .	3 – 5
: A Brief introduction of the concept of <i>Dharmasūtra</i> and <i>Dharmaśāstra</i> .	5 - 8
: Contents and importance of the <i>Dharmasūtras</i> .	8 – 9
: A brief description of the <i>Dharmasūtra</i> works- <i>Gautama Dharmasūtra, Āpastamba Dharmasūtra, Baudhāyana Dharmasūtra, Viṣṇu Dharmasūtra, Hiranyakeśin Dharmasūtra, Sāṅkha Likhita Dharmasūtra, Vaiikhānasa Dharmasūtra, Auśanasa Dharmasūtra and Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i> .	9 - 27
: Importance of the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	27 - 30
: Position of <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i> in the field of <i>Dharmasūtra</i> works.	31 - 34
: Date and authorship of <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	34 - 36
: Commentaries of the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	36
: Objective of the study.	37
<b><u>CHAPTER- II</u> : SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE <i>VASIṢṬHA DHARMA-SŪTRA</i></b>	<b>41 - 114</b>
: Cast System	42 -43
: Duties of four castes.	43 - 45
: Privileges of Brāhmaṇas	46 - 47

: Mixed Varṇas	48
: Occupations of the four Varṇas.	48 - 50
: Education System	50 - 52
: Suspension of Vedic recitation.	52 - 54
: A student's code of conduct towards his teacher.	54 - 56
: Marriage System	56
: Forms of marriage.	56 - 57
: Age for marriage	57 - 58
: Rules for selection of bride and bride-groom	58 - 59
: Divorce and remarriage.	59 - 60
: Social Rights	60 - 61
: Right to education	61 - 63
: Right to occupation	63 - 64
: Right to Participation in administration	64 - 65
: Right to Private Property	66 - 67
: Right to Justice.	67 - 68
: Status of woman in the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	68 - 69
: Position of woman as a mother	69 - 70
: Position of woman as a widow	70 - 72
: Prostitution.	72
: Purification of woman	72 - 73
: Kingship as observed in the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	73 - 75
: Appointment procedure of king	75
: Qualification of king	75
: Duties and responsibilities of king	75 - 77
: Economic policy of the Government	77 - 79
: Control of Economy	80
: Judiciary	80 - 82
: Crime and Punishment in the light of the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	82 - 83
: Causes of crimes	83 - 86
: Punishment	86
: Condition for consideration of punishment	86
: Methods of Punishment	86 - 90

: Punishment and woman	90 - 91
: Punishment and Brāhmaṇas	91 - 92
: Sins and Penances as found in the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	92 - 94
: Principal grievous sins	94
: Other sins	94
: Penances	94 - 95
: Penances for Killing	95 - 96
: Penances for killing other animals	97
: Penances for killing animals with bones.	97
: Penances for sexual sins	97
: Exemption from penances	97
: Penances for secret sins	98
: Vasiṣṭha Prescribes the study of the Vedas as expiation	98 - 99
: Other Methods of Penances	99
: Arduous Penances	99 - 100
: Luner Penance	100 - 101
: Miscellaneous Penances.	101 - 102
: Generic Penances	103 - 104
: Conclusion.	104

<b><u>CHAPTER- III</u> :</b>	<b>CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE <i>VASIṢṬHA</i> <i>DHARMA-SŪTRA</i></b>	<b>115 - 151</b>
: Religion		115 - 116
: Regarding Customs		116
: Rituals		117 - 121
: Guests.		121
: Superstation.		122 - 123
: Food habits in the Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra		123 - 134
: Four Stages of life		134 - 135
: Brahmacārin		135 - 139
: Householder		140 - 141
: Forest Hermit		141 - 142

	: Wandering Mendicants	142 - 144
	: Dress Code	144 - 145
<b><u>CHAPTER- IV</u></b>	<b>SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE <i>VASIṢṬHA</i> <i>DHARMA-SŪTRA</i></b>	<b>152 - 189</b>
	: Structure of <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	152 - 153
	: Style and language	154 - 155
	: Vedic origin of <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	155 - 156
	: Interpolations of the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	156 - 158
	: Significance of contents of the <i>Vasiṣṭha</i> <i>Dharmasūtra</i>	158 - 159
	: Use of Peculiar words in the <i>Vasiṣṭha</i> <i>Dharmasūtra</i>	159 - 164
	: No Uniformity of texts	164 - 166
	: Genuine and spurious	166 - 173
	: The flora and fauna in the <i>Vasiṣṭha Dharmasūtra</i>	174 - 186
	: Conclusion	186 - 187
<b>CHAPTER - V</b>	<b>CONCLUDING OBSERVATION</b>	190 - 199
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		200 - 213