A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO VEDAS AND SASTRAS

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PREFACE

Introduction
A number of charitable organizations, Universities, Ashrams, Gurukulas, Mutts, religious institutions and a number of munificent people are tirelessly working to conserve the Vedic knowledge and to promote research and propagate the Vedas. They are providing buildings, funds and floating institutions and developing them too. With the grace of gurus, qualified scholars are coming out. It looks as though the Vedic studies are being patronaged and continued at least in some parts of the country and if this is true, it certainly is a welcome feature! Salutations to those noble souls who are involved in that commendable work!

Present Situation
But there is hardly any chance to the students and the youth of the day nor to the society around to know anything about the Vedas and Sastras. Even the knowledge of the students minted out by the Vedic schools is limited only to the recitation and oral teaching of the same to others. They have no knowledge or the purport of the vedic terminology and on the core contents of the vedic texts. They have to go beyond the mere recitation and try to understand the spirit and message of the Vedas.

The need for minimum knowledge
It is essential to gain at least a minimum knowledge
of the various branches of Vedas. This applies not only to the students but also to elders. Only when one acquires a reasonably good understanding of Vedic knowledge, an all round personality development is possible. For illustration, if one comprehends how many synonyms are there to the word Veda and what deep thought content is there in Vedas, it will be really a delightful intellectual experience.

**Vedic terminology and meanings**

This book is specially designed and compiled to introduce to the students and youth, the terminology which is special to the Vedas and Sastras, and their core contents. For this purpose, the words which are quite frequently used in our daily life and which have lot of significance, have been selected and their meanings have been explained in a question answer form.

**Vedic branches (sakhas) and their present status**

Along with the above, it has also been briefly explained into how many branches (sakhas) the Vedic work has spread earlier and what problems it is now facing at various levels.

**Preserving the Vedas - our prime duty**

In this context, the schemes introduced by T.T. Devasthanams, the digitisation programmes taken up by Shri Veda Bharathi to preserve the Vedas, the efforts of some other reputed institutions in the country in this direction have also been brought to the notice of the lovers
of vedic lore. How the current techniques can be pressed into service to preserve the vedic recitation as well as their message has also be touched upon. Our strong belief is that by knowing all this, the modern youth will be enticed towards this magnificent knowledge of ours.

We have touched upon only a few aspects of vedic tradition and we have a feeling that this knowledge can be handed down more comprehensively and in a better manner as well. Those aspects which did not find place in this book and which can be included to enhance its value, if brought to our notice by Vedic scholars, we will be grateful to them.

Blessings
Mahamahopadhyaya Acharya Pullela Sri Ramachandrudu garu has gone through this book and appreciated it. Mahamahopadhyaya, Sadguru Sri Kandukuri Sivananda Murthy garu approved and blessed this effort. The booklet which was originally brought out in Telugu has gone through several reprints in a very short span and is appreciated by several multiples of thousands.

We hope its English version too will receive similar patronage of readers in India and abroad as well.

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“Jaya” “Maha Sivaratri”