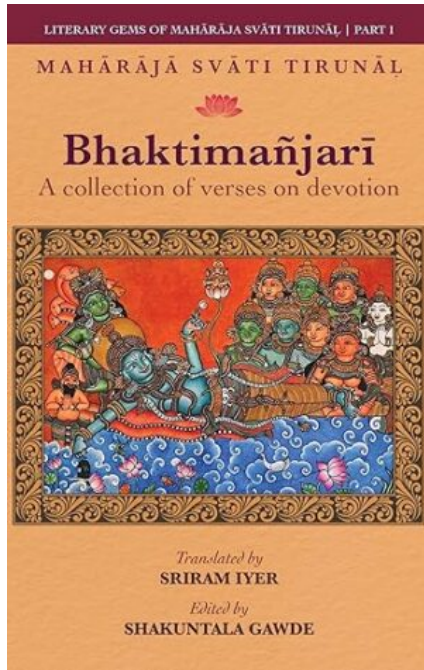


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Bhaktimanjari: A Collection of Verses on Devotion | Literary Gems of Maharaja Svati Tirunal Part 1 | Text with English translation



Author: Maharaja Svati Tirunal | Translated by Sriram Iyer | Edited by Shakuntala Gawde

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About the Book

Bhakti-Mañjarī is a unique poem composed by Mahārāj Svāti Tirunāl (1813- 1846) with bhakti as its central theme. With the Ārāmad-Bhāgavata Purāṇa as its basis, Bhakti-Mañjarī expounds the philosophy of bhakti through its one thousand poetic verses divided over ten ātakas set to various metres. The supremacy of bhakti over all spiritual paths, the various classes of devotees, the selfless and spontaneous compassion of the Lord, the futility of human birth devoid of bhakti, etc. are some of the topics discussed in the work. A major portion of the work is dedicated to an elaborate delineation of the nine forms of devotion viz. śravaṇa, kīrtana, smaraṇa, pādasevana, arcana, vandana, dāśya, sakhya and ātma-nivedana. Episodes from the Ārāmad-Bhāgavata Purāṇa such as the life of Prahlāda, the redemption of Gajendra, the redemption of Ajāmila, the self-surrender of Bali, etc. are briefly represented in the course of describing the various forms of devotion. The creation of the universe, its geographical divisions, duties of the four classes and stages of life, the procedure of reciting the Ārāmad-Bhāgavata Purāṇa, the rules of japa, consecration of sacred images, the greatness of Gaṅgā and Tulasī are some of the other highlights of this great work. The brief representation of the pristine philosophy of bhakti through verses embellished with figures of sound and sense makes the work a cherished treasure of scholars and devotees, alike.

About the Author

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Mahārājā Svētī Tirunāṅṅa Rāma Varmā III (1813-1846) the illustrious ruler of Travancore was a poet, a musician and a great patron of arts & literature. His literary compositions include *Syānandārapura-varāna-prabandha*, *Padmanābha-āṭaka* and *Bhakti-māñjarī*, his magnum-opus. His musical works include 300-odd songs of different genres in various languages and two operatic poems in Sanskrit viz. *Kucelopākhyāna* and *Ajāmīlopākhyāna*.

About Editor:

Shakuntala Gawde, Assistant Professor and former head of the Sanskrit Department at the University of Mumbai, is a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of Sanskrit studies and research. She has published six books and fifty articles in esteemed journals, edited volumes, and encyclopaedias. In 2021, she was honoured with the Academisthan Best Teacher Award.

About the translator:

'Marutīyā' Dr. Sriram Narainswamy Iyer, Deputy Director, Sanskrit Studies & Research, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai is an artist, author and Sanskritist. Apart from his academic pursuits, he has also composed and directed Sanskrit dance-ballets such as "*Umā-Pariāya*", "*Ṛṅga Bhāgavata-Caritam*", "*Ṛṅga ākāra-Digvijayam*" and "*Ṛṅga Rāma Rājyam*"

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