

Sri Varahur Kalyanasundara Sastrigal Recipient of President award

Sri V.R. Kalyanasundara Sastrigal, who has been given the President's award for Sanskrit this year (in 1963) is an eminent teacher of Vedanta in South India.

A native of Varahoor village in Thanjavur district, he studied under Karungulam Krishna Sastrigal at the Sanskrit College, Madras and passed the Sahitya Sironmani examination in 1932. During 1934-37, he

studied Vedanta under Veppathur Vaidyanatha Sastrigal at Aiyuvaiyer Pathasala, Kumbakonam and passed the Vedanta Sironmani examination with great distinction. In 1938 he joined the Sanskrit College, Madras, as a research scholar and published his thesis: Vrutti Mimamsa.

As a pandit in the Government oriental manuscript library, Madras, where he was employed for 16 years, he assisted the curators in the publication of many rare manuscripts in addition to his own editions and publications of many rare works. In 1956, at the invitation of Vivekananda College, he joined the post-graduate department of Sanskrit for teaching Vedanta and other subjects to students of M.A. Classes. After his retirement, he was selected by the UGC as Professor of Sanskrit for research for three years from 1971.

During the past 30 years, Sri Sastrigal has been giving discourses at Upanishad Ashram, Nungambakkam, on Sankara's Prasthanatraya Bhashyas in the traditional style. In recognition of his profound scholarship and brilliant exposition of Vedanta, H.H. Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam conferred on him the title of Bhashya Bhavajna in 1963. He was the second to get this title from His Holiness so far.

