

BRAHMA SŪTRAS AND CHRISTIANITY

DR. J. D. BASKARA DOSS

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Foreword

The Author Dr. J. D. Baskara Doss in this book has brought out a comparative study of the Brahma Sutras and Christianity. He has emphatically stated in his books that the origin of Vedantic thoughts cannot be traced before the era of Christ. It has been pointed out by Historians that Bakthi movement in Indian soil has developed only after the advent of Christianity in India in 1st century AD when Thomas, the disciple of Jesus Christ came to India.

A careful study will reveal the doctrinal aspects of Brahma Sutras relating itself to Bible and Jesus Christ. The Basic and fundamental attributes of Jesus Christ and salvation of mankind from Bondage of Sin are the basic doctrines of Vedanta Sutras. The concepts of Cosmology, Creation, Soul, Bondage, Mukthi are dealt with in this book will definitely take us to the Truth which will set us free from the Bondage.

I join with Messrs A.J. Rajasekaran, R. Soundar Rajan and Sharon Devaprasannam, the trustees in wishing the author all success in all his future endeavours. I thank Bro. N. John Jeyanandam, P. Bose Ponraj, Moriah Ministries for his prayerful involvement.

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Without any modification, my research paper presented in the first International Conference on the History of Early Christianity, at Bronx, New York (2005) has taken the shape of a small book which may be taken as a synopsis of a fullfledged work.

Preface

During the tenure of my doctoral research in the Madras University, Brahms Sutras occupied the key stone and therefore I was forced to learn Sanskrit so as to read and write and to understand the preliminary level of grasping the textual meaning of the Brahma Sutras, while doing so the commentaries of Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva were of great help, thanks to the English translations of the above works by very many scholars and publishers.

The aphorism texts of Brahma Sutras are not easily understandable as the texts are unintelligible because they had been rendered in the telegraphic language style. Therefore most of the scholars have to depend upon the commentaries, we know, the commentaries of Sankara were disputed by Ramanuja and Madhva. The earlier commentaries of Brahma Sutras prior to Sankara are either not available or destroyed.

The Western scholars had evinced keen interest to learn Vedanta texts and they have drawn parallel lines of similarities between Vedanta and Christianity. Raimundo Panikkar has dealt with the opening aphorisms of Brahma Sutras in his book 'The Unknown Christ of Hinduism'.

Though this small book is crafted not in the fashion of the above scholars, I ventured to write this because I was able to see Christ in Brahma Sutras under the search light of the Holy Bible.

I thank the Lord for His wonderful guidance. Dr. John Samuel, Founder President of ICSCI is praise worthy for his nod to publish this work. My thanks are due to NILT family and I also whole heartedly thank Pastor Oswin Michael, Jesus Family Ministry, New Jersey for his support and prayers.

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Introduction

Vedānta is considered as the culmination of Indian thought. This was developed by the native Indians by assimilating the Indian culture and background and Vedānta is described as a movement of spirituality which opposed the Vedic ideologies. The origin of Vedāntic thoughts cannot be traced before the era of Christ. Scholars have evidenced a great amount of interest to learn more about the dogmatics that are common to both Vedānta and Christianity. It has been pointed out by the historians that Christian thought had been sown in the Indian soil in the very first century A.D. Therefore, a comparative study of the Brahma Sūtras and Christianity would bring out their relationship into lime light.