



OUR SCRIPTURES

Part: - 1

In this wonderful creation only the human beings have the capacity to think in a sensible manner, hence man is called a “**rational being.**” According to all the great seers of the past a man is supposed to utilize this capacity to overcome his miseries. All of us are trying to do the same. In-fact all our efforts and actions are aimed at attaining some or the other pleasure. However our happiness seems to be limited and our sufferings seem to be unlimited. Sometimes we undergo various difficulties to experience momentary pleasures. To overcome one’s sufferings completely and to attain eternal bliss one has to know the cause of miseries and the process of overcoming them. Since time immemorial men have gone to the extent of trying to trace the source of the entire creation in their efforts to overcome miseries and in their quest for eternal bliss. They have traced the source of these things to a supernatural power. That power is called as ‘*I:SA*’ which means the Controller or the Lord and also as GOD. Every sane person has to accept this fact as the logical arguments also conclude the same.

The efforts of all the people to know the Lord, on their own, have been futile. We cannot know the Lord of the entire creation and the cause of all the causes through our meager and imperfect intelligence. However we can know about the Lord, if the Lord reveals about Himself, out of compassion towards us. The Supreme Lord who is the personification of mercy has revealed about Himself, in person and through various sages at different times. These revelations are recorded in the form of scriptures. The scriptures also include the realizations of the great sages and the ordinances issued by the Lord as well as those sages. These scriptures are considered to be very sacred and sanctifying. These scriptures are collectively known as *Vedic*-scriptures. The religion, which is based on *Ve:dic*-scriptures, is known *SANA:THANA DHARMA*. *Sana:thana-dharma* is neither a man made religion nor a way of life nor is it based on the teachings of an individual. It is an eternal and universal religion based on scientific reasoning and the teachings of the Supreme Lord and many great sages.

Vedic-scriptures are the authority to the people who profess *Sana:thana-dharma* in all spiritual matters.

These Vedic-scriptures are broadly divided into six categories based on the nature of these scriptures. They are: -

1) SRUTHI - *Sruthis* are also called as *Ve:das*. The term *Sruthi* literally means that which is heard. These scriptures were initially revealed to Lord Brahma at the beginning of the creation. It is said that the great sages perceived these scriptures as the result of their austere penance and passed it on to the posterity by the word of mouth, hence these scriptures are known *Sruthis*. *Sruthis* are considered to be the most authentic and authoritative scriptures.

2) SMRITHI - *Smrithis* are also called as *DHARMA-SA:STHRAS*. The term *Smrithi* means that, which is recollected. The great sages imparted the science of the *Sruthis* to their disciples. Few of those disciples recollected and reflected on those teachings and recorded them; hence those scriptures are known *Smrithis*. Only those *Smrithis*, which are in accordance

with the *Sruthis*, are authentic and authoritative.

3) ITHIHA: SA - *Ithiha: sas* can be called as the recorded histories. *Ithiha:sa* literally means that which is recorded as it occurred (by the great sages who witnessed them). There are only two *Ithiha:sas* namely *SRI:RA:MA:YANA* and *MAHA:BHA:RATHA*. Only those portions of the *Ithiha:sas*, which are in accordance with the above mentioned scriptures are authentic and authoritative.

4) PURA:NA - The teachings of the great saints, which have the incidents of the past as their basis is recorded in the form of *pura:nas*. Though the details of the described incidents vary from a *Pura:na* to *Pura:na* the moral values taught in the *Pura:nas* are applicable at all the times. There are only 18 primary and 18 secondary recognized *Pura:nas*. Only those portions of the *Pura:nas*, which are in accordance with the above mentioned scriptures are authentic and authoritative.

5) A:GAMA:S - These scriptures deal with the science of the deity worship and the rituals connected

with the deity worship. Only those portions of the *A:gamas*, which are in accordance with the above mentioned scriptures are authentic and authoritative.

6) *DIVYA-PRABANDHAMS* - Many great saints have eulogized the deities they adored. These eulogies are known as *Divya-prabandhams*. Only those portions of the *Divya-prabandhams*, which are in accordance with the above

mentioned scriptures are authentic and authoritative.

These scriptures deal with all the aspects of human life. In-fact these scriptures formed the very basis of human life. Let us lead our lives according to these scriptures and make our lives **VALUE-BASED**. **BHAKTHI-NIVEDANA** will take you to the different captivating shores around this vast ocean known Vedic-scriptures, in the coming issues.

With th the Divine Mangala:sa:sanams of H.H. Tridandi Chinna Srimanna:ra:yana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji Maharaj.



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