

I am conscious that there are very many jerks along the march of the commentaries upon these verses. Very often the style has conspicuously changed and the treatment of the verses differs at more than one place in the text. I am conscious of these weaknesses, but I cannot help them as I had to take up the work between long intervals of suffocating work of the *yajñaśālās*.

However, when at Mysore I was flattened to my bed by the Cardiac Infarction and when my rehabilitation in Bombay¹ was slow, those tedious months were employed in shaping out the confused mass. This humble attempt, no doubt, looks very beautiful to me, but can there ever be a mother who can see the ugliness of her own child?

It is a general courtesy to thank all those who helped us to bring out the book. I cannot follow this courtesy because if I have to thank, I must thank the thousands of students who assembled every morning to inspire me to express all I have recorded here. The first 100 verses that were brought out earlier, have been re-edited and incorporated here into this volume.

To the student who is planning to read from the opening verse to the concluding verse 581, I have an apology to make. Such a student will find, at many places, ideas and thoughts repeated time and again deliberately. This is not a defect by oversight. This book is conceived and planned to help the Chinmaya Mission study group members and repetition is the only method by which I can help them to reflect again and again upon the salient features of this great philosophy.

Secondly, every verse has been laboriously made complete in its commentary, as I feel that the majority of my readers will read a verse here and a verse there. If once they understand exhaustively any single verse at random, I know my work is done. Thereafter, the magic of Śaṅkara will enchant such readers to take up an exhaustive study of the book.

¹ now Mumbai