



Sri Vasudevaya Namaha

# SRI MADHVACHARYA

(Life and Philosophy in brief)

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Hyderabad

Om Sri Venkatanathaya Namaha

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## **Foreword**

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The Indian Philosophical space is adorned by three great Acharyas, namely, Sri Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Ramanujacharya and Sri Madhvacharya, each of whom has provided perceptive interpretations of the same basic source material of knowledge namely Upanishads, Brahmasutras and the Bhagvadgita, thereby deriving their own schools of thought on Indian Philosophy. No study of Indian Philosophy would be complete unless all these three main schools of thought are studied, understood and critically analyzed. Each Acharya claims his interpretation to be the final Truth and it is only the followers of the different Acharyas, who take such assertions as unquestionable.

Sri Vadiraja Tirtha, the great saint philosopher of Madhva school of thought argues in his highly logical and penetrative treatise called Yuktimalika that the Madhva Siddhanta is the Final Truth, because Madhva's interpretations have been propounded after refuting all the earlier interpretations as *Purva Pakshas*. He mentions, rather very forcefully, his assertion in the following *Sloka*.

***purvah purvah purvapaksho yaavanmadhva matodayah/  
ante siddhastu siddhanto madhvasyaagama eva hi ||***

*(Yuktimalika gunasourabha, 9)*

It is commendable that Shri Vedabharati headed by Vidwan Dr. Remella Avadhanulu has launched the project of publishing three small booklets on Adi Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya and Madhvacharya with a view to acquainting the students of Indian Philosophy, about the life and the philosophical contributions of the different Acharyas. This initiative is indeed a very noble service in the interest of preserving and fostering the Indian heritage and knowledge system.

The present booklet on Sri Madhvacharya, authored by Sri Kalanidhi Satyanarayana Murthy fulfils very eminently the objective of providing the basic

information about the life and contributions of Madhvacharya.

Sri Satyanarayana Murthy, not only narrates the significant events in the life of Sri Madhvacharya, but also provides insight into his Philosophy of Dwaita Vedanta in a critical framework of analysis.

In narrating the events of life of Madhvacharya, Sri Satyanarayana Murthy, is very succinct and insightful. It is well known that the life story of Madhvacharya, is very well documented, in the most celebrated Maha Kavya entitled “Sri Sumadhwa Vijaya” authored by the then contemporary scholar-poet, named, Sri Narayana Panditacharya. Sri Sumadhwa Vijaya consists of sixteen sargas dealing with the events of childhood, acceptance of *samnyasa*, refutation of the other schools of thought, touring the Bharata Desha for propagating Madhva Vedanta, acceptance of the scholars of the different schools of thought as his *sishyas*, after convincing them about the superiority and authenticity of his own interpretations, description of Badari Yatra and visits to various pilgrimage centres in the north, east, west and the south of India. Sri Sumadhwa Vijaya is regarded as the most sacred and authentic document of the life and works of Madhvacharya. It is interesting to observe that it is only in the case of Madhvacharya

that an authentic account of his life and work is available in the form of a *Maha Kavya*, composed by a contemporary poet.

Trivikrama Panditacharya the father of Narayana Panditacharya was an *Advaitin*, to begin with, and he got converted as a follower of Dwaita Vedanta after 14 days of disputation with Madhvacharya. He became a prominent disciple of Madhvacharya and he wrote a number of profound commentaries on the works of Madhvacharya. His extempore composition entitled *Sri Hari Vayu Stuti* is regarded as the most sacred and the most perceptive account of the magnificent personalities of Hanuma, Bhima and Madhva, believed to be the three incarnations of *Vayudeva*.

Sri Satyanarayana Murthy has taken great pains in studying various source materials on the Philosophy of Madhvacharya and presenting Madhva School of thought in a clear and dispassionate manner. His description of the *Navaratna Prameyas* of Madhva Siddhanta, based on the following famous sloka of Sri VyasaTirtha is very succinct and hence useful to the inquisitive seekers of knowledge:

*Srimanmadva mate Harih paratarah, Satyam jagat tatvato |*

***bhinnaah jivaganaah Hareranucharaah  
nichochhabhaavam gataah ||***

***muktir Naijasukhaanubhutiramalaa bhaktischa  
Tatsaadhanam |***

***hyakshaaditritayam pramaanam akhilaamnaayaika  
vedyo Harih ||***

The critical assessment of the Nine Prameyas, containing the quotations from the different authors and scholars of the Indian Philosophy, such as Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. S. Dasgupta, Dr. B.N.K. Sharma and others, has added a lot of intellectual value to this Booklet.

Sri Satyanarayana Murthy has also given description of the main works of Madhvacharya, to corroborate the narration of the different Prameyas of Madhva Siddhanta.

The various distinguished saint philosophers and authors of Madhva Siddhanta, who emerged in the illustrious lineage of the “*Tatva Vada*”, by which term the Madhva Siddhanta is being called by its followers have written many commentaries and independent works on *Tatva Vada*. They have been extremely useful in understanding the various tenets of Madhva Siddhanta since the original works of

Madhvacharya are in themselves very terse and cryptic. In this context, Sri Satyanarayana Murthy presents in a very clear language, but briefly, the information on the select works of the select Saint Philosophers/ Authors of *Tatva Vada*, such as, Jayatirtha, Vyasatirtha, Vadirajatirtha and Raghavendra Tirtha. This has been one more very useful part of the Booklet.

Brevity and Clarity in presentation are the hallmarks of this Booklet.

On the whole, this Booklet is a very useful addition to the literature on Madhva Philosophy and I sincerely commend it to all the inquisitive students of Indian Philosophy.

Durmukhi,  
Karthika Purnima  
14.11.2016

***Dr. V.R.Panchamukhi***

# **Om Sri Venkatanathaya Namaha**

## **Our Objective**

Sri Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Ramanujacharya and Sri Madhvacharya propagated the Advaita, Visistadvaita and Dvaita systems of philosophies respectively. There are sizeable followers to each one of these schools of thought. But most of the followers simply claim that 'I belong to this or that system of philosophy' but do not know the core principles of that philosophy and more importantly, where it agrees with or differs from the doctrines of others schools. Their knowledge about the life and works of the concerned Acharya too is skin deep. This might be mainly due to busy life or lack of aptitude to understand the concerned doctrine or due to terseness of the works on the subject, which defy their understanding. It must also be admitted that these schools of thought are, to some extent, recondite to the uninitiated. This is the position of the common man. However, scholars and those who make determined effort to understand the doctrine stand on a different footing and these booklets are not written keeping such scholarly people in mind.

For the benefit of those who have a desire to understand the basic tenets of each doctrine but are unable to follow the bulky scholarly and terse treatises, Sri Veda Bharati has decided to publish small booklets on the three Acharyas briefly touching upon their life, teachings and doctrines. These small booklets are intended mainly to introduce the ordinary readers to the life and teachings of the trinity (*trimatacharyas*). It is hoped that these booklets will evoke interest in the readers to undertake an in-depth study of these three schools of thought and enthuse them to make a comparative assesment.

To conclude we are deeply indebted to Dr. V.R. Panchamukhi, M.A. PhD, Chancellor, Sri Guru Sarvabhoma Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Mantralayam, who has carefully gone thourgh the draft of the book and made many valuble suggestions, which we have incorporated. He was also kind enough to give a scholarly and comprehensive foreword to this booklet which stands as a value addition.

PUBLISHERS