

SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI

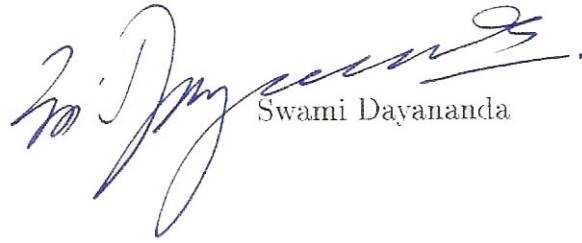
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If a good writer treks in the Himālayas the person is bound to write a travelogue. If a person with a facile pen imbued with Vedic culture and wisdom travels in the Himalayas one can expect from the person a book of sheer poetry in praise of the Lord. I Wonder whether Pushpa had any idea of writing a book when she went to the shrines in the Himalayas. Her *gadya*, prose reveals that the Himālayas themselves were a shrine for her. The style of the *gadya* is of the famous *Raghuvīra Gadya* of Śrī Vedānta Deśika. The poetic prose throbs with Pushpa’s devotion to her *Ishṭa*, Saint Tyāgaraja manifesting in the form of breath-taking mountains and their peaks.

In her *Padya* of Gaṅgā Pushpa follows the fascinating river from its source to its merger with the *sāgara*. While the words capture all the glories attached to the mystic river, the style employed brings out the river’s various moods present in its flow and form.

The style of the poetic prose, *gadya* in Sanskrit does not lend itself for its easy comprehension even for a literary expert in the Vedic language. The thoughtful author has given a running translation in English and Tamil capturing the form and the spirit of the original. That Pushpa is quite at home with Sanskrit, English and Tamil is evident from this remarkable threefold contribution on the Himālayas and the Gaṅgā.

“*Sadguru Śrī Tyāgabrahma Pushpāñjali*”, another contribution of Smt. Pushpa to the devotional literature in Sanskrit, is already in print thanks to the Devasthanam of Tirupati. This work, as the author says, is again a floral offering of varied hues of literary creativity and a lingering fragrance of moving devotion.


Swami Dayananda