

Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

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Serving God through knowledge



T.S. Raghavendran

Coimbatore: “Serving God through knowledge (Gyan Seva) is a hobby. Quoting Kanchi Paramacharya, he says “whoever is born a human being, he should accept the religion of his father. If he is not satisfied with it, he should change it. Then adopt what appeals to you”.

For the 73-year-old Income Tax lawyer, writing books on Vedanta is a hobby.

“Though he has been writing everything in notebooks for the past 15 years since 1992”, points out his son T.S.R.Vittal, one more lawyer in Coimbatore.

Mr. Raghavendran has already penned 173 books (three of them are considered the toughest by the Vedantic scholars. He has written on Gita, Upnishads, Sahasranama, Harikatha Amritasara and a number of great scriptures.

Starting with “Sri Vayu Tatva Mahima”, he has written about 100 books. There is even a “Quiz in Bhagwat Gita”, he asserts “Hari is Supreme”.

Some of his interesting titles include “Action or Agency of the Higher and Lower”, “Sriranga Mahatmyam”, and “Three paths to Brahman”. His Tamil works include “Gitavil Puriyatha Pudirgal”.

In a chat with G. Satyamurty, Mr. Raghavendran says that he

“I can speak Kannada but cannot write. I have tried to provide an English translation, in a simple and lucid form. Besides, I have written for a common man,” he says.

Treasure

The main purpose, he explains, is to see that the old treasure is not lost. A man today since one has to fight hard for very existence in the competitive world and may not have much time to concentrate on the originals.

He admits that he has not earned a “copper coin” from what he has published but it has cost him a bundle.

But that is a portion he has never bothered about.

This is unique because very rarely one writes and publishes, spends a huge amount that too for propagating Indian culture, heritage and vedantic learning to get only moral satisfaction in return.

Education

A student of St. Michael's High School, Coimbatore, he had his Intermediate in PSG Arts College, obtained Mathematics Honours from St. Joseph's College, Trichy, and secured a degree from the Madras Law College.

He studied Vedanta under his father D.V. Subbachar, an authority in the field, and also learnt from a few other teachers Vedanta, Vyakarna and Nyaya Sastras for nearly 25 years. Mahamahopadyaya Professor K.T. Pandurangi of Bangalore, a highly renowned scholar, has written thus: I am in the academic field for the past 60 years. I have not come across any scholar who has made such a big contribution, either quantitatively or qualitatively.

Writing is just only one facet of Mr. Raghavendran whose day begins at 3.30 a.m. Some of his disciples call him even over phone pretty early in the morning to clarify their doubts. He takes classes in the mornings and also evenings.

He has been conducting seminars and also annual functions at Coimbatore, Nachiarkoil, Srirangam, Manamadurai, Erode, Dharapuram. And he has been delivering lectures on philosophical issues for the past four decades, in several parts of the country. He rarely accepts any consideration and whatever is given is also spent on various projects.

T.S. Raghavendran.

Every religion. Don't reject anything

are more of an addiction than a

started getting them published only a few years.

ing on Brahma Sutra, considered the most important, Mahabharatha, Vishnu

power of Lord Narayana”. While

al”, “Difference is Real”, “Souls are not different from Mahaprabhu”. His Tamil works

krit and English.

ook the original Sanskrit version with an English translation which can be followed even by a

Classes

Based on his classes on Brahma Sutra, Bhagawat Gita, Upanishads, various puranas in Sanskrit, in Kannada and also Tamil, cassettes have been released.

In addition, a Sanskrit school with 300 students was run for more than 10 years and they were taking examinations with Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai.

His interaction with the authorities on religious scriptures led to the next stage.

He continues the tradition established by his father of organising a meet on philosophy for three days at Srirangam in January every year.

“We have been doing it for the past 78 years”, he proudly points out.

Those who participate include Ramanuja Thathachariar (Vishishtadvaita), and Dravida Mani Sastry and Goda Venkateshsastry (Advaita). Raghavendran represents Dvaita.

Being the Joint Secretary of the Srimad Madhva Siddhantha Onnahini Sabha , for the past 25 years, he has been conducting a three-day festival every year at Tiruchanur in which Devar Nama, music, bhajan and Harikatha are the major components.

Another addiction of Mr. Raghavendran is renovation of mutt buildings.

He not only takes upon himself the onerous task but also spends substantial amounts. Thus he has renovated buildings at Rameswaram, Manamadurai, Nachiyarkoil, Kanchipuram, Chittoor, Rajamundry, Mannur and Madhanur, apart from Coimbatore.

The Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, commemorating the release of his 100th book in 2004, observed: “By honouring him, we are only honouring ourselves.” One single man at Coimbatore has become an institution.

Titles

Though he has been conferred a number of titles, he considers the “Paravidya Praveena” title, conferred by Sri Vidya Dheesa Tirtha Swamiji of Palimar Mutt, Udipi, for his services as the highest honour.

(His books are available at 598, Telugu Brahmin Street, Coimbatore- 641001 ph: 2344853, 2346579, 2441706)

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