

915.4
G191e

The Legacy of India, G. T. Garratt. Oxford, 1937 (reproduced lithographically by University Press, Oxford, 1962)

Language and Literature - Buddhism, Jainism, etc.

p. 191 "But what the world in general, which has limited time for becoming acquainted with all its religious writings, will feel to be its best excuse for not penetrating far into the canonical texts of these two noble-hearted faiths is their intolerable and pedantic reiteration, which recalls, and possibly has some internal affinity with, the proceedings of primary schools.

p. 53 The Rig-Veda . . . doubtless the earliest literary monument of Indo-European speech, is in fact a hymn-book, apparently in a second edition.

Contra
3.61-6¹⁰

p. 68 The Mahābhārata in its present dimensions, as a work of 100,000 couplets, existed as early, it seems, as, say, the fifth century A.D., in all probability considerably earlier, since it set, no doubt, the fashion in respect of that size. The vast accretions of didactic matter, due to Brahmanic rāmanements, which have been tacked on to the original story, may belong to the same period (say 100 B.C. - A.D. 200) as the foreign race-names, Yavana, Saka, Pahlava, which have elsewhere also found entrance. But the original Bhārata and Mahābhārata ^{poem} mentioned in the Vedic Sutra literature, is probably far older even than the Rāmāyana; and the beginnings of its tradition, in the form of bardic lays, will naturally have been not greatly posterior to the actual conflict.

p. 68 It is not possible to omit here a mention of a portion of the Mahābhārata, the most celebrated of all, which in India enjoys an ever-growing religious authority and which is fast becoming a world-Classic. If the position of Krishna is an essential feature in the story as it finally took shape, then the Bhagavad-gītā, 'The Song of the Holy One', is the core of the whole epic. It is one of those ambiguous compositions, wherein a fusion of poetical and religious inspiration presents obstacles to a clear critical judgement.