

Statement No.1.

How the present work tends to the general
advancement of knowledge

Suddhādvaita Philosophy has made a great impact on Indian society since 16th century A.D. It has a good following in different parts of our country, particularly in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Western U.P. In Gujarat, the term Vaiṣṇava mostly means a follower of the school of Vallabhācāryā, viz. Puṣṭimārga. A study about the Vaiṣṇavas of Gujarat is presented by Dr.N.A.Thoothi in his thesis titled 'Vaiṣṇavas of Gujarat.' It is a general study and not of a particular school or author. This work presents a study of a particular author, viz, GO. S'rī Gokulanāthajī, one of the grandsons of S'rī Vallabhācāryā, was instrumental in the spread and strengthening of this religious sect, which believes in the Doctrine of Grace; and he is one of the important writers on S'uddhādvaita Philosophy and Puṣṭimārga. Most of his works are published with Gujarati translations ^{but} and some of his works are still unpublished. But so far a critical study of his works is not done, nor is his contribution evaluated. I have tried to make, in this thesis, a critical study of his works and have evaluated them. I have also studied some rare MSS of

his works and have also collected information about his works and followers from the MS-libraries and several persons and places. I have shown how the Vraja-bhāṣa works (the Vārtas and the Bhāvanās and the Vacanāmṛtas) are important and have influenced the school of Vallabhācārya.¹ I think, it would be an humble contribution to the realm of oriental learning, particularly to Indian Philosophy and Religion, and I hope, it would be instrumental in removing scandals and wrong notions about the religious sect, called Puṣṭimārga, particularly those mentioned in the "Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. XII" and in "Brahmanism and Hinduism" by Monier-Williams.

I have attached hereto copies of available portraits of S'ri Gokulnāthajī and also photo-copies of one or two pages of some MSS of Gokulanāthajī's works.

Statement No. 2.

Sources

In the preparation of the thesis, I have fully utilised all the available material, printed, as well as unpublished. Literature on GO is available in Gujarati, in Hindi and Samskrta. References to and translation of some his works are also found in some of the periodicals, past as well as present. There are some works of GO which are still unpublished and are mentioned in the lists of MSS in the Puṣṭimārgīya temples, such as Kāṅkaroli, Kāṅkana, Gokul etc. I have made use of available MSS. I have also visited several places and persons and have tried to gather as much information as possible. References to such persons and places is made at the relevant places. I have critically examined the available information and have presented the estimate of the works of and the contribution of GO.