

FOREWORD

It is heartening to note that Śrī Ramchandra Publishers have come forward with this volume on Aesthetics, Religion, Philosophy & Ethics. This volume IX of the complete works of Dr. K.C. Varadachari is the next in the series covering his study of several perennial problems of Philosophy, Aesthetics, Religion & Ethics. The volume deals specifically with Beauty starting with the meaning of Beauty, the Archetypes of Beauty and finally ends with the esoteric teaching of the Nalopakhyaṇa which is worth going over a number of times. The author through the articles in this volume gives an erudite interpretation of the concept of Beauty and does an extensive comparison of the contemporary theories of Beauty. Esoterics has been a subject which has been much neglected in recent times and I hope the articles in this volume will help regenerate interest as well as appreciation of the value of Aesthetics leading to Esoterics. The second part of the book deals with Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. The author has presented herein various aspects and tenets of philosophy and has delved extensively into the various problems an individual faces while discovering himself. The article, "Human conflict and the solution of the Gita" is worth mentioning in this regard.

The author presenting a question to us "Quo Vadis—Whither Philosopher" proceeds through "Discovery of the soul—the Dualistic Approach" & the "Individuals place in the Universe" and presently poses another serious enigma before us in "Whither Mankind—Culture or Chaos". The last chapter of the above mentioned deals with the present day problems mankind which are leading to everyday chaos and as specifically mentioned by the author and I quote "Mankind has been set a problem from the dawn of history. Our present world has been more sorely tried than the past because of the chaos introduced by Science. What is the pattern of this chaos? It is indeed the triumph of technique over the values of life which refuse to conform to the scientific pattern of law. These are values more important than what science has been able to assure, Law indeed is the promise of science and whilst giving us laws it has also made the higher and

deeper fountains of human life lawless.” “Freedom is the price that man has to pay for the purpose of survival in the modern dictator- ridden world of scientific men.” “And what does he offer? To keep the animal needs alive and abolish the spiritual and the individual. It is a sad day when men of religion even thought that the individual is a fiction, a maya of ego, a strange and inexplicable superstition of the ancient religious thought. Religion got the first death blow when the value of the individual was abolished, his freedom condemned in the name of the collective and the universal.” The above quotes give ample evidence of the fact that Dr. K.C Varadachari was well ahead of his times in thinking. Mankind has been going downhill ever so fast and it is the duty of the present generation to make sure that this degeneration of values is stopped. Dr K.C. Varadachari in this work amply reiterates the need for the same.

It has been a great honour which was bestowed on me when the publishers requested me to write the foreword for this work by one of the greatest philosophers, scholar & yogi. Dr. K.C. Varadachari had an extraordinary intellect which capacity helped him in presenting a subject in a manner which is understandable to the reader. This capacity of his is evident in this volume as in any other work of his. I consider it a fortune to have the privilege to write the foreword for this volume.

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