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Mattavilasa Prahasana (Text, English Translation With Introduction)

By N.P. Unni

Nag Publishers, Delhi, India, 1998. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. The earliest farcical sketch in one Act, the Mattavilasa or 'Diversion of the Drunk' of King Mahendrvikramavarman of Kanchi, depicts the drunken revelry of a Saiva mendicant bearing A Human skull in lieu of an alms-bowl and accordingly calling himself a Kapalin; his wanderings with his wench through the purlieus of Kanchi on his way to a tavern; his scuffle with a hypocritical Buddhist monk whom he accuses of the theft of the precious bowl; his appeal to degenerate Pasupata to settle the dispute and the final recovery of the bowl from a lunatic who has retrieved it from a stray dog. The Prahasana is a remarkably smart production of the genre, replete with mirth and satire and the characters are vigorously drawn throwing a flood of light on the life of the time. The royal author who calls himself 'Vicitracitta' holds to ridicule the sham priests and mendicants of various religious sects. The work is here critically edited with an English translation and detailed introduction giving an account how the farce is staged in the reformed temple theatres of Kerala by Cakyars" during the...



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