

A NOTE ON VAIHAYASI-SAMHITA
(An unpublished Pancaratra- Agama text)
(ABSTRACT)

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VAIHAYASI-SAMHITA (VS), is mentioned a sone of the 108 Pancaratra texts, in the canonical lists of Padma Samhita, KapinjalaSamhita, Purushottama Samhita etc. Acc. to Mahabharata, Lord Narayana is the narrator of the entire Pancaratra literature.

" pancaratrasya krtsnasya vakta narayanah svayam //"

The extant of the Pancaratra literature is said as 108 texts. More than 40 texts have been published among them, and some of the other remaining in the form of manuscript in several manuscript-libraries and are yet to be published.

Recently, a copy of of the manuscript of Vaihayasi-Samhita is found, written in grantha script on paper. And a fragment of this text (only last page) also found copied in to devanagari script. The scribe of this manuscript added two verses, at the end of the text, saying that it is copied in 1780 A.D. by the order of Yatiraja Svamiji of Yadugiri-Yatiraja Muth, Melkote, Karnataka. The verses are as follows :

narayana nage ksetre yatiraja mathe maya /
likhitam granthatas tatra savadhanena vartmana //
khasta-sapta-dhara-varshe yatirajajnaya tvatha /
prasanna vaishnavas santu pancaratra-parayanah //

The manuscript is available in 146 pages, consists of 22 chapters, in 2135 verses totally. Here Vaihayasa (= Garutman), narrates to the sages Bharadvaja etc., who are abserving penance, in Himalayas, at the bank of holy river Ganga, in the famous place named Sankhaprabha and Gadakunda, for the grace of Lord Narayana, to achieve moksha, i.e. the liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

At first, Vaihayasa (Garuda) received the procedure of worship from Lord Narayana at Srivaikuntha, and by the order of Lord Narayana, he narrated to the Sages Bharadvaja etc., hence it is called as Vaihayasi-samhita.

"srunudhvam munayas sarve "vaikunthena sameeritah /
vaikunthad agato'smy atra krtartho'dya bhavamy aham // (I- 61)

The worship of Lord Narayana in temples and individual houses, is explained here clearly. The method of construction of temples, installation of idols in temples,

initiation to the sadhakas (worshippers) the varieties of hand-postures (mudras) during worship, the festivals in temples, etc. are dealt with in this text. Besides this, the silent features of this text are :

- a) the pancakalakriya - qualification and daily routine of a worshipper, (chps. 2-4)
- b) the explanation of the nature of the Supreme God, (chp. 17)
- c) method of initiation - diksha, to worshipper, (chp. 18)
- d) sadadhvanyasa - explanation of the creation into six forms, (chp. 19)
- e) tirthavarnana - the 108 holy places of Lord Narayana, where he descended in the form of Idol (chp. 22)

Explaining several matters like this, the present text is unique and interesting to study and publish.

I request you, to provide me an opportunity, to present a paper on this unpublished Pancharatra text, in The 14th WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE (1-5, Sept. 2009), sending me an invitation / acceptance of this paper, at the earliest, enabling me to send my application through proper channel.

Note : I have also served as Cherge De Research, in the Dept. Indology, Ecole Francaise D'Exteme Orient, Pondicherry, for ten years , from 1987 –97.

Thanking You

Yours truly,

Dr. P.T.G.Y. SAMPATH KUMARACHARYULU

