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# Prasnothara Vahini

## Answers to Spiritual Questions



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# The Answer

*Prasna* means “question”, *Uttara* means “answer”, and *Vahini* indicates “a stream”. This book is the stream of the questions that have evoked answers from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Among the tasks that Bhagawan has assumed while incarnating, He has declared as basic the one that He calls, “the clarification and purification of the religious scriptures of mankind.” Every *Vahini* emanating from Him has done this service to some aspect or other of the spiritual upliftment of man.

This *Vahini* is one of the earliest in the series, since it seeks to elucidate the fundamental concepts and precepts of religion, especially the technical words and expressions that seek to concretise them. Hitherto published as an Appendix to a single *Vahini*, the *Gita Vahini*, it is now placed in the hands of seekers as a key publication, helpful for readers of all the *Vahinis*.

The Ancient Wisdom (*Sanathana Dharma*), the Perennial Path, has been communicated to posterity in words that have suffered distortion, devaluation, dilution and denigration through the efflux of time and the controversies among commentators. *Varna, asrama, yoga, sanyasa, yajna, karma*—these are interpreted by dialecticians and practitioners of varied schools and sects, in confusing and contradictory versions.

Bhagawan has resolved these tangles. His exemplary love and patience sweeten not only every answer but every question too, for, He has, by posturing as the interrogator, made the clarifications full and fruitful.

N. Kasturi

Editor, Sanathana Sarathi

14 Jan. 1984.

## Preface for this ebook edition

This edition of *Prasnothara Vahini* improves on the previous edition. Grammatical errors and typos have been corrected, and some sentences have been rewritten to smooth and clarify the presentation —of course, without disturbing the meaning.

Sanskrit words have been replaced by English equivalents, to make the text accessible to readers who do not know Sanskrit. However, since many Sanskrit words have no exact English equivalent, the accuracy of the text has been maintained by putting Sanskrit words in parentheses, after their English translations.

Several Sanskrit words have made their way into the English language and can be found in most dictionaries —e.g. *dharma*, *guru*, and *yoga*. These words have been used without translation, although their meanings appear in the glossary at the end of the book.

Finally, in the ebook version —either a .epub file for the Ipad or a .mobi file for the Kindle— clicking on a Sanskrit word, a person's name, or a place may take you directly to the Glossary for the definition; a link on you reader should take you back to where you were reading. And you, the reader, can choose the font and font size that best suits your need.