

SYNOPSIS

Chapter I

An outline of origin and development of
Vedānta and S'uddhādvaita Brahmavāda of
S'rī Vallabhācārya. (VL).

There are many religious sects and faiths in India, Suddhādvaita Brahmavāda is one of them. It is propounded by VL. - Growth of Vedānta. Earliest attempts of the quest of Truth are noticed in the Vedas. Two lines of thought are seen: Karma-Kāṇḍa and Jñāna-Kāṇḍa. There is no system in the Upaniṣads. Next comes the Sūtra period and then ^{the} Bhāṣya period. Different ācāryas and their doctrines are mentioned. The term S'uddhādvaita is explained. Its exponent is VL. His life, works, and philosophy are mentioned. Whether VL followed Viṣṇusvāmin? Viṭṭhalanāthajī (VT) and his works. He became instrumental in the spread of Puṣṭimārga. The age of VL was full of political upheavals and social insecurity. That fact led to the spread of the path of devotion. Cult of Bhakti is noticed in old scriptures. How VL differed from it. Puṣṭimārga was misunderstood in later times. Descendants of VT and other writers on S'uddhādvaita are mentioned.

Chapter II.

Life and Personality of Gokulanāthajī (GO)

A dispassionate study of his life. GO's name - his childhood and education - His marriage and family affairs. He journeyed to Gujarat in 1646-47 (V.S.) = 1590-91 (A.D.). The event, known as māla-prasaṅga, is described. GO acted very tactfully. The māla-prasaṅga is historically examined. Statements of Akho about GO are examined. Personality of GO - How he passed his last days - GO's personal deity - Veracity of Puranic references to GO is examined.

Chapter III.

Works of Gokulanāthajī (GO).

GO was a prolific writer - his works as mentioned by different writers and in different periodicals - There is no unanimity of opinion about the number of his works. Classification of his works - about the chronology of his works - Some miscellaneous information about his works.

Chapter III-(a).

GO's Works in Samskr̥ta

Study of his original works in Samskr̥ta: Tilaka Nirṇaya, Nāmavalī and Vijñapti - study of his tīkāś on

the works of Viṭṭhalanāthajī, such as Sarvottama-stotra - Brhatī (Badi) Tīkā on Sarvottama-stotra is a valuable contribution. Study of GO's commentaries on some of the 'Sixteen Treatises' of VL - study of his commentaries on the Gadya-mantra, Gayatrī-bhāṣya and other works.

Chapter III-(b).

Vārtā-Sāhitya.

The term Vārtā-Sāhitya - Authorship of the 84 and 252 Vārtās - an incident mentioned in a MS of 1746 V.S. - Study of the 84 and 252 Vārtās, Bhāva-Sindhu, Nija-Vārtā, Gharu-vārtā, Bethaka-caritra, the Prākṛtya-vārtās and Vana-yātrā etc. - estimate of the Vārtā-Sāhitya - reference to a work not available now - Vallabha - Kalpadruma.

Chapter III-(c).

Bhāvanā - Sāhitya

What is Bhāvnā-Sāhitya? - about Rahasya-Bhāvnā, Utsava-Bhāvanā, Līlā-Bhāvanā, Bhāva-Bhāvanā, Svarūpa-Bhāvanā etc., - Different published Bhāvanās and some MSS compared - whether Harirāyaji is their author - Contents of an unpublished work ← 'S'ri Ācāryaji Tathā S'rī Gusāmijī ke Svarūpa Ko Vicāra' -

importance of the Bhāvanā-Sāhitya.

Chapter III-(d).

Vacanāmṛta - Sāhitya

The term Vacanāmṛta - the Vārtas and Bhāvanās are not included in the bulk of the vacanāmṛtas - how vacanāmṛtas were collected - reference to the printed collections of GO's vacanāmṛtas - Vara - Vakyāmṛta - ratna - KOS' a and other collections of vacanāmṛtas not so far published - no systematic effort to edit the vacanāmṛtas is made. We find GO as a true exponent of the Puṣṭimārga in the vacanāmṛtas - Importance of ^{the} Vacanāmṛtas.

Chapter III-(e).

Letters, Padas and miscellaneous works

GO's used to write letters to his followers. Some of his letters are quoted. - The letter of Bhelasā raises an important issue. } padas and Dohas etc. by GO - He did not shine out as a poet. Other works : Ekādaśī Nirṇaya, Pras'nāvalī, Muhūrta vacanāmṛta (Gorakha Āṅka), Gorakha Kuṇḍalī. Did GO write such works on astrology? GO's handwriting.

Chapter IV.

Followers of Gokulanāthajī

Followers of Gokulanāthajī are known as Jai Jai Gokules'avalā or followers of the 'Fourth House' - Two main divisions: Bharucī and Nīmadīā - Difference of their outlook - Different groups of Bharucīs - Different modes of worship by the Nīmadīās - considerably vast literature produced by the Bharucīs - their principal virtue is ananyatā - a reference to the vinatis of Rupanībāī and others.

Chapter V.

Estimate

Gokulanāthajī wrote in Samskr̥t as well as Vrajabhāsā - He preached in the local dialect Vraja - study of his works evinces that he imbibed the true spirit of the Suddhādvaita Puṣṭimārga and brought it out in his commentaries, Vārtās and Vacanāmṛtas - He attached great importance to prameya rather than Pramāṇa - He was instrumental

in consolidating the Suddhādvaita school .
 He translated the Puṣṭimārgīya doctrine into action
 and preached mostly the practical side of religion
 rather than philosophical. He made a regular habit
 of preaching the way of Bhakti at noon and at night.
 He gave a note of warning to the Gosvāmīs through
 his comments on stanza 22 of Sarvottama-stotra and -
 'asmat-kulam'. He is the third great Ācārya. A
 quotation from ^{Nalēsan} ~~M.C. Parakh~~'s 'S'rī Vallabhācārya'
 is given.