
PROF. T. M. P. MAHADEVAN

It is with a great sense of loss and deprivation that Indian Philosophical Quarterly sadly records passing away of Prof. T. M. P. Mahadevan, on November 5th, 1983, at Madras. In his demise we mourn not only the loss of an exemplary philosopher of our times, but we also have to endure a specific and personal deprivation, for, ever since the commencement of Quarterly, Prof. Mahadevan has graced our Editorial Board. Indian Philosophical Quarterly was always assuaged of his serene blessings and generous encouragement and support. Hence it is with reverence and gratitude that we wish to pay our homage to him.

It is however some consolation that the generations of scholars and students whom he has trained and taught would surely continue to keep alive the rich legacy that he leaves behind. We also sadly recognize that what was one and whole in him can only now exist in fragments. It was indeed the spirit of unity, of the vision of wholeness that was the inward genius of Prof. Mahadevan. It was perhaps this sense of unity that impelled Prof. Mahadevan to a lifelong commitment to the spirit of Advaita Vedanta, for indeed, his name and image have become symbolic of the spirit of Advaita in our times. Advaita for him, was truly a form of life; it was the indwelling essence and formula of his rich and manifold contributions. He pursued this vision of unity and wholeness, not only at the level of philosophical research and reflection, but also at the level of his 'lebenspraxis' very early in his life, with the blessings of Swami Rajeshwarananda. Prof. Mahadevan dedicated his life and talents to the service of Advaita

philosophy with the result that all his writings, lectures and discourses, throughout a long and scintillating career, have been devoted to the renaissance of Advaita both at the level of philosophical theory and personal as well as institutional practice. At the level of scholarly research, Prof. Mahadevan leaves behind him a rich and complex legacy. Right from his path-breaking doctoral dissertation on the *Philosophy of Advaita* (subsequently published under the title *The Philosophy of Advaita* Madras, with a foreword by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan), Prof. Mahadevan has richly contributed in a variety of ways to a deeper understanding of the various aspects of Advaita Vedanta, in the form of textual and interpretative studies, general accounts and representations of fundamental doctrine, popular lectures and discourses, scholarly analyses of specific aspects and so on. There have been more than thirty books and innumerable articles and essays by him, all inspired by his intellectual and spiritual passion for Advaita. There have been seminal works like *The Philosophy of Advaita, Gaudapada ; A Study in Early Advaita, Time and the Timeless, The Idea of God in Saiva Sidhanta, Outlines of Hinduism, The Sambandha Vārtika of Sureśwarācārya*, *Critique of Difference* through which Prof. Mahadevan has added to the scholarship and research in the field of Indian Philosophy in general and Advaita Vedanta in particular. He has also contributed to the culture of Advaita by way of lucid, popular translations and discourses on spiritual texts, the foremost of them being his book on Swami Vivekananda (*Swami Vivekananda and the Indian Renaissance*), *Readings from Samkara and Ramana Maharshi and The Philosophy of Existence*. It is by way of these little texts and discourses that Prof. Mahadevan brought Advaita Vedanta to the laymen, women and children outside the academic portals. In the form of a study and devotional centre, 'The Samkara Vihar', Prof. Mahadevan, almost daily, brought home to men and women in all walks of life, the living reality of Vedanta.

Prof. Mahadevan also served the course of Vedanta at institutional level. Ever since he took charge of the Department of Philosophy, University of Madras, Prof. Mahadevan has given the Department a distinct identity of its own, both by way of teaching and research guidance, so much so that the Department won for itself a certain undisputed sphere of its own in the area of Indian Philosophy in general and Vedantic studies in particular. It was because of this that the Department was recognized as a Centre of Advanced Studies in Philosophy (a status which it still enjoys) and Prof. Mahadevan became the Director of the Centre, in which capacity, he organised a number of National and International Seminars. These Seminars were memorable for they provided another National forum for the pursuit of Vedantic excellence. Delegates to the Seminars may still remember the single minded devotion and commitment to Advaita Vedanta on the part of Prof. Mahadevan, who invariably used to give an elaborate orientation and perspective to these Seminars.

Prof. Mahadevan had a national and International field of operations. He has delivered a number of endowment lectures in almost every major University of the country. He was the General President of the Indian Philosophical Congress at its 1955 Nagpur Session. He has served on various U. G. C. bodies for the promotion of Philosophical studies in our country. At the International level he has lectured at Cornele, Hawaii, Athens, Paris, Kyoto, Houston, Colorado.

Although for a person like Prof. Mahadevan, a philosophical life is its own reward, for others it is gratifying to note that so distinguished a carrier has not gone without National and International recognition and acclaim. In 1967 Prof. Mahadevan was awarded the 'Padmabhushan' by the Government of India. He was holding the prestigious National Professorship in Philosophy at the time of his demise.

Truly in him and with him, it could be said that Philosophy prospered in our times and with his departure, tradition has vanished. Fortunately for us, there is the memorial love and respect of countless scholars, high and low, who are with us and who would continue to pay homage to him in their own work and lives.

EDITORS

BOOKS RECEIVED

- (1) *Hermeneutics and Language in Purvamimansa*: Othmar Gächter: Motilal Banarasidas, New Delhi : First Edition 1983 : Rs 100 : pp. 164
- (2) *La Catharsis Tragique D' Aristotle* : Alexandre Nicev : University Sofia 1 : First Edition 1982 : pp. 175
- (3) *The Saint of Mt. Abu Yogiraj Shantivanji* : Dr. M. M. Kothari : Hopes Books, Jodhapur : First Edition 1982 : Rs. 60/- pp. 183
- (4) *The Wisdom of Mimansa Part I* : K. P. Bhadur : Sterling Publishers, Delhi : First Edition 1983 : Rs. 350—pp. 384
- (5) *The Wisdom of Mimansa, Part II* : K. P. Bhadur : Sterling Publishers, Delhi : First Edition 1983 : Rs. 350— : pp. 860
- (6) *James's Concept of Meaning* : Tandra Patnaik : ANU Books, Meerut, India : First Edition 1983 Rs. 55— : pp. viii+ 119
- (7) *The Metaphysic of Experience in Advaita Vedanta* : Debabrata Sinha : Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi : First Edition 1983 : Rs. 70— pp. xxiv+150

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