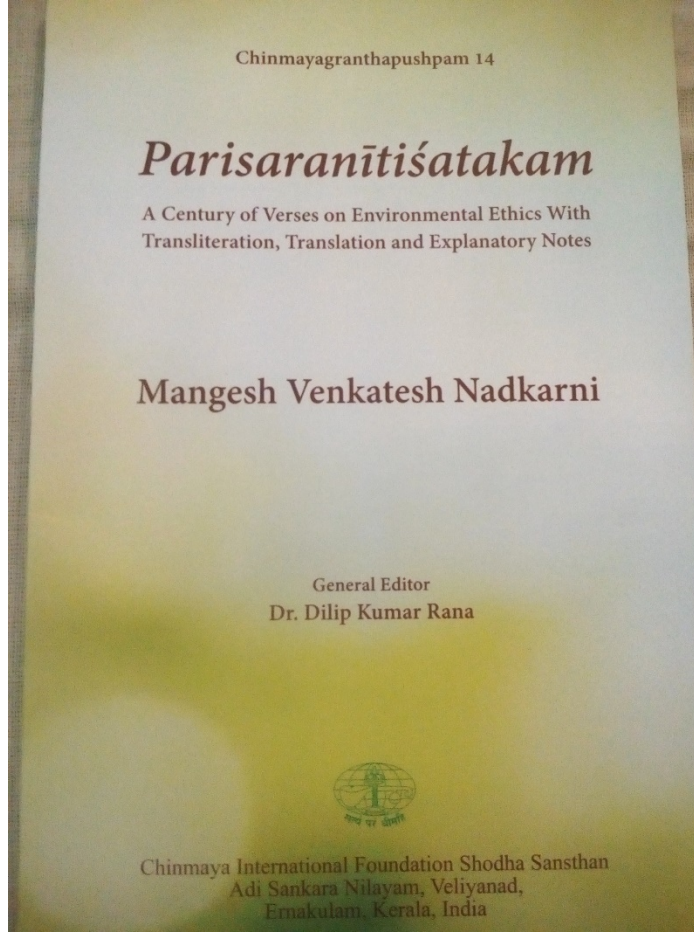


Environmental Ethics in poetry – both in Sanskrit & English together

Parisara-niti-shatakam by M V Nadkarni



1) Publisher: Chinmaya International Foundation Shodha Sansthan, Adi Shankara Nilayam, Veliyanad, Ernakulam 682313, Kerala, India

2) From Benediction by Swami Advayananda, President, CIF (the publisher)

“I deem it a great privilege to write these words of benediction for the *Parisaranīśataka* authored by Dr. Mangesh V. Nadkarni, an illustrious ecological economist of our times. That the book deals with mankind’s responsibility towards the protection of his environment and the ecology, is a pleasingly welcome change of genre in the realm of Sanskrit poetry. The author has, taking inspiration from great poets of yore like Bharṭṛihari, penned these profound, yet simple and mellifluous verses. Anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of Sanskrit will be able to enjoy these verses that gently urge us to be proactive in taking care of this beautiful Earth that we call ‘Our Home’. The author has also provided a word for word translation of the verses in English, making it easy to understand the original Sanskrit. The metrical English translation by the author is equally excellent and competes for glory with his Sanskrit poetry. The short notes that frequent the treatise give greater insight into the author’s feeling-full heart, drawing our attention to the intensity of his feelings. Overall it is very emotive work appealing passionately to the moral conscience of humanity urging us to be sensitive to our environment. The work combines, like all excellent treatises, elements of the head and the heart.”

3) From the Foreword by Prof Madhav Gadgil

“Spreading of environmental values is more a matter of heart than head, and as Professor Nadkarni points out, poetry touches hearts more easily than scholarly prose. I hope therefore that this remarkable set of verses in Sanskrit, a language followed all over India, though admittedly by a select few, would go a long way in making people aware of their ethical responsibilities towards the one and only planet that all of us share.”

4) From the Author’s Note:

The collection of 113 Sanskrit verses here, the ‘*Parisara-Niti-Shatakam*’ (PNS) or ‘*A century verses on Environmental Ethics*’, intends: to sensitise particularly young minds towards environmental concern, and secondly to stimulate further interest in Sanskrit.

5) Sample:

समस्ते सौर-साम्राज्ये अनन्या शोभते धरा ।
सर्व-सौकर्य-संपन्ना श्रेष्ठा वासाय जीविनाम् ॥१॥
Samaste saura-samrajye Ananya shobhate dhara ,
Sakala-saukarya-sampanna Shreshtha vasaya jivinam. (1)

Samaste – In the entire, *saura samrajye* – empire of the Sun, *dhara* – the earth, *shobhate* – shines splendidly, (and), *ananya* – uniquely; *sampanna* – richly endowed with, *sakala* – all, *saukarya* – facilities, *shreshtha* – best suited, *vasaya jivinam* – habitat for (all) living beings.

In the entire empire of the Sun,
the Earth is uniquely resplendent;
best suited habitat for living things,
with facilities making a rich endowment. (1)

Note: The Earth is unique in the solar system, and even in the universe, a similar planet is quite rare even if not non-existent. We do not know of any such planet elsewhere anyway. We need to appreciate the uniqueness and precious rarity of the Earth, and take care of it. We have no where else to go if we destroy it recklessly.

वसुन्धरा मनुष्याणाम् एकमेव सुखस्थलम् ।
तस्य संरक्षणं कार्यमनुरागेण गौरवात् ॥२॥
Vasundhara manushyanam Ekameva sukha-sthalam,
Tasya samrakshanam karyamnuragena gauravat (2)

Vasundhara – The earth, (is), *ekameva* – the only, *sukha-sthalam* – comfortable place, *manushyanam* - of mankind; *tasya (sthalasya)* – its, *samrakshanam* – protection, *karyam* – has to be done, *anuragena* – with love, (and), *gauravat* – with respect.

The Earth is our only place,
where we can live and flourish.
It’s mankind’s obligation
to protect it and cherish . (2)

6) Price Rupees 200. ISBN 978-93-80864-40-2, Year of publication 2017. Orders for copies may be placed with: director@chinfol.org. Fax: 91-484-2747104.