



International Journal of Sanskrit Research

अनन्ता

ISSN: 2394-7519

IJSR 2020; 6(2): 157-159

© 2020 IJSR

www.anantaajournal.com

Received: 15-01-2020

Accepted: 18-02-2020

Dr. N Venkatesha Rao

Associate Prof.,

Dept of Sanskrit,

SSSIHL, Brindavan Campus,

Kadugodi Post, Bangalore,

Karnataka, India

Charming description of rivers in vadiraja's works

Dr. N Venkatesha Rao

Indruction

Shri Vadiraja was born in 1480 AD in Hoovinakere near kumbhashi in South Canara in Kundapur district in Karnataka state of India. He lived up to the ripe age of 120 till 1600AD. He was ordained to the aesthetic order and became pontiff of Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi at the tender age of 8 years. He led an ascetic life for hundred twelve years (112) which is a record of sorts in world history. He was a great devotional poet, possessed mystical powers, a prolific writer in Sanskrit, Kannada and Tulu languages. He has authored more than hundred literary works. His works are famous for poetic excellence, unmatched devotion towards all forms of God Vishnu, verses and philosophical deliberations.

Tirthaprabandha

He undertook nationwide tour of pilgrimage centers in India and gave vivid narrations of its rivers deities and the places. This effort is reflected in his metrical work "Tirtha Prabandha" consisting of 235 versus and four chapters named after four directions. Viz east, south, west, north. It simply means essay on pilgrimage. All descriptions are in Sanskrit verses. It helps the reader to develop spiritual faculty, geographical and historical facts regarding its rivers and deities.

Importance of rivers: - Rivers are life lines of India. There are hundreds of rivers in our vast India which have flown from mountains and hills. Vedavyasa says in his Bhagavata

अन्ये नदाः नद्यश्च वर्षे वर्षे सन्ति बहुषो मेर्वादिगिरिदुहितरः।(भा.५-१७-१०)

In India the rivers are considered to be most sacred. Like the seven sacred steps during the marriage ceremony while accepting a life partner, seven rivers are considered most sacred. Shastras have instructed us to remember them every day

गंगे च यमुने चैव गोदावरी सरस्वती।

नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरी जलेऽस्मिन् सन्निधिं कुरु।।(स्मृति- मु-पृ-२३२)

They are supposed to wash off people's sins when they take holy dips. Rivers have their health benefits too. Sage soma declared that all medicinal benefits are in water.

अप्सु मे सोमो अब्रवीद् अन्तर्विश्वानि भेषजं।(मार्जनसूक्तम्-मन्त्रः-६)

The medicinal properties must have been acquired during this course of flowing through the medicinal Herbs of Himalayan slopes. Rivers are rejuvenating and a sort of hydrotherapy.

एतासामपो भारतीयप्रजा नामभिरेव पुनन्तीनामात्मना चोपपृशन्ति।((भा.५-१९-१७)

Even the names of rivers and a dip in them purifies the people. In Prayaga, the North India there is a place called 'Triveni Sangama' meaning Confluence of three rivers Viz.. Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. Kumbha Mela Is a major festival that is celebrated once in 12 years where crores of people assemble there to take Holy bath to wash off their sins. Still there is no

Corresponding Author:

Dr. N Venkatesha Rao

Associate Prof.,

Dept of Sanskrit,

SSSIHL, Brindavan Campus,

Kadugodi Post, Bangalore,

Karnataka, India

record of any spreading of contagious diseases due to the record gathering which speaks of the sanctity of rivers. People living near by rivers can become prosperous by cultivation.

ता न ऊर्जे दधातन। (मार्जनसूक्त-मंत्र:-१)

Rivers produce electricity where hydro projects are open to tap energy. Dams and canals help in storage and distribution of water effectively. In olden days, the boundaries were demarcated between princely state. Hermitages of Bharadwaja and Vishwamitra were situated on the banks of the rivers. The birth place of Rama, the hero of Ramayana was in Ayodhya which was around the river Sarayu. People followed Rama till the river Tamasa, while he went to exile. In fact Ramayana was composed by Valmiki on the bank of the river Tamasa. "पुण्यामवाप तमसां तमसां निहन्त्रीम्" (चम्पू रामायण, बालकाण्ड-5shloka)। Baghavadgita was taught to Arjuna at Kurukshera which was near by Jyotisar... Bhagavata was heard by King Parikshit from Shukacharya on the bank of the river Ganga. Rasa leela of Lord Krishna was on the banks of river Yamuna. Gangalahari was composed by poet Jagannatha on the bank of the river Ganga. He was lured by the compassion of goddess Ganga.

"आपः पुनन्तु पृथिवीं पृथिवी पूता पुनातु माम्" (जलाभिमंत्रणसूक्तं-1-1. अनुसौ। पृ४९)

Let the rivers purify the earth. Let that pure earth purify me was the prayer of the ancient Indians. This shows their environmental concern.

No life on earth can survive without water and the rivers. Water is termed as Jivana (life giver) in Sanskrit. The rivers feed water bodies lakes, Ponds and Wells. So any water available in wells or borewells are due to the abundant and enriched groundwater level by rivers.

But the greedy man of our nation never ever revere the Holy Water.

They dump industrial water sewage water and contaminated water into river source.

The Sages have instructed to maintain the pure drinking water for all living beings.

_'आपो भवन्तु पीतये' (मार्जन सूक्त-मन्त्र:-६) (Let the pure water be available for drinking purpose to all living beings was the daily prayer of them.)

Selfish, careless people denude forests, cut valuable trees near river, invite flood and Devastation. The water becomes scarce commodity if proper corrective measures are not implemented in our country. The water should be treated and used by rivers osmosis. We can look out for water waste, avoid air pollution, traffic owes etc.

In India people chant hymns to glorify rivers, They wave lights and offer aartis and worship the prominent rivers to show their respects. They have seen the presence of auspicious lord in the water.

यो वः शिवतमो रसः। (मार्जनसूक्त-मन्त्र:-२)

Manusmriti says like this; Body is purified by water. Mind is purified (become tension less) by telling truth. Living beings are purified by knowledge and helping nature. our thoughts are purified by knowledge and wisdom.

अद्भिर्गात्राणि शुध्यन्ति मनः सत्येन शुध्यति।

विद्या तपोभ्यां भूतात्मा बुद्धिः ज्ञानेन
शुध्यति।। (मनुस्मृतिः-5-109)

So for purification of body and mind, bathing in rivers and chanting of stotras are essential. This has been achieved from the work Teerthaprabandha.

Sri Vadiraja's teertha prabandha is not only tourist guide but also serves as spiritual guide in most impressive style. Our purpose is to observe the holiness and the enlightening descriptions of rivers as seen in Thirthaprabandha.

Tamraparni river

Tamraparni is a river near Tirunelveli in Tamilnadu of India. It is a perennial evergreen river that originates from Agastya kuta peak of pothigal Hills of Western Ghats. It flows through Tuticorin district in Tamilnadu into Gulf of Mannar. It has a waterfall of 80 feet about 8 kilometre from ambasamudram a town of Tamil Nadu. It is called "papanashini" meaning sin remover.

Holy dip in that river enhances devotion towards Almighty.

Sri Vadiraja praises this river like this

तामपर्णी सरित्तोयं सेवनीयं मुमुक्षुभिः।

मुक्तीकरोति यत्रत्या शुक्तिश्च पतितं जलम्।। (तीर्थप्रबन्धः-द-३०)

Hey Tamraparni, The water of your river remove these fear of sin of a person forever.

The persons desiring salvation should dip in this river, because even an oyster shell in this river becomes a beautiful Pearl. Here the poet means when an oyster Shell is transformed into a Pearl, why not a person of devotion attain salvation. In Sanskrit jala is referred as Jada (non-living or unknowledged) even an ignorant becomes a pearl, what to speak of men who dip in that river. Mukta means pearl and person liberated. With these two words, poetic description has become more delightful.

Ghrutamala River

This river is also called neyyar river which means river of ghee in local language. It is a river of South Western India in Western Ghats. It originates from Agastya Mala Hills in Kanyakumari district of Tamilnadu. The town Neyyattinata is situated on the banks of river is named after this river. It travels a distance of 56 km before it drains into Lakshadweep. On the way to Thiruvananthapuram from Thiruvathur, Tamraparni river is named Ghrutamala.

The poet Shri Vadi Raja composes the verse on this river in his unique and uncomparable style.

रूक्षापापाटवीदाहदनानलौन्नतेः

सततं हेतुभूतेयं घृतमाला विराजते, (तीर्थप्रबन्धः-द-३८)

Ghrutamala- you flow from Agastya Mala Hills and help us to burn our sins as ghee helps fire to burn. just like fire is required to reduce the forest into Ashes, the fire called knowledge is required to burn our sins, for fire to glow well, constant flow of ghee is essential. The dip in Ghrutamala river, enhance knowledge as ghee improves fire. Gnanagni" is

a term used in shastras to indicate the power of knowledge to burn sins and karmas.

Yamuna River

Yamuna is the second largest tributary of river Ganges. its length is 2376 kilometers. It was originated from Yamunotri Glacier at a height of 20955 feet. It flows through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. River Yamuna is one of the biggest rivers that flows through world's largest basin. Unfortunately it has become the most polluted river due to toxic foams and sewage discharged especially nearby Delhi region.

Yamuna is one of the seven prominent and sacred rivers of India. It is called kalindi since it originates from kalinda mountains in Himalaya. It is also called Krishna since its color is black. Its origin point is about hundred kilometres from Dehradun which is not easily accessible. There are some hot springs in this river. While bathing in this river, devotees should visualize Lord Sri Krishna adorning stick, conch, wheel and arrow in his four hands as reference is given in some Puranas.

Sri Vadiraja describes Yamuna rivers Glory in his inimitable style and prabandha.

कालिन्दी त्वमघान्वितानपि सतः कृत्वा पवित्रात्मनो।
गन्तुं नैव कदापि मुंचसि त्वं भ्रातुर्निकेतं प्रति॥
किन्तु क्षीरपयोधिवासनिरतान् प्रीत्या करोष्याश्रितान् ।
स्निग्धे भर्तारि कामिनीजनरुचिःतत्पक्ष एवहयलम् ॥(ती-प्र-उ-१२)

Yamune, you purify even sinners when you are pleased with their prayers. You will not hand over them to Yama your brother .Instead you send them to your husband abode which is milky ocean reason being for women, doting husband is everything.

Yama and Yamuna are siblings born to Sun god- Surya and Sangna his wife. Here the poet means that though Yama is her brother she does not intend to send her devotees to his home, Since he is the punisher for wrong doings after death. She prefers them to send to her loving husband's home after she purifies them. Because the wives prefer their husbands home compared to that of parent's home when they are treated well there.

Thus poets have seen and instructed the literary lovers to look at the rivers with respectful attitude.

World is not for our enjoyment alone.we should preserve the nature for future generation by passing our reverential attitude to the future generations.

References

1. Marjana Sukta. Trarcha sukta. Rigveda. Dashama mandala. 10.9.1. Rigvedasamhita. Sripadadamodara sathvalekar. Scadhya mandal. Paradi, 1956.
2. Marjana sukta. Navarcha sukta. Dashamamandala. Rigveda.
3. Jalabhima Mtrana sukta. Anushtana sourabha. Sagri raghavendra upadhyaya. Tatva samshodhana samsat. Udupi, 2012.
4. Sri Vedavyasa- Srimad Bagavatam. V volume. Hayavadana puranik. Bhandarakeri mutt. Bengaluru. Reprint, 2016.
5. Vadiraja teertha prabandha. With Sanskrit commentary. Vyasamadhva samshodhana pratishthana Bengaluru. 1991, 2005.

6. Vadiraja teertha prabandha. With Kannada commentary. Vyasamadhva samshodhana pratishthana. Bengaluru. 1991, 1996.
7. Kshetra vaibhavam. Dr. N. Venkatesha acharya. Hayagreeva prakashana. Bengaluru, 2004.
8. Manusmruti. With Hindi commentary. Haragovinda shastry. Chowkambha Sanskrit series. Varanasi, 1967.
9. Champu Ramayana of Bhoja, Kashinatha pamduranga paresha. Nirnayasagara printing press. Mumbai.