

Interpretation of a Passage in the *Bhagavadajjukīya*

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In the well-known farce *Bhagavadajjukīya* by Mahendravi-kramavarman (7th cent. A.C), the Yama's agent taking with him the snatched away life of the courtesan, describes the route he traverses to reach Yama's land in the following verse. (no.25) :

गङ्गामुतीर्य विन्ध्यं शुभ-सलिल-वर्हां नर्मदामेष सह्यं
गोलेयीं कृष्णवेण्यां पशुपति-भवनं सुप्रयोगां च काञ्चीम् ।
कावेरीं ताम्रपर्णीमथ मलयगिरिं सागरं लङ्घयित्वा ।
वेगादुतीर्य लङ्कां पवन-सम-गतिः प्राप्तवान् धर्म-देशम् ॥

Lockwood and Bhat have understood *goleyiṃ* as qualifying *Kṛṣṇaveṅṇā* and meaning 'whirling'.

The translations of Beloni-Filippi, Van Buitenin and C. Minakshi are not accessible to me. I think *goleyiṃ* (better *gauleyiṃ*) here is a synonym of the river Godāvāri on the following grounds.

The river Godāvāri is also known as Godā in later Sanskrit. Its Prakrit form *golā* has been widely used, and adopted in late Sanskrit also. In medieval literature Golla is known as the name of a country. Probably it is based on *golya*, 'the country around the river Golā'. *golla-* occurs in Hemacandra's *Parīṣiṣṭaparvan* (8,194) (MW) and in Prakrit in Malayagiri's commentary on the *Āvaśyaka* (PSM). In the *Rāula-vela* (in a mixture of Late Apabhraṁśa and Early Indo-Aryan), datable in P. 12 cent. A.C. occur *golla* 'a person from the Golla country' and *gollā* 'a girl from the Golla country'.

In view of this *gauleyi* in the third line of the cited verse can be taken to mean the river of the Golya country. It is in line with the other river names occurring in the verse : Gaṅgā, Narmadā, Kṛṣṇā/Kṛṣṇaveṅṇā, Kāveṛī and Tāmraparṇī.

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References : Bhagavadajjukīya. Ed., Anujan Accan. 1925.

King Mahendravarman's plays. Edited and Translated by M. Lockwood, A. Vishnu Bhat. 1978, 1991.

(The Preface and the Bibliography give information about other editions and translations of the Bhagavadajjukīya).

Rāula-vela of Roḍā. Ed. H. C. Bhayani. 1994.

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