

**Hon'ble Sh. Surinder
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FOREWORD

“Tales of the Valley” is a compilation of stories based on Rajtarangini and Nilmat Puran.

Rajtarangini (“The River of Kings”) is a metrical historical chronicle of north-western India subcontinent particularly the kings of Kashmir, written in Sanskrit by Kashmiri Brahman Kalhana in 12th century.

The Rajtarangini provides the earliest source on Kashmir that can be labeled as “historical” text on this region. The broad valley of Kashmir, also spelled Cashmeer is almost completely surrounded by the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range.

Kalhana states that the valley of Kashmir was formerly a lake. This was drained by the great rishi or sage, Kashyapa, son of Marichi, Son of Brahma, by cutting the gap in the hills at Baramulla, derived from Sanskrit (Boar’s Molar), (Veraha) meaning Boar+ (Mula) meaning deep or root.

The Nilamata Purana is an ancient text (6th to 8th century AD) from Kashmir which contains information on its history, geography, religion and folklore. It was used by Kalhana as one of sources of his history.

According to the historian Ved Kumari Gai: “If the Rajatarangini is important from the point of view of the political history of ‘Kasmira’, the Nilamata is no less important for the cultural history of that part of the country.”

The Author has compiled the best of the stories from these two epic masterpieces of Kashmir history which will help the future generations in a great deal in understanding their glorified history which shall eventually culminate in a thoughts process of connecting to the roots I wish Author and the publisher of this magnificent compilation a great success for their future.

*Sd/-
Surinder Ambardar
Member
J&K Legislative Council*