

Abstract of PhD thesis entitled

A Text-Critical Study of Arjunamiśra's Commentary *Bhāratārthadīpikā* on *Rājadharmā* of the *Vaiyāsika-Mahābhārata*

By

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This doctoral research undertakes the preparation of a text-critical edition of *Bhāratārthadīpikā* (BhDī) also known as *Bhāratārthapradīpikā*, *Mahābhāratārthadīpikā*, *Mahābhāratapradīpikā*, *Mahābhāratārthapradīpikā*, *Bhāratasaṁgrahadīpikā*, *Mahābhāratārthasaṁgrahadīpikā*, *Bhāratabhāvārthadīpikā* and *Mahābhāratabhāvārthasaṁgrahadīpikā*, an unpublished Sanskrit commentary by Arjunamiśra on the *Rājadharmā* section of the *Vaiyāsika-Mahābhārata* (VMbh). Arjunamiśra, an early commentator predating the renowned Nīlakaṇṭhaśarman, remains largely unstudied in modern scholarship. His work, praised by Haraprasāda Shāstrī, offers valuable insight into pre-modern exegesis and the intellectual traditions of Bengal. Though scholars have variably dated him to the 13th or 15th century CE, Arjunamiśra is known to cite earlier commentators such as Devabodha, Vimalabodha and Śāṅḍilya, as well as his father Īśānacandra-Pāṭhaka. Despite its historical and philological significance, *Bhāratārthadīpikā* survives in only two known manuscripts – neither recorded in the *New Catalogus Catalogorum* (NCC) – housed at the Howrah Sanskrit Sahitya Samaj and The Sanskrit College and University, respectively. This research aims to critically edit and analyze the commentary, shedding light on its textual tradition and its contribution to the literary-cultural history of Bengal and the broader exegetical landscape of the VMbh.