

OUR INSTITUTIONS

PART-3

(Govardhanji's answer to the question mentioned in the last issue)

G: Definitely not! I am not superstitious in my belief. In spite of the so-called scientific advancement everyone has to accept the presence of a supernatural power. Infact the whole universe is a combination of many subtle powers which have their basis in one supreme power. If there is some activity going on in the universe it is only due to the co-ordination of those energies. By the mercy of the Lord, our forefathers could learn the process of pleasing those powers through various incantations. They passed on the same in disciplic succession by the word of mouth. The same is called *Vedas*.

I can quote some incidents that I have heard about or personally realized their efficaciousness. In the year 1977 the rains had completely failed and there was acute shortage of drinking water. H.H. TRIDANDI SRIMANNARAYANA RAMANUJA JEEYAR SWAMIJI had proposed to conduct a grand YAGNA (a big fire sacrifice) in THIRUMALA, for Universal Welfare. The administrators of Tirumala temple were not ready to grant the permission to conduct the Yagna due to the shortage of drinking water and

they further said if water facility can be provided we have no objection to grant permission to conduct Yagna. H.H. Sri Swamiji as a prerequisite, performed MAHA VARUNA YA:GA (a Vedic ritual to propitiate the Rain God). At the conclusion of that sacrifice there was a heavy downpour and as the result of that, the dam at the sacred hills was overflowing with water. The administrators were amazed and gladly granted permission to perform the proposed Maha Yagna.

Again in the year 1996 the rains had completely failed and H.H. TRIDANDI CHINNA SRIMAN NARAYANA RAMANUJA JEEYAR SWAMIJI conducted a Yagna called *Ka:ri:ri ishti*. A heavy downpour started at the conclusion of that great sacrifice and it continued for nine days. I was also a part of that Yagna. All the details were available in the Government records. All News Paper media too gave good coverage of the above events.

Two years ago I was very depressed owing to some reasons and I was not interested in living anymore. However on the advice of one of my friends I contemplated on some incantations which are prescribed for the purpose of overcoming depression and today I

am a very happy man. Vedas are not blind beliefs but scientific formulae. Hence, it is the duty of each and every individual to safeguard them.

I: You said that the *Vedas* are passed on from one generation to the successive generation by the word of mouth, could you please tell me who authored the *Vedas* and when did they originate?

Govardhanji: Vedas are self manifested, hence they are called as *APAURUSHE:YAM*, *Apourushe:yam* means that which is not made by a *PURUSHA* (either any human being or any God). Vedas are eternal, hence they are called as *NITHYAM*.

I: Do you mean to say that the Lord created Vedas?

G: No they are said to be eternal and self manifested. The great sage Jaimini in his treatise on *Vedas* titled *Pu:rva mi:ma:msa* establishes the eternity of the Vedas in 18 aphorisms. He also establishes Vedas as self manifested. Sa:yana:charya opines the same in his *Rig Ve:da Bhashya Bhu:mika*.

I: Even the greatest metaphysician's say that every object emerges from something. If, they are self manifested how did they come from nowhere?

G: well ! (Deeply ponders for a while and smilingly says) Vedas are in the form of sounds. The great sages who were well versed in the study of sounds say that there was a *Maha:spho:ta* (a big explosion) at the

beginning of the creation. The sound, which emanated from that blast, was and is reverberating, all over the creation and those sounds are meaningful. As those sounds are very subtle in nature we cannot perceive them. However the great sages who had attained perfection could perceive those sounds when they were in meditative trance and could understand the meanings of those sounds. They passed on the same to the posterity in disciplic-succession.

I: your kind self said that there was a big explosion at the beginning of the creation don't you think that there was some force behind that explosion?

G: well I have to accept that! I definitely agree that the Supreme Lord is the cause of all the causes.

I: If you accept that, then you have to accept the fact that the Vedas are not self manifested.

G: Well the entire concept of the Vedas being self-manifested might seem to be self contradictory. However one has to explicate that theory with great care to make one understand it in the right spirit. I think that I am not competent to explain it to you in a proper and understandable manner. It would be better if you contact HH Sri Swamiji to understand it in the right spirit.

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