

# advaita vedānta

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m.k.venkatarāma iyer

THIS BOOK is an interpretation of the Advaitic system of Indian philosophical thought in terms of modern concepts and in a manner easily intelligible to modern readers.

Beginning with a critical survey of the essential elements of Advaitic thought the author has brought out in the book the great and original ideas contributed by Śaṅkara like the concept of Māyā and the creation of a comprehensive formula like the gradations of reality by which contrary views of Upaniṣads were resolved into an intelligible and coherent relationship. The Doctrine of Māyā, the very basis of Advaitic philosophy, has in particular been explained in great detail.

An effort has been made here to bridge the gulf between what are known as Eastern and Western philosophy and to interpret Śaṅkara's non-dualistic philosophy in terms of the Logic and Metaphysics of the Idealistic schools of the West. Besides, by citing and answering convincingly the various criticisms levelled against Advaita by both Indian as well as European thinkers, the author has also tried to establish, by a comparative study, how the Advaitic system can not only hold its own but can also furnish a corrective to current trends in Western and, in particular, British thought.

The logic of the Advaitic system, its theory of knowledge and the theory of error it propounds, has been comprehensively dealt with; the subtleties of Advaita ethics and theology are ably presented. The author has also shown how modern science is lending increasing indirect support to the conclusions of Advaita Vedānta.

The book is based on the study of Śaṅkara's works in original and covers the whole ground of Advaita Vedānta. The exposition of the doctrine is strictly according to Śaṅkara at whose hands it received its final shape.

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# ADVAITA VEDĀNTA

According to Śamkara

by

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PROFESSOR M. K. VENKATARAMA IYER spent nearly thirty years of his long academic life teaching philosophy, both Indian and European, in the National College, Tiruchirapalli, Madras State.

Advaita Vedānta has been his forte for he studied this philosophic system not only in the classroom but privately in the accepted orthodox way also. He studied Śaṅkara's commentaries on Vedānta Sūtra, the Upaniṣads and Bhagavad-Gītā, all in their original Sanskrit.

Professor Iyer's student days were marked with distinction. In Mysore University he stood first in the B.A. and again in the M.A., and was awarded three gold medals for the latter examination. Among his teachers were Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Professors M. Hiriyanna and A. P. Wadia.

He has been an examiner in philosophy and logic for several terms at both Madras and Travancore Universities. He was also for some time a member of the Academic Council of Madras University.

Before joining the National College as Professor of Philosophy in 1927 he was for some time Professor of English in the New Poona College, Poona, and Lecturer in English and Logic in the Theosophical College, Madanapalle.