

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

Academic Development Programme

Supported by Infosys Foundation

Certificate course on “A Textual Study of Vivekahudamani”

Course Instructor: Vempaty Kutumba Sastry

Two names of all-time great masterpieces of Sanskrit literature are familiar to those with a little acquaintance and exposure to Vedanta and Indian spiritualism. Both of them are exceedingly lucid, peerless in pedagogy, clear as day light, marvelous in poetic beauty and enlighteners of the head and the heart. The first one is the Shrimad Bhagavadgita, expounded by Jagadguru Vasudeva Srikrishna, and the second one is the Vivekachudamani, expounded by Jagadguru Shri Shankara Bhagavatpada.

There are two types of Prakarana-granthas, manuals, in Advaitavedanta, dealing with two aspects of Vedantic studies, viz. understanding the Vedanta and establishing the Vedanta. Texts of the first category deal with the basic tenets, concepts, theories and doctrines of Vedanta in upadesha-mode which appeal directly to the heart and lead to experiential learning. Texts of the second category deal with the same topics in anviksha-mode which appeal to the head and the intellect and lead to the scholastic learning. The objective of the first type of books is to introduce and elucidate the thought of Advaitavedanta and that of the second type is to establish the philosophical tenets based on astute arguments and reasoning.

The Vivekachudamani belongs to the first category. In about 600 stanzas, all the theories and concepts of Advaitavedanta are elucidated. Among the first type of texts of Advaita, the Vivekachudamani is taken to be the foremost among the many. The Pedagogy adopted in this text is based on experience and rigorous reasoning. The language and diction of the text are simple and appealing. The style of this text is dialogic and meant for easy comprehension. The popularity of the text can be assessed from the fact that most of the common quotations on Advaita are taken from this text.

Vivekachudamani, as the name implies, is not only a beautiful crest jewel of discrimination, viveka, but also a glorious crest jewel of Indian tradition of philosophizing.

Medium of Instruction: Simple Sanskrit (Hindi and English is allowed for discussions)

Course duration and commencement date: 12 Sundays starting from the 28th of July 2019

Time: 11 a.m to 1 p.m.

Venue: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune 411004

Eligibility criterion: Basic knowledge of Sanskrit to the extent to be able to follow teaching through Sanskrit medium and a graduation in any discipline.

Admissions will be on the first come first served basis

Contact hours: 12 Sundays X 2 hours = 24 hours (including discussion)

Certificate of Course will be issued to all those who attend all the sessions.

Course Fees: Rs. 1200/-

Payable in cash or by cheque at BORI office, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday to Friday); from 0930 a.m. to 12 noon (Saturday).

Account details for NEFT:

Account Name: Bhandarkar O R Institute INBORI

Bank name: Yes Bank LTD.

Sangam Solitair, Shop no. 4, Ground floor, Sangam Press rd, Kthrud, Pune 38

Account type : Saving account Account number: 095194600000200

IFSC/NEFT code: YESB0000008 SWIFT code: YESBIBNBB

For registration and other queries please write to:

Cordiap.bori@gmail.com or

Whatsapp your details to 7796699822 (Please whatsapp with your name. Anonymous messages will not be responded to)