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# Sutra Vahini



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# Preface

An aphorism (*sutra*) expresses the genus of its meaning in a few terse words. The *Brahma Sutras* systematically explain the basic principles of *Vedanta*, the science of Supreme Reality. When contemplated, they reveal the innermost metaphysical secrets.

Today, harmony is the need of the hour. The ephemeral world needs spiritual awareness, and this is what the *Vedantins* visualise. *Vedic* scriptures offer comforting counsel. They throw a kindly light.

Man has distorted vision: he dotes on apparently real and also non-real phenomena. True vision makes him cognize the universal Being in nature's creations. Realization of this awareness is liberation (*moksha*). The be-all and end-all of life of the human being is the realization of constant integrated awareness —of *Brahman* visualized both as the primary, absolute, supreme, unlimited entity and as its subsidiary cosmic creative aspect and mergence in Brahman.

In this *Stream of Aphorisms (Sutra Vahini)* on *Brahman*, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has lighted the universal lamp of the wisdom of *Atma/Brahman* (Divine Self). This stream of aphorisms first appeared in serialized form in *Sanathana Sarathi*. Bhagavan, in His infinite love, elaborated on the “Essence of *Brahma Sutras* in twelve selected aphorisms”. Bhagavan's sublime and profound words and spiritual wisdom are indeed highly elevating and illuminating. Bathing in this pellucid *Stream of Aphorisms*, a person develops correct or true vision of Reality, bestowing supreme delight.

In the words of Bhagavan Baba, “Acquisition of the higher knowledge alone can fulfill the main purpose of human life. Such knowledge makes one aware that one is not the inert insentient body, etc., but that one is consciousness itself manifesting as the embodiment of being-awareness-bliss (*satchidananda*). When this truth dawns and is experienced, one becomes a person liberated while alive.” This is the state of realization of the innate nature of a people —the divinity of humanity.

## Preface for this ebook edition

This edition of *Sutra 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. Long paragraphs have been split logically in two to provide easier reading.

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.

The Editor