

**Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada
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**SEM III Course No 09 Indian Poetics
Unit I**

**(A) Historical Perspective: Origin
and Growth of Sanskrit Poetics**

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True Poetry –distinguished by three things:

- A certain peculiar diction
- Subject matter
- The spirit in which it approaches the handling of its themes
- Rgveda- distinction between ordinary speech and poetic speech- i) poets have to pick and choose words ii) poetry leads to bliss and glory

-Kavya (poem) & Gatha (a verse that is sung) in *Rgveda*

- 500 BC to 100 BC- growth of Sanskrit Poetics

i) Speculations about the functions and objects of poetry

ii) classification of different kinds of poetry and literary works- attempts to establish a theory of poetics and literary criticism. –

a) Composition of secular poetry
b) Elaboration of rules -proceeded

- A theory of poetics –must have evolved before 2nd Century AD
- Kavya divided into Gadya & Padya ii) Gunas, Alamkrata mentioned.
- Samudragupta –Kaviraja
- Panini's mention of *Natyasutras*
- Earlier works of Poetics –
Kavyalamkara- works of Bhamaha, Vamana and Rudrata-
Alamkaras played an important part in the treatment of Poetics.

-Vamana's *Kavyalamkara-sutra*- Two uses of Alamkara-

- i) *a thing of beauty*
- ii) *A figure of speech*

-Dandin's *Kavyadarsa* -

elucidation of *Sabda & Artha*

-- *Kavya-laksana*

-- *Dhvanyaloka* also mentions of *Kavya-laksana*

- Another word for Poetics is **Sahitya** - i) **Sahitya**-literature in general ii) **Kavya**- like nectar from ocean of **Sahitya**
- **Sahitya-sastra, Mimamsa**
- Before 900 AD word **Sahitya** came to be used as 'the science of Poetics'
- **Sahitya**- derived from **Sahita** meaning 'together'.
- Poetry defined as 'Sabdarthu Sahitau Kavyam' (the word and meaning together constitute poetry)

-**Rajsekhara**- the science of perfect union between word and meaning -'Sabdarthayoh yathavatsaha bhavena vidya'

-**Bhamaha**- 'Sabdarthu Sahitau Kavyam'

-**Kuntaka's Vakroktijivita** proposes union between Sabda and Artha

- In order to constitute real Kavya, the Sahitya (union) of Sabda and Artha is required to possess peculiar charm

-The soul of poetry- various powers of word and its relation to Artha

- *Three Vrttis- Abhidha, Laksana and Vyangya*

- *Three kinds of Artha- Vacya, Laksya, and Vyangya*