

# FROM OUR SAMPRADA:YA

(Part-1)

The *Divya-prabandhams* of the *A:Iwa:rs* and the *Ashta:dasa Rahasya:s* of *Sri: Pillai Lo:ka: cha:rya* are the greatest assets of *Sri:Vaishnava Samprada:ya*. There are no parallels to these scriptures in revealing the highest spiritual truths.

The knowledge is often equated to a knife. A knife can be used for both constructive and destructive purposes. A sensible person will use the knife to defend himself or to cut things for his daily use. However an insensible person will use the same knife to destroy various things and to harm his own self or others. Similarly an earnest disciple will make the right use of the profound spiritual truths. If the same is taught to an undeserving person, he might in all probabilities harm himself by practicing them in a wrong way or spoil the truth itself by misinterpreting or misrepresenting them.

Hence, the spiritual preceptors in the ancient days used to teach the highest spiritual truths only to a selected few. They used teach those truths only to those who are earnest, morally and mentally mature to understand and assimilate them, after intensely testing the pupil's thirst for acquiring them. The preceptors used to caution their pupils against

divulging those truths to the undeserving. After teaching the entire Bhagavad-Githa, Lord Krishna Himself has asked Arjuna not to divulge it to one who does no penance, has no love for Him, has not served teacher or to one who envies Him, in the 67th verse of the 18th chapter. One can find such cautions in almost all the Upanishads.

All the spiritual truths are carefully and vaguely revealed in the Vedic scriptures. An average reader might not even notice or understand these truths that are mentioned in the scriptures. In-fact all the spiritual secrets are very closely guarded secrets. Those truths were carefully extracted from the scriptures by our *Pu:rva:cha:ryas*. They were passed on from generation to generation by the word of mouth. Hence one had to learn these secrets only from a well-versed spiritual preceptor, who is immersed in the tradition, after gaining his confidence and practice them under his guidance.

All the great spiritual preceptors including *Na:tthamuni* and *Ya:muna: cha:rya* imparted these secrets only to a selected few. However *Sri: Ramanuja* out of His compassion and causeless mercy imparted these spiritual truths to those who merely asked for them. However even He

did not put them in writing, as a book is liable to fall in the hands of an undeserving person and get spoiled. But He has diagonally revealed some of them in His works.

After Ramanuja, His successors propagated these teachings to a large section of the society. Hence they were liable to misinterpretations and misrepresentations. Sensing this possibility Sri: Pillai Loka:cha:rya one of the great *Pu:rva:cha:ryas* codified all those teachings and compiled them into eighteen different volumes.

They are :

- 1) *Mumukshupadi,*
- 2) *Parandapadi*
- 3) *Sriyahpathipadi,*
- 4) *Ya:druchikapadi,*
- 5) *Arttha panchakam,*
- 6) *Prapannaparithra:na:m,*
- 7) *Samsa:ra Sa:mra:nyam,*
- 8) *Archira:di*
- 9) *Navavidha sambandham,*
- 10) *Thaththwa thrayam,*
- 11) *Thaththwa se:kharam,*
- 12) *Prame:ya se:kharam,*
- 13) *Sri: Vachana bhu:shanam,*
- 14) *Navarathnama:la,*
- 15) *Sa:rasangraham,*
- 16) *Thani pranavam,*
- 17) *Thani dvayam and*
- 18) *Thani charamam.*

These compilations of Sri-Pillai Loka:cha:rya are collectively called as *Ashta:dasa Rahasyas*.

*Ashta:dasa* means eighteen. *Rahasya:s* means the secrets. As these teachings were the great secrets extracted from the vast ocean called scriptures they are called *Rahasyas*. These teachings

were closely guarded secrets and were revealed only to a selected few because of this reason also these teachings are called as *Rahasyas*.

Sri: Manava:la Ma:muni, who is considered to be the reincarnation of Sri-Ramanuja Himself, has written wonderful commentaries on most of these works and thereby has established the authenticity of these works. Sri: Manava:la Ma:muni has also glorified these texts in His UPADE:SA RATHNA MA:LA. He has also asked His successors to impart these teachings to every person who seeks them without any hesitation.

However due to some unknown reasons these texts were not taught to everyone as ordered by Sri Manava:la Ma:muni after He disappeared. Treading on the footsteps of Sri Manava:la Ma:muni, His Divine Grace Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Pedda Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji Maharaj once again started to reveal these texts to those who sought them. These texts which were originally in Tamil, hence, He translated them to Telugu for the benefit of the Telugu reading people. He also has published the same and thus, He has eternalized these works.

BHAKTHI NIVEDANA will concisely reveal the esoteric truths mentioned in these confidential scriptures in the coming issues.

