

FOREWORD

This volume VII of the complete works of Dr. K.C. Varadachari is the third one covering his extensive study of the system of Visisadvaita. The author through the articles in this volume has given a constructive and creative interpretation of the system of Visistadvaita so beautifully and eminently presented by Sri Bhagavad Ramanuja, to bring out a living method of spiritual realization consonant with the spiritual teaching of the Vedas, Vedanta, Pancharatra Agama and the Prabandams of the Alwars. Sri Ramanujas' greatest achievement was a synthesis of different streams of knowledge and giving a philosophy, which is acceptable to the ordinary people and the scholars. We find in Sri Ramanuja a person anticipating the aspirations of the common people who have their own approach to the ever near God and who gave the place equal to the Vedas to the songs of the Divine Inspired persons called Alwars (who dive deep into the Ocean of Grace) and thus paved a way to casteless society as early as a thousand years ago. Since the Alwars were Dravidians the acceptance by the Priestly class through the length and breadth of the Country, of this double Vedanta or Ubhaya Vedanta was mixed. None the less the effort was phenomenal and unimaginably courageous.

The author deals with the concept of God with a thoroughness that he alone is capable of with a background of scholarship in Anthropology, Religion and Philosophy. His discussion of the philosophical aspect of the Idea of God in the Darsanas is very interesting and instructive, lucid and ever illuminating. The exposition of Tadvanam as Brahman is a unique exposition in the subject. The author holds that view of God expounded in the Pancharatra agama as the one which satisfies all and it is the most comprehensive one.

The author discusses the various aspects of Bhakti and succeeds in bringing out the intricacies in the practice of Bhakti. To persons who feel there is

nothing about Bhakti to be discussed or researched, the work of Dr. K.C. Varadachari is bound to be an eye opener. As person always seeking the Truth the author has literally swam through the literature and has coupled it with his own experiences in the filed of Bhakti and yoga.

The chapter on Saranagati is unique in discussing the philosophy and ontology of Surrender. He dares to raise many issues in the subject of surrender. He dares to raise many issues in the subject of surrender as a means under the topic 'Saranagati – certain questions and doubts'/ in these we find a scholar seeker after the Ultimate Truth.

This volume is a valuable contribution to the study of Indian Thought and Comparative Religion. The author succeeds in presenting how partial views are synthesized in the lofty ethical theism of Sri Ramanuja and how Sri Ramanuja Darsana is a philosophy of society and peace. This volume may be considered a unique contribution to the philosophy of Visistadvaita.

I consider it a privilege to write a foreword for this volume and thank the publishers for the honor done to me by requesting me again to write the foreword for another book on Visistadvaita. It was a rare privilege for me to have been the sole student of this great teacher, in the Post Graduate class in Philosophy specializing in Visistadvaita. I have been a close associate of him not as just a son but a student and disciple of this Master who was blessed with enviable oration, diction, sophistry and schloraship. The rewards of such an association are too many to count and I can say boldly I am what I am because of him in every sense of that word. Sri Ramchandra Publishers deserve all our thanks and gratitude for publishing yet another noble book.

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