

P R E F A C E

Sri Sundapalayam Ramabadrachariar known as Sri Ramabadra Kavi was a great scholar and pandit. One of his work is the great **CHITHRAKAVYAM**, consisting of two Parichchedas written in grantha lipi. The first one consists of 400 slokas and the second Parichcheda of 100 Bandams. He has written vyakyanams also to these in separate note books, all in his own handwriting in those years available school note books. Unfortunately the note book containing the vyakyanams for slokas 301 to 400 are not traceable and hence not available to us. All other manuscripts were made available to us from Sri S.R. Srinivasa Raghavan, Bombay and grandson of the Kavi.

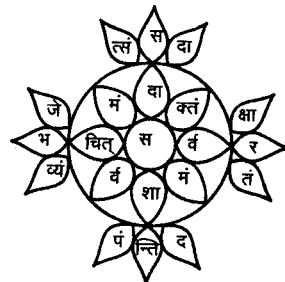
H.H. the Srirangam Thirukudamthai Srimad Andavan Sri Vedantha Ramanuja Maha Desikan directed Sri P.K. Srinivasan, my eldest brother few years back to print and publish this Chithrakavyam work in Devanagiri Script. Though Sri P.K. Srinivasan was knowing both Sanskrit and Grantha, it was a difficult job to accomplish the order of Srimad Andavan immediately for the following reasons.

1. The work was written about 100 years back in ordinary note books and some pages have torn. In some places the writing has faded away and not readeable.
2. The papers have become old and dull and possed difficulty in reading.
3. The style of the script is different from that of the present printed Grantha letters.
4. One has to get familiarised with others hand-writing, especially the conjunctions.

Combination of all the above, posed a big problem to Sri P.K. Srinivasan, but he did not give up his hopes. By repeatedly reading the manuscript for more than 20 times without worrying for the correction of words or meaning or formation of sentences, he was able to decipher, the great poet's work and also understood what the poet has conceived in his Chithrakavyam.

Sri P.K. Srinivasan, transliterated all the 100 "Bandhams" of second parichched and 1 to 300 slokas of first parichcheda along with their vyakyanam. He could not complete the transliteration of the remaining 100 slokas due to ill health and reached his Acharyan thiruvadi in 1998. The Poet Sri Ramabadra Kavi has written the main slokas continously and their commentary in separate note books. For easy understanding and also in keeping with the normal practice, the respective commontaries are given just below the each moola sloka. Sri P.K. Srinivasan's additional commentaries, if any, are given in brackets. Printing and publishing the Ramakavi's Chithrakavyam remained unfulfilled, though all the transliterated parts were fed into the computer. My brother has handed over the taks of publishing the book to me.

I have no knowledge of Sanskrit, except reading and writing. With this handicap, I accepted to complete the wishes of my brother Sri P.K. Srinivasan. With the blessings of Purvacharyas, Sri Ramabadra Kavi, the Author, my parents and my brother Sri P.K. Srinivasan, I tried my best to bring the great Chithrakavyam in the book form. If there are any mistakes or blunders in the book, I owe full responsibility and I only should be blammed. My aim was to preserve this great work in printed form and save it from extinction. I request all Scholars and Pandits to correct and read the text accordingly wherever errors have crept in due to my incapacity. Stars like this * * * * have been put



in wherever the words are not readable in the original manuscript, due to fading away or tear of the page. A question mark (?) has been put in places of doubts. All English sentences, wherever found are by Sri. P.K. Srinivasan, so also the numberings and arrows in Bandaprakaranums.

I may be pardoned by elders for all the mistakes or omissions if any in the book. Interested people and research students may refer to the original grantha manuscript, available with me, which will be handed over to some Library after a year.

I am grateful and much obliged to Sri Veerapuram Sadakopachariar Swami for transliterating the 301 to 400 slokas from Grantha to Devanagari Script. But for his timely help the book would have remained incomplete.

After making the transliteration work, my brother and myself at that stage had given up hopes of brining this book due to some difficulties encountered by us. At this juncture Smt Vijayam, W/o Sri. S.S. Santhanam, Director, Textile Commissioner's Office, Bombay not only encouraged us to complete the task but also promised to arrange part of the finance needed, which made us to continue the work undertaken. We are grateful to her.

I offer my sincere thanks to the following:

1. Mr S.R. Sridharan of Lakshmi Graphics, Chennai for printing of the book freely.
2. M/s Compuprint, T.Nagar, Chennai for the computer work.
3. Sri. S. Vasudevan, Bangalore for the financial assistance rendered.
4. Sri N.R. Desikan, Retd. Central Railways Chennai for the financial assistance rendered.
5. Prof. R. Ramachandran, Vivekananda College, Chennai for assisting in proof reading.

I am honoured by the Srimugam (Foreword) given by H.H. Srimushnam SRIMAD ANDAVAN to the book. I offer my homage and pranams at the lotus feet of His Holiness and to the Sri Paduka of the LORD. Our sincere respectful gratitude to His Holiness Srimushnam Srimad Andavan.

I am very much thankful to Dr. M. NARASIMHACHARY, Professor and Head of Department of Vaishnavism, University of Madras for his kind and elaborate foreword to this work.

Last but not the least, I must place on record the moral support given by my family members in fulfilling the ambitions of my brother Sri P.K. Srinivasan and in publishing this work.

Mylapore
February : 2000.
Thula - Pramadhi.

K. SAMPATH.

