

## FOREWORD

On the auspicious occasion of the birth centenary of Late Ghanapāṭhī, Vidvān, Sri U.Ve. Śohattūr Tirumalai Nallān Chakravarti Parāṅkuśācārya Svāmi, on 19.1.2005, it is my pleasant privilege to express my humble salutations to many revered scholars who have spontaneously offered to help us in the conduct of the celebrations in various ways. It is nothing but the divine grace of Lord Lakṣmī Nṛsiṃha, his mobile form HH Śrīmad Azhahiyasingar, HH Śrīmad Parakāla Svāmi, HH Śrī Raṅgapriya Svāmi, and a whole galaxy of eminent scholars of infinite erudition and compassion that we are able to present this offering of invaluable, in-depth articles of extraordinary scholarship both about the subject of the celebrations, i.e., Śrī Parāṅkuśācār Svāmi, as also diverse range of subjects in many languages.

We have, as the **contents** indicate, in all about 35 articles in four major languages, viz. Sanskrit, Tamil, Kannada and English. There is a small sample of a Prakṛtam contribution too (p. 56). A portion of an article is in Telugu script (as presented by the author - pp. 27-28) with Devanagari rendering following.

At the outset, the three Yativara-s aforesaid have graced the souvenir with their **benedictions** and noble words about the Śatamānotsava Svāmi. I remain eternally indebted and offer anantha koti Praṇāmams at Their Holinesses' lotus feet.

Long back, I had, on a Mahā-navami occasion, tried to organize all the Śāstra books at home in some orderly manner (for preparing a systematic catalogue later) and for facilitating Hayagrīva Ārādhnam, and in the process, composed a poem titled '**Hayagrīva Stavam**'. I wish to offer the same at the lotus feet of my Late Father on this occasion. This appears here as an invocation of the Vidyā-Adhidevatā.

This is followed by a **biographic sketch** of the life of our 'Śatābdi Svāmi', in Tamil, titled "**Niraikuḍam**", as little as I know about him (he passed away in my 17th year of age) and in the only imperfect way I am capable of putting it together. I pray for indulgence from scholars for this audacious attempt to contain an ocean (Pūrṇa) in a pitcher (Kumbha). My nephew, Chi. Sri. M.T. Narasimha Raghavan (alias Kannan) suggested the souvenir be titled **PŪRṆAKUMBHA**, and since it is very appropriate, in one word, to describe our Svāmi, I convey my appreciation to him for this beautiful gesture.

Next, we have **three articles in Tamil**, by 1. Sri U.Ve. Ghanapathi, Vidvan, Pazhaveri Sata-kopacharya Svāmi (an examinee of our Svāmi), Srikaryam, Sri Ahobila Mutt, 2. Sri U.Ve. Ghanapa-thi, Vidvan, Navalpakkam Varadacharya Svāmi, son of Late Somayaji Agnihotram Narayanacharya Svāmi, a teacher of our Svāmi) and 3. Sri U.Ve. Anantha Narasimhacharya Svāmi (admirers of our Svāmi), Srirangam - a renowned kalakshepa adhikari and scholar of Vedanta - on the virtues and greatness of Brahmavid-s as seen in Upanishad-s. The second Svāmi has also elucidated the principle behind the rare and courageous action of our Svāmi relinquishing his government job when in conflict with Scriptural edicts, through suitable passages and arguments.

We then have a section of **twelve articles about our Svāmi**. The first here is by Panditaraja N.T. Srinivasa Iyengar - a highly renowned scholar of Alankara, Vyakarana and Vishishtadvaita Ved-anta, retired Prof. of Vyakarana at Chamarajendra Veda Mahapathashala, Bangalore - a poetic tribute to his mentor, followed by another poetic tribute by Salakshana Ghanapathi K. Pandurangacharya of Hyderabad, an examinee of our Svāmi. These *two papers are in Sanskrit*. All the rest (*ten papers*) in this section are in *Kannada*.

Panditaratnam K.S. Varadacharya of Mysore, Asthana Vidvan of Parakala Mutt and a highly renowned scholar, has explained the rare quality of sincerity, innocence, law-abiding and endearing nature of our Svāmi, particularly explaining the *paramaikantya nishta* as an ideal devotee.

Ghanapathi, Vidvan, P.S. Rameshavara Avadhani, an erudite scholar of Mimamsa, Veda, Vedanga, Veda Bhashya and a translator to Kannada of epics and Sayana Bhashya, briefly outlines the noble qualities of our Svāmi, as his junior contemporary and admirer.

A detailed life-history extolling the virtues as experienced by Kotikanyadanam Sri U.Ve. Vasudeva Tatacharya, a Vedic scholar and popular Brhaspati, (retired Manager, State Bank of Mysore), of Bangalore and nephew of Late Vidvan K.S. Krishna Tatacharya Svāmi, has many vivid memories he cherishes as his admirer.

"The Teacher I saw" is the title of two 'professional' Vedic students of our Svāmi that follow. The first is by Advocate Sri. G. Varadaraja Tirumale, (son of Late Sri. T.V. Govindaraja Iyengar, also an advocate and admirer of our Svāmi) who learnt prayoga from our Svāmi and Kramanta Adhya-yanam from the Son-in-law of our Svāmi, Late VedaKovida, Sri. U.Ve. Melma Tirumalacharyar Svāmi (I was his class-mate in learning pada and krama from by brother-in-law, Melma Svāmi). He makes a nice distinction between stealers of heart Vs. that of money among teachers.

The second is by Sri. U. Ve. H.R. Ramanujam, a retired Chief Materials Manager, Integral Coach Factory and alumnus of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, (son of Late Sri. H. Rangachar, also an admirer of our Svāmi and his son-in-law) on the rigorous teaching method of our Svāmi. He has also contributed a well-researched Sanskrit article on Vedanta in Manu-Smṛti, besides generously contributing towards the celebrations. This shows his Acharya-bhakti.

Vidvan Areyar Srirama Sharma, retired Principal, Sanskrit College, Melkote and Prof. M.A. Lakshmitatachar, retired Director, Academy of Sanskrit Research, Melkote are the next two scholars reminiscing about our Svāmi's endearing, admirable qualities as an Ubhayavedantacharya *par excellence*. Areyar Svāmi has also contributed two Prakrita slokas, besides a scholarly Sanskrit article on re-birth etc. as found in Bhagavatam.

We then have a Samavedic admirer and student of our Svāmi, Veda BrahmaShri Kadaba Nagappa Srouti's brother VedaBrahmaShri Seshanna Srouti pointing out the punishing, austere

life our Svāmi led, following the Scriptures to the tee, even in times of adversity in a telling way.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, when we could not get the article by Saragur Madabhushi Vidvan Veeraraghavacharya (due to loss in transit), his son Sri. S.M. Kasturi Rangan (M.A. in Sanskrit), of Centurion bank, a student of our Svāmi, has contributed his thoughts about the ideals of our Svāmi and has somewhat made good for the former. This represents the Saragur Svāmi family's deep links with our Svāmi.

Our Svāmi's contributions to Vedic programmes at Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs, during Late Sri D.V.Gundappa's times are brought out gratefully by Sri. S.R. Ramaswamy, Chief Editor, 'Utthana', Kannada Monthly Magazine, an admirer, taking us to the memories of past in the last article in this section.

We then have the **Sanskrit Section with six articles** (two already mentioned) beginning with the great scholar Prof. N.S. Ramanuja Tatacharya, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati and winner of almost every coveted award in Sanskrit scholastic field, lucidly establishing Mimamsaka way of asserting the Validity of Vedas in matters of Dharma, in his inimitable style.

Vidvan Setlur SrinivasaRangacharya, a student of our Svāmi and Asthana Vidvan of Andavan Ashramam, at 93, has taken pains to contribute an article narrating a Yajurvedic parable, as also giving a glimpse of his Vedic studies.

We then have a scholarly exposition of the eight Veda-Vikṛti-s namely, Jaṭā, Mālā, Śikhā, Rekhā, Ratha, Daṇḍa, Dhvaja and Ghana, as per Ātreya Śikṣā by Mahāmahopādhyāya A.S. Veṅkaṭa-nāthācārya Svāmi. He is the grandson of the Late Abhinava Raṅganātha Brahmatantra Parakāla Svāmi and an expert in Veda-s and Shastra-s and is currently the Śrīkāryam of Śrīparakāla Maṭham.

The next two articles By Areyar Svāmi and Sri HR Ramanujam (on earlier birth, re-birth etc. as per Śrīmad Bhāgavatam and Vedānta in Manusmṛti) have been mentioned already. The last here is a summary of the contents of the famous poem of Goddess Mahālakṣmī, the Lakṣmīsahasram of Mahākavi Veṅkaṭādhvarī by me (which formed the Foreword to the printed version published by Ramanuja Seva Trust in 1988, edited by me), with a few errors removed and Vedic passages accented.

We then have the **Kannada section with five papers**. The first is on Vārāha Carama Śloka by G.R. Śrīnivāsa Deśikācārya Svāmi, wonderfully explaining the great quality of Sauśīlya of the Lord, during Varāha Avatāra in particular.

Greatness of Veda-s as found in Nalayira Divya Prabandhams of Alvars by Dr. A. Anantha Narasiṃhācār Svāmi, Prof. & Head, Sanskrit Department, A.P.S. Evening College, Bangalore, an Ubhaya Vedantin and Śrīkāryam, Śrīpaṇḍarīkapuram Aṇḍavan Āśramam, in a thoroughly illustrative manner and the greatness of Nalayira Divya Prabandhams themselves in the

Sampradāya with many quotations by another great exponent Śrī U. Ve. H.R. Śrīdhar Svāmi of A-G's Office, Bangalore, are related to Drāviḍa Veda-s.

Two more articles further are about Ṛgveda by Ghanapāṭhī-s, Vidvān-s S.V. Śāma Bhaṭṭa (Co-ordinator of Surasarasvatī Sabhā and teacher of Veda and Sanskrit for decades and an admirer of our Svāmi) and Dhāṭī Lakṣmīnaraṣiṃha Bhaṭṭa (son of the late Bhīma Bhaṭṭa and a renowned scholar, who studied under our Svāmi) respectively, detailing the structure and content in the former and brief concept in the latter.

We then have the **English section of four articles** beginning with two articles by the doyen in the field of Vedic and Upanishadic translations of our Sampradāya, Dr. N.S. Anantharangachar, who has rendered every important and tough Viśiṣṭādvaita work into English and Kannada, on the Vedic Insight and Vedic Tradition of Revelation. The next article is by the brilliant scholar, Prof. K.S. Kannan, Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, The National College, Jayanagar, Bangalore, on the Essence of the Veda-s, which is verily, a Vāgyajña, as mentioned by the author. The presentation format here is thoroughly enjoyable.

I take this opportunity to inform well-wishers that we intend to carry on the tradition of our illustrious father in the field of Vedic studies and research, notably, Ubhaya Vedānta Aikakaṅṭhya, through well-researched works, and, for the purpose, have established a Public Charitable Trust (contributions to this Trust enjoy Income-Tax exemption under Sec. 80-G.) named '**Parankushachar Institute of Vedic Studies**'. A glimpse into the objectives and activities (current and proposed) is provided in the last article in this section.

I regret that due to delayed receipt of the article from Ghanapathi, Vidvan, Valayapettai Sri. U. Ve. Ramanuja Tatacharya Svami, Navalpakkam, the great successor to the Late Sri. U. Ve. Ayya Devanathacharya Svami of Navalpakkam and an authority in Veda, Mimamsa, Vedanta etc., the same has been added in the end. This is an excellent, but brief write-up, in *Sanskrit*, on **Vishishtadvaita system**, the name and its suitability etc. vis-a-vis other systems. However, I am beholden to the Svami for keeping up his word amid tight schedules. It is but befitting, however, that the souvenir of 108 pages ends with the summary and gist of our system. A great symbolic significance there!

I am highly thankful to *Mrs. Padmini Ranganathan*, grand-daughter of Dr. N.S. Anantharanga-char Svami, for helping out in contacting the authors and getting the manuscripts tirelessly, but for which, the Souvenir could not have been brought out on time. She also got the available portion (about 25 pages) of another of my intended articles on '*textual bases of Vishishtadvaita*', in Kannada (which is since been abandoned for now, due to lack of time).

I am grateful to the authorities of Canara Bank, for sponsoring the back-inside cover page through their advertisement.