

Greatness of Sri Satyapramoda Tirtha

(Adapted from an article by Late C.R.Rao (Published in the souvenir Paramahansa))

Sri Satyapramoda Tirtha, who succeeded Satyabhigna Tirtha was the pontiff of Sri Uttaradi math for 5 decades. He was a reputed philosopher and scholar of sound judgment, a genius of capacious mind ever scintillating with great thoughts. His work **Nyaya Sudha Mandana** and **Vijayeendra Vijaya Vaibhava** are a positive testimony of his massive scholarship.

People have seen his daily worship, heard about his learned discussions and pravachanas and about his benevolence and hospitality. The Swamiji was a sweet and impressive speaker, though he never used to go out of his way to produce effect. His discourses were marked by natural grace, lucidity of arguments, all of which sally forth uninterruptedly and effortlessly. Thousands used to flock to listen to his discourses. We, of the present generation, are really lucky to have such a great saint as our parama guru. Learned people who came into close contact with him rightly and deservedly regarded him as "Sri Abhinava Satyadhyana Tirtha". What better tribute can we poor mortals offer to this great saint? How, very fortunate we are indeed?

A pre-eminent Sanskrit scholar especially well versed in Nyaya and Vedanta, he has closely studied Shaddarshanas, the six systems of Indian philosophy, Dvaita Vedanta being his specialized branch. Well-known philosophical treatises such as Nyaya Sudha, Chandrika, Nyayamirta and Tarkatandava are the works over which His Highness had attained complete mastery. He has taught these to erudite scholars and enlightened profound pandits on many tough topics in these abstruse works. To him, it was a duty, a privilege, an honour and a lifelong avocation to teach the Vedantic philosophy to all seekers and carry the torch of learning to every nook and corner of India. A widely traveled person, the Swamiji has covered the country scores of times, expounding the message to all during these visits and spread the philosophy he stands for and to repudiate the incorrect philosophies.

During his itineration, he used to make it a point to visit the houses of illustrious Pandits and unearth rare Sanskrit manuscripts with great labour and exemplary perseverance. His Holiness was able to discover and acquire about 500 priceless works written by saints and philosophers who have trodden this sacred land of ours right from the 12th century upto modern times. It can be safely stated that the library of Uttaradi Math is one of the best quipped libraries containing the rarest manuscripts, properly categorized and preserved in the most scientific manner.

His brindavana is at Tirukoilur, on the banks of auspicious river Pinakini, just beside the brindavana of Sri Raghuttama Tirtharu. Thousands of devotees visit his brindavana every year and take part in His aradhana celebrations which fall on Karteeka Suddha Dvitiya, Tritiya and Chaturthi. The serene atmosphere and spiritual vibrations around his brindavana bring forth internal joy and peace of mind to everyone who happens to visit that holy place.

On this auspicious aradhana day let us all pray this great saint to bless us with jnana, bhakti and vairagya.