

Śrīkavitākāntāsvayamvarah

Śrīmān Telkapalli Ramachandra Shastri
(Instantly prepared)

1926



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*Edited with Devanāgarī and Latin transliterations and Sanskrit,
Hindi translation and with Hindi Commentary by*

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I deem it a privilege to have been asked to write a foreword for the small but great work "Kavitakanta-swayanmvarah" authored by Sriman Telkapalli Ramachandra Shastri. Prof. C. Upender Rao, an eminent Sanskrit Scholar and Chairperson of the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies at JNU and Member, Executive, Court and Academic Councils of JNU, has presented the true gist of the Sanskrit poetry.

The theme of the poetry, though imaginary, is about the naming ceremony of two daughters of the Creator of the universe, **Brahma** and goddess of learning Saraswati. They are named as 'Kavita' and 'Geetha'. Thereafter, comes the Swayamvarah, for the elder daughter. Instances are not lacking where the poets treat poetries as their daughters and dedicate them to eminent personalities.

It would be possible to discern the actual theme of the present poetry in that context. A close and careful analysis of the relevant Slokas of the work makes one to understand as to what, the purport of any poetry should be and equally, what should be the characteristics of a typical poet. As to the first, the indication is that one should accept the supremacy of the Vedas and the other scriptures, but must not indulge in Tarka or Mimamsa i.e. argumentative process.

Coming to the second aspect, the characteristics enlisted by Kavitha, for a poet, comprise of all attributes of a learned man, who, at the same time is of valour, but polite in approach. This is only a small part of it. Another ideas that can be culled out from the work is that a

poet would acquire fame, if he has at least some acquaintance with the Music or is capable of reciting melodiously, his works.

The work reaches climax when, the would be bride i.e. Kavitha finds of the characteristic propounded by her, only in Lord Krishna.

Though the work may appear to be some what removed from reality, it presents almost a challenge even to the learned people to discern the ultimate message. Far blessed would be those who can imbibe at least some of the characteristics mentioned herein.

I am confident that the work would evoke deep thought within the Readers and may help to mould their approach towards poet. I once again applaud the noble efforts of Prof. C. Upendra Rao for bringing out this beautiful poem by a talented Talangana poet.



(Justice Narasimha Reddy)

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