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## **Pramanasamuccaya: Study of a Lost Text**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Pramāṇa-samuccaya is a seminal work that was authored by Dignaga, often hailed as the father of Indian Mediaeval Logic. It serves as a testament to the profundity of Indian philosophical thought. Unfortunately, Dignaga's original Sanskrit works are not extant, only leaving behind scant fragments that have been collected and published by H. N. Randle. However, our primary access to these texts is through Tibetan translations. The commendable and tireless efforts of H. R. Rangaswamy Iyengar marked a significant milestone as he presented the Tibetan text alongside the Sanskrit restoration of the Pramāṇa-samuccaya, complete with critical notes, to the public eye for the very first time.

Subsequently, scholars from the United States and Canada, such as Richard P. Hayes and Radhika Harzber, have undertaken the herculean task of rendering partial fragments of this work from Tibetan back into Sanskrit. Richard Hayes has based his translations on Kanakavarman's Tibetan rendition of the Pramāṇa-samuccaya titled Tshad ma kun las bdus pa. Another translation of the same was done by Vasudhararakṣita. However, the complexity of these Tibetan translations, coupled with their differing interpretations of Dignaga's teachings, has posed considerable challenges for scholars. To navigate this intricacy, Hayes heavily relied on the Tibetan translation of the sub-commentary (tika) by Jinendrabuddhi. This text that is composed in verses and unfolds across six chapters viz; (1) Pratyakṣa; (2) Svarthanumana; (3) Pararthanumana; (4) Drstanta Parikṣa; (5) Anyapoha- parikṣa and (6) Jai- Parikṣa. This work was extremely influential throughout India both within the Buddhist world and beyond. Its contents set the agenda for philosophical debate for many centuries after it was written. In recent developments, Professor Ernst Steinkellner has made significant strides in reconstructing two Paricchedas (sections) of the Pramanasamuccaya from Tibetan into Sanskrit. His ongoing research endeavours to complete the restoration for the remaining Paricchedas, promising to further illuminate the enduring legacy of Dignaga's profound contributions to Indian philosophy.