

Edd (1915) Department.

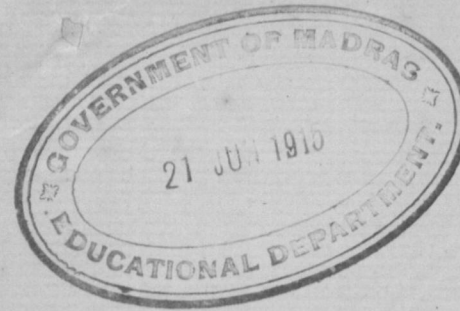
Ins SERIES.

G.O. No. 998 Edd

DATED 13 9-15

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books & Publication: Informing J.R. Vyasa Acharya of Kumbakonam that Govt will purchase 3/Complete sets of his edition of the Vishnu Puranam consisting of 18 parts each, at Re 1 per part.



Col. No. 2175

22-6-15

Sri Venkatesh Bhavan Book Depot,
Kumbakonam,
Dated 20 June 1915.

From

T. R. VYASACHARYA,
PROPRIETOR,
Sri Venkatesh Bhavan Book Depot,
KUMBAKONAM.

To

The Secretary,
To the Government of Madras,
Educational Department,
MADRAS.

MOST HONOURED SIR,

I most humbly and respectfully beg to bring the following few lines to your honour's gracious and favourable consideration:—

I have devoted all my life to a wide and profound study of Sanskrit Literature with special reference to Hindu Religion and Philosophy. It has always been my desire to place before the world, correct, critical and handsome editions of the priceless gems of Aryan Religion and Philosophy, and with extremely slender resources at my disposal, I and my brother Mr. T. R. Krishnacharya were able to bring out,

1. Almost all the important works of the Dwaita School of Philosophy.
2. The Mahabharata of Vyasa.
3. The Ramayana of Valmiki.

And now I have independently set my hand to the bringing out of a work much larger, more important and more costly than any previously published:—I have arranged to bring out a critical, complete and Variorum Edition of *Sri Vishnu-Purana* with all the available commentaries of the three Schools of Hindu Philosophy, for the first time. The true *Vishnu-Purana* I now propose to bring out is quite different from the *Vishnu-Purana* recognised as such till now, being nearly four times larger, a fact which eminent scholars have just begun to recognise.

IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY.

1. "All the Satvika Puranas are the most conducive to eternal welfare; of them the Bhagavata is the best; but there is a better one than the best and that is the *Vishnu-Purana*."

"No other Purana can be placed on the same level, since the Supreme Lord Hari forms the subject of it throughout, in the beginning, in the middle and in the end."

als

"The other fireflies of the puranas show their flickering lights only so long as the sun of the *Vishnu-Purana* does not dawn in the horizon of our hearts."

"The aspirants after liberation should drink deeply at its fountain, since the most sacred Mantras occur at every step and their manifold interpretations."

"The six Amsas or cantos that are narrated there, are but the expositions of the six letters of the Great Sacred Mantra (Shadakshara Maha-mantra) and lead to that blissful state which even the six Angas of the Vedas fail to secure."—*Parasara Purana*.

2. Of the Vedas the Purusha Sookta concentrates the essence; the Manu Smriti of the Dharma Sastras; the Bhagavad-Geeta of the Maha-Bharata; and likewise the *Vishnu-Purana* of all the Puranas—*Garuda-Purana*.

3. The *Linga-Purana* places it on the same level as the whole body of the Vedas with their inner mysteries.

4. Sri Yamunacharya speaks of it as the Purana-Ratna, or the crest jewel of the Puranas.

5. The great founders of the three Schools of Hindu Philosophy reverently quote from it in their respective Bhashyas on the Brahma Sootras and in almost all other works of theirs, and some of them designate it even as a Smriti along with Manu and with the Geeta.

6. Professor H. H. Wilson speaks very high of this Purana in the preface of his famous translation and says that it is a very valuable compilation.

7. Mr. A. C. Burnell writes in his classified Index of the Sanskrit Manuscripts of the Tanjore Palace Library:—"This Purana has been printed several times in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, but has not yet been really edited."

8. Mr. Monier Williams says in his Indian Wisdom:—"The *Vishnu-Purana* as conforming most nearly to the epithet Pancha-lakshana, will give the best idea of this department of Sanskrit Literature. It is encyclopaedic and is rich in philosophical speculations and curious legends." It is also styled "The Mine of Historical Gold."

SPECIAL FEATURES.

Till now, The *Vishnu-Purana* was known to consist only of Six Amsas or cantos, or 6,000 verses only and not beyond that and the existing commentaries also cover so much. But now there is a surprise in store for the public. All the Puranas in their synoptical list of the contents of 18 Maha Puranas, assign 23,000 verses to the *Vishnu-Purana*. Now what has become of the remaining 17,000 almost a three-fourths of the work. Are we to class it as one of the priceless treasures of our lost Aryan Literature? No. The Naradiya Purana says that the above 6,000 verses form the first part of the *Vishnu-Purana*, and gives the name of the *Vishnu-Dharmottara* to the second part which contains of 17,000 verses.

I have after a research of many years throughout India, been successful in discovering two copies only of this rare work, one from the Government Sanskrit College Benares and another from the Deccan College, Poona.

I propose to bring out the complete text of 23000 verses of Sri Vishnu-Purana in the present edition with all the commentaries available for the first part, giving Chitsukhiya, Sridhariya and Ratnagarbhiya for Adwaita, Vishnu-chittiya for the Visishtadwaita and Dattatreiya for the Dwaita and with different Readings and giving the contents of each Adhyaya at its head. Of the above commentaries, the Dattatreiya of the Dwaita system and the Chitsukhiya of the Adwaita School have also been newly discovered by me and are for the first time brought to light.

In conclusion, I beg leave to remark that the *Vishnu-Purana* is the only Purana that is acknowledged by all Scholars, oriental as well as occidental, to be a treasure-house of accurate information to every student of Indian antiquity, though modern European writers who have now and then unduly disparaged the authority of the Puranas generally, have borne testimony to the valuable historical information contained in the *Vishnu-Purana*.

I believe I have said enough and even more about the unique importance of the work and of the great difficulties that lie in the way of my bringing it out.

A poor and insignificant man with no required funds and with but a very inappreciable circle of friends, I have boldly set my hand to this labour of love, and the undertaking being a very costly and extensive one, I most earnestly and humbly pray that our benign Government might extend to me its liberal patronage by taking a large number of copies of the work and by granting me a magnificent honorarium to enable me to complete this great and national work early.

I have submitted to-day by a separate Book Post for your honour's kind perusal, the published parts 1 and 2 of the work with copies of testimonials granted to me by Great Scholars of India regarding the importance, necessity &c. of the undertaking, printed on the over-leaf of the parts themselves.

In ancient India, the State maintained such, as devoted their lives to the study and dissemination of knowledge. The British Raj has taken its place and in the midst of the absorbing and diverse duties of modern civilized Government, has recognised the need for promoting literary Studies and encouraging Scholarship. I therefore beg of your honour (as the noble representative of our beneficent Raj) to accord to me such help as I may deserve in connection with the accomplishment of this great work.

I further beg leave to submit that such sympathy and help would be most opportune now when the West and the East, the Rulers and the Ruled are drawn together closer than ever by common interests, common hopes, and common ideals. For, I assure your honor that such publications would help forward the revival and encouragement of the study of Hindu Religion and Philosophy; it would throw open to them boundless field of knowledge and thought; it would set before them high and noble ideals; and would eventually lead them through good and useful lives to the feet of the Almighty Father.

Most humbly and respectfully begging to pass favourable orders.

I most humbly beg to remain,

Most Honoured Sir,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

J. R. G. S. Acharya
Proprietor.

OFFICE NOTE.

Edl Dep't

SUBJECT. Govt patronage for Mr. J. R. Vyasa-Acharya's "Sri Vishnu Purana"

From Mr. J. R. Vyasa Acharya dtd 20th June '15

Register No. 2175 Edl.

h-3 C7.

part II put up

h-3 C7.

with two books.

Edl no 2175-1

8.9.15

+ 2 books

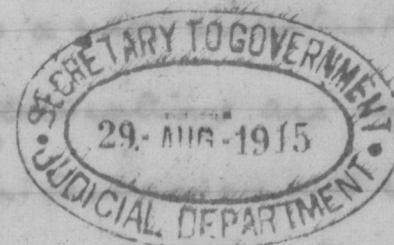
Mr. J. R. Vyasa Acharya requests that Govt may be pleased to take a large no of Copies of his work "A Critical and Complete Variorum edition of Sri Vishnu Purana" and grant him a magnificent Honorarium to enable him to complete his work early and successfully. The D.P.O may be requested w.o. to state whether any, and if so, how many, Copies of this work may be purchased for educational institutions and whether the author deserves any Honorarium for his work.

as 5/7/15 1/2 5-7-15
D. F. J. W
2/19

The Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College,
speaks highly of the work.

Thirty six Opium may be taken for presentation
to Government Anti-Corrupt & important Sanskrit
Schools.

I understand that no loan has been
 granted for works undertaken without the
 previous approval of Government.
 By purchasing 31 Acres Substantial
 help is given.

$$\frac{28.8.15}{28.8.15}$$


Ed Dep 16

The D.P.I's recommendation to purchase 31 Copies may be approved. The book will be published in 18 parts of which only two parts have apparently been published ~~as yet~~ till now. The price quoted is Re one per part for general subscribers and Rs 2-8-0 per part for patrons. The cost of 31 complete sets of the work will amount to Rs 558 at Re 1 per part and to Rs 1,395 at Rs 2-8-0 per part. It is for consideration whether the required number of copies may be purchased at the lower rate viz Re 1 per part. If so, the draft order below is for approval

$\frac{250}{1915} \quad \frac{26}{915}$

Final a.o. of 3.5.15

The work is just begun. Only 2 out of 18 Volumes have been published.



Noted in CR

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1.5 of the volume put up.



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CURRENT NO.

5338

FINANCIAL

Recd 3.9.15

Financial Department

For the A.S.

[I trust it will not be considered presumptuous on my part of state the liberty of mentioning that D. R. Vyasaiaharya is known to be a very enterprising man and that his publications are regarded as accurate and non-sectarian and views favourably in Indian Society. I have myself seen some of his publications and formed a good opinion thereof. His service towards the spread of Sanskrit literature is recognised as deserving of encouragement.]

D. R. Vyasaiaharya seeks for "liberal patronage" and a "magnificent honorarium" at the hands of Govt. The D. R. D. is not prepared to recommend any honorarium. The rate quoted for general subscribers is Re 1 a part and for patron Rs 2-8-0 a part. The Draft order put up in Edul proposes to subscribe for 31 copies at Re 1 a part, is at the rate quoted for general subscribers. The Inspectors no doubt must consider this as a problem.

Page 3.C.F

Vol 25-875
Page 2.

Page 5 of Part I
Kop 18

8 11-5-15

A circular ink stamp from the Government of Madras, Electrical Department. The outer ring contains the text "GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS" at the top and "ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT." at the bottom. In the center, the date "10 SEP 1915" is stamped. There is a handwritten number "29" in the top right corner of the page.

[Handwritten signature]

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C. No. 2175 E From the N.R.R. J.R. Leachman, No. -, dated 20-6, 1915.

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No. 998 Ellis, dated 13-9 1915

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M.R.R. J.R. Vyasacharya,
Proprietor, Sri Venkatesh Bhavanam
Book depot, Kumbakonam, will be
informed that the Govt. will purchase
thirty one complete sets of his
edition of the "Vishnu Puranam"
Consisting of 18 parts each at Re 1
per part. He will be requested
to forward the copies ^{as the Govt. approve} direct to the
D.P.I. Madras, with a bill of charge.

2. On receipt of the Copies the Director will distribute them among the Govt. Arts Colleges and such of the Sanskrit Schools as may be selected by

Keine

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20 Mr R.R. J. R. Vagachary (9/10)
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.. A.S. / 9/10

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