

Benoy Kumar Sarkar, *The positive background of Hindu Sociology*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, Varanasi, Patna, Madras, 1985, pp. 697. Rs. 200/-

The work is mainly an analytical study of Śukrāchārya's code, so that the data of Hindu Sociology collected here reflect generally those phases of Indian cultural evolution which have influenced the authors of the Śukra cycle. This positive background of Hindu Sociology, therefore, is more or less a statical picture, and represents chiefly such landmarks in the culture-history of the Hindus as are embodied in the single document Śukraniti.

The introduction to Śukraniti has been called the Positive Background of Hindu Sociology, because Śukraniti as a Nitiśāstra, Arthaśāstra, Bhārmaśāstra, or Dharmasutra deals mainly with the topics implied by such Hindu Categories as Dharma (Morals), Artha (Interests) and Kāma (Desires and Passions) as opposed to Moksa (Salvation); and hence a study in Śukraniti should properly be a study in the non-moksa or non-transcendental and non-mystical i.e.; the secular, worldly, materialistic and 'positive' elements of Hindu social economy.