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by Csaba Dezső 2004
This thesis contains a critical edition and annotated translation of the Ágama-
dambara, a four act play by Bhaṭṭa Jayanta. The Ágama-dambara is a unique
college-drama written by an eminent ninth century Kashmirian naiyāyika philo-
sopher, which gives a comprehensive picture of the contemporary religious de-
bates as well as the ‘Religionspolitik’ of the royal court.

The introduction provides an account of Bhaṭṭa Jayanta’s life and works,
placed in the intellectual and historical context of his time. The question of
conservative versus pragmatic attitude towards the heterodox religious schools
is also dealt with.

The introduction next examines what makes Jayanta’s play so unique and
unorthodox. It also considers the phenomenon of ‘philosophical plays’ in the
light of the discussions on the nature and relation of poetry and śāstra, doctrinal
or scientific literature. An analysis of the dominant aesthetic mood (rasa) of
the play closes this section.

There follows a description of the sources consulted for the text of the
Ágama-dambara. These comprise two manuscripts in Jaina Devanāgarī script,
and the editio princeps. The methodology of the edition of the Prakrit passages
in classical Indian dramas in general and in the Ágama-dambara in particular is
also discussed.

Three registers of apparatus contain variants to the accepted text of the play,
a Sanskrit translation (chāya) of the Prakrit sentences, and testimonia from
Jayanta’s magnum opus, the Nyāyamañjari. In the notes to the translation the
reader will find long quotations from various Sanskrit works. The aim of these
quotations is to place Jayanta’s ideas in the intellectual context of his age and
thereby to make their interpretation more accurate.