

# Books

## BY WANDERER

### IN QUEST OF BLISS

*with a Foreword by Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan*

#### OPINIONS

SIR SARVAPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN : It is done, I know, with great care and earnestness.

SJ. HIRENDRA NATH DATTA, M.A., B.L., P.R.S., VEDANTARATNA : I have been reading your *In Quest of Bliss* with interest and profit. The translation appears to be very well done. \* \* You have in some parts even improved upon the original.

REV. BAYART, S. J. St. Mary's College, Kurseong : \* \* I consider it one of the best expressions of modern Hindu religious thought and devotion. It is genuinely religious throughout and at the same time entirely typical of Bengali Vaishnava piety: Your translation is very beautiful and the entire booklet reads most agreeably:

THE HINDU of Madras : This is an exquisite phantasy, combining fact and fiction in a superb manner, setting forth the joyous outpourings of a beautiful soul, expressing the innermost realization of an ardent devotee of Sri Krishna, rising to lyrical heights in depicting the doubts and difficulties, the sorrows and the tribulations of souls struggling in the strangling folds of Samsara. \* \* \* \* Here is a book which is a joy to read, a treasure to possess.

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST (Ed. Rev. Dandoy, S. J.) : \* \* The best in Hinduism is still the fruit of the exuberant but flowery tree of Vaishnavism. \* \* The book is new in many ways. \* \* \* New wine has been

successfully poured into the old bottles and its taste is sweet. The translation is very well made. \* \* The get up and printing are first class.

THE HINDUSTAN STANDARD : \* \* \* One feels assured that the labour of the translator will find ample reward in the appreciation of those who had not the opportunity to read the original and feel its devotional fervour and literary charm. The latter quality is fully maintained in the translation which bears the stamp of Biblical simplicity: \* \* \* The translator has undoubtedly spiritual affinity with the author, and it may be said that the translation itself is a piece of literature. \* \* \*

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA : \* \* \* The book should give solace to many a sorrowing soul, and its publication in these calamitous days: when men have slumbered too long, seems to be very opportune.

THE TRIBUNE (Lahore) : \* \* \* There is no doubt that the publisher has done a service by bringing the inspiring lyrics within the reach of a much larger circle of readers. The book is at once an affirmation and vindication of faith in the dictum: 'Faith governs the world.' \* \* \* To many questions which confront the 'Wanderer', in his journey through life, there is an appropriate and 'convincing' answer in the book.

THE VISION (Anandasram, Ramnagar, Southern India) : The book is replete with thoughts on devotion to God and is a valuable addition to Vaishnava literature. The 'Wanderer' has done a distinct service to the students of Hindu religion by translating this inspiring book.

THE INDIAN REVIEW (Ed. Mr. G. A. Natesan) : \* \* The translation in English, apart from its value as a translation, is itself a work of art. \* \* It is a Vaishnavite Saga of a Bhakta's intuitive realization of God as everlasting love. Here is a book to which the reader will return again and again with ever-increasing understanding and appreciation of its beauty of thought, its depth of feeling and its fervour of expression.

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## OPINIONS

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THE LIGHT OF THE EAST (Editor Rev. Dandoy, S.J.) : "This little booklet is the continuation of IN QUEST OF BLISS by the same author reviewed in June 1941. It is a well-ordered picture, drawn mostly from the songs of such eminent *bhaktas* as Chandidas and Jnandas, of the mystic play of search, disappointment, despondency, sudden consolation and find that marks, according to the best Vaishnava authorities, the steps that lead a mystic soul from itself into the entrancing embrace of God. The booklet has a twofold importance. It expresses beautifully and chastely the Vaishnava *sadhana*, so deeply interesting to any student of religion and especially of Hindu religious thought. But, to a European at least, it reveals also something else, \* \* \* the deep, romantic, as distinct from mere lustful, love that can in India as elsewhere unite man and woman."

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THE HINDUSTHAN STANDARD : "Sometime back the author's IN QUEST OF BLISS was reviewed in these columns. If that book established the author's literary reputation, the present one has augmented it. He is more than a fine translator : he himself is a poet. For it is indeed a unique achievement to versify in English some of the finest Bengali Vaishnava lyrics. Mark the literary excellence of these lines : \* \* \* \* The author has performed a noble task in providing an opportunity to English-knowing people to enjoy the charm of these Bengali literary treasures."

THE VISION ( Anandashram, Ramnagar, S. India ) : " The author of this book wanders far into the gliding forests of Vrindaban, where Radha, the beloved consort of Sri Krishna, is eagerly waiting for the arrival of her dear Lord ; with disappointment, the quest for the Lord ends in petulance when He actually comes to meet His beloved. \* \* The whole play, though not dramatic, is short and sweet, and it is artistically moulded into poetic diction."

KASHMIR CHRONICLE, Srinagar : " It is well written and is likely to fascinate even the unbeliever, from cover to cover."

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA : " The author of the book, through English translations of the songs of saintly poets of old such as Chandidas, Jnandas and others, presents to us the divine play of Sri Radha-Krishna. Music of thought is offered to us in the music of emotion. Every tear of the devotee is a song. \* \* The style of the author is simple and lucid, and it is difficult to speak too highly of this charming and delightful work, which every devout Vaishnava and lover of poetry should treasure. The book captures our imagination and we hear the far-off whispers of eternity. We find the colour of young imagination blended with the mellow harmony of judgement in a pleasing way."

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