

planned solely for the purpose of the exposition of the *mahā-vākya*.

Commentaries

The function of a commentary is to expand, explain, expound and extol the contents of a great book. It is but natural that numerous commentaries crop up round divinely inspired books. Several are the commentaries on the Scriptural Trinity—the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras, and the Bhagavad Gita. If a person desires to extol or establish a particular creed or school of thought, it becomes his first and foremost duty to derive authority and sanction for it from this Scriptural Trinity. Otherwise his creed or cult runs the risk of being rejected as heterodox. The commentaries that have come up so far do often suffer from one serious disadvantage. Consciously or unconsciously their authors have tried to read the meaning of their own creeds and cults into these three sacred books. Among these three books again, it is easier for them to read their own particular philosophy into the Bhagavad Gita than into the other two books. This being the case, the largest number of commentaries now available are naturally on the Gita.

Translation is another important consideration. The popularity or usefulness of a book is not to be judged by the number of languages into which it is translated. The one solitary book that has been rendered into almost all the languages in the world is the Holy Bible. But an achievement of this type need not in itself be a hallmark of divine perfection.