

The Cambridge History of India.

The epic was composed not by one person nor even by one generation, but by several; it is primarily the story of an historic incident told by the glorifier of kings, the domestic priest and the bard, who are often one.

- p. 275      Whether the genealogical lists of the epic may impart trustworthy information is a second question of importance. It has been answered affirmatively by Mr. Pargiter in the second of his valuable papers on the epic<sup>1</sup>, Ancient Indian Genealogies and Chronology (J.R.A.S., 1910, p.1), though with due conservatism in view of the contradictions in the epic itself. The later lists found in the Puranas may be combined with epic data to make a fairly consistent chronological table, but there remains much to be taken for granted. Although the names of kings are given, the length of their reigns must be assumed on some common basis. On the probability that the average length of a Hindu reign was fifteen years and on the assumption that unimportant kings have been omitted once in so often from some of the lists, Mr Pargiter, taking the most complete list of the Solar dynasty as his guide finds that a period of fourteen hundred years intervened between the first king, 'son of Manu' (Ikshvāku) and the great war; . . . . .
- p. 276