

TATTVA-MUKTĀ-KALĀPA FOREWORD

Dr. P. Rāmānujan, Programme Co-ordinator, Indian Heritage Group,
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Bangalore (KP)

It is well-known that Śrīman Nigamānta Mahādeśika was the preceptor par excellence who protected Bhagavad Rāmānuja Darśana from attacks by other religious schools of thought and established its being on a sound logical footing, by taking on various roles as alternately elaborating, clarifying, enhancing, defending and offending as the situation demanded, through his numerous, scholarly treatises.

It is said that of his well over a hundred works, his omniscience is demonstrated in the text Tattva-Muktā-Kalāpa, (lit. an ornament of pearls of realities) as seen in 'Sarvajñatvaṃ Tattvamuktākalāpe....' Due to the style of this work of 500 verses being poetic, verses being strung in the majestic but tough Sragdharā metre (having 21 syllables per quarter), subject being hard logic and philosophy, method used being very minute and impassioned analysis of scriptural sources and requiring a very high calibre of intellectual alertness to fully comprehend and enjoy its true import, this text has proved a difficult one to master. However, this has been on the wish-list of many an adherent of Viśiṣṭādvaita philosophy for long.

There has been a very keenly felt need to have its content rendered in a local language, especially Tamil, for better comprehension by lay persons, but valid apprehensions have remained about its authenticity or possibility by any scholar not exceptionally well-versed in the subject and the languages concerned. It would be like a golden lotus having fragrance, if one could produce such a translation, rich in preservation of content but converted into easily understandable form.

We are fortunate to have a young but highly erudite scholar, most eminently qualified for the task on hand and more so that he has chosen to accomplish the task. We now receive with boundless joy, the translation of Tattva-Muktā-Kalāpa, into Tamil, by Mahavidvan Navalpakkam Dr. V. Vasudevachar, that is at once enjoyable and preserving the original rigour, with many helpful explanatory notes, besides word-to-word and summary meanings in appropriate form. The first volume covering first three sara-s (225 verses) was released earlier and now the second and concluding part, covering buddhi and adravya sara-s (275 verses), is being released.

As per the dictum, yeṣām trīṇyapadānāni yonir vidyā ca karma ca, abhijanavidyā-samudetam samāhitam, yatrāṣṭākṣarasamsiddho mahābhāgo mahīyate, Dr. Vasudevachar is the grandson of Somayaji Mahavidvan Sri Kothimangalam Narayanacharya Swami paternally and son of the stalwart scholar, presidentawardee Mahavidvan Sri Varadacharya Swami. He is the grandson of the revered Madhurantakam Swamy on the maternal side. His own traditional learning from greats like Sri Ayya Swami of Navalpakkam and mastery in Nyāya, Veda, Veda Bhāṣya, Vedānta, Alaṅkāra etc. qualify him amply for the

task he has undertaken. He has been participating in many Śāstra vidvat sadas and contributing to Sampradāya appreciably. We would benefit by revering such great personalities and learning the nuances of the great philosophy of Bhagavad Rāmānuja from qualified Ācārya-s, through such valuable books meant to elucidate them.

I have had a good acquaintance with the author and his commendable service to society through his masterly writings on Vedic stories in Sri Nrisimha Priya etc., audio cassettes on many philosophical texts, academic teaching and research activities besides following the austere lifestyle of a Paramaikāntin to the core. We, at C-DAC, under a national project called Tārksya, have made available, a 2-hour video lecture as sample of his scholarship at the URL - <http://ihg.cdacb.in/ihg> on this very text, wherein, he has summarised in a nutshell, the tenets of the five sara-s, with an illustrative verse from each of them.

I wish the author many more such laudable and successful ventures and pray Lord Lakṣmī-Hayagrīva to bless him for the same. I also wholeheartedly recommend for all interested in knowing authentically about the tenets of Bhagavad Rāmānuja's Viśiṣṭādvaita philosophy.

ŚUBHAMASTU

