

लोकप्रियसाहित्यग्रन्थमाला - 5

Modern Sanskrit Writings in KARNATAKA

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PREFACE

This work by Ranganath introduces 38 representative authors from Karnataka belonging to Twentieth Century. They represent diverse generations of literary personalities in Sanskrit that have prominently flourished in the past century. Many of them, like S. Jagannath and R Ganesh just carved a niche for themselves in twentieth century and now they belong to the generation of most promising Sanskrit authors in this century.

In a journey through the pages of this monograph, we can feel the changing scenario of contemporary creative writing in Sanskrit. There are interesting works on the family history of Mysore kings, the cities of Karnataka as well as on the holy places and saints of this state. *Viśvagunādar śacampūh* of Venkaṭādhvarin, composed in seventeenth century AD, has been a trendsetter, which presented a critique of Indian milieu. Venkaṭādhvarin has encompassed the whole peninsula in its diversity and plurality. Many of the authors of our age in Sanskrit envisage this broad spectrum. It is interesting to note that a Sanskrit author from Karnataka Nirpaje Bhimbhatta, composed works like *Kāśmīrasandhana-samudyamaḥ*—presenting a resume of Kashmir problem, and *Haidarābāda-vijaya on satyāgraha* during British regime at Hyderabad.

Through this work, we can also understand some of the nuances and tendencies of present day Sanskrit writings. Gandhism has cast an everlasting impact on Sanskrit writings of this age. Realism gets the upper hand. The spark of prose, as a vehicle of modern sensibility is slowly replacing the repetitive versification,

7. H. V. Narayana Shastri

H. V. Narayana Shastri was born to Thimmambika and Venkataramanavadwani in Hallimysore of Karnatak on August 15th August, 1910. He obtained Vidvān degree in Sāhitya from Shri Chamrajendra College, Bangalore, and later served in the same institution. He was honoured with the title 'Kaviśekhara' from the Jagadguru of Shrishailam and is also the recipient of Karnataka State Award. He has a number of creative works to his credit, such as - *Śrīśailajagadgurucarita* (epic), *Śrīnācārammāvijayam* (epic), *Śrīkṛṣṇabhikṣā* (play), *Guṇaparīkṣaṇam* (play), *Sodarasnehaḥ* (play), *Śrīvidyāraṇyā-kathātarāṅgiṇī* (poetry), *Śrīlakṣmīkeśavasuprabhātam* (devotional poem), *Karṇāṭaka-mahimnastotram* (devotional poem), *Kāśhīśveśvara-suprabhāstotram* (devotional poem) and so on.

Śrīnācārammāvijayam

This is a historical work dealing with the *sanketi* group of brahmins, their genealogy and evolution at community level. The author describes the origin and settlements of these Brahmins. The poem particularly concerns with Nācārammā, a chaste lady from Tamilnadu. She was contemporary of Vidyāraṇya, the great scholar and political figure who founded Vijayanagara empire. Endowed with extra-ordinary learning, Nācārammā was like an incarnation of Sarasvatī. The pundits were intrigued by her and were zealous of her scholarship, and she therefore left Tamilnadu and came to Karnataka along with her husband and settled here. This is one version of the stories that have gathered around the character of Nacārammā.

This *mahākāvya*, presents a vivid portrayal of life of this great lady in simple style. The author has translated this poem in Kannada himself. The poem is imbued with wise sayings and poetic qualities.



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