

PATHWAY TO GOD TROD BY
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SHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN
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PATHWAY TO GOD

TROD BY

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

Mystics the world over speak the same language — the language of love, not carnal but supernal. In fact, the lives and teachings of mystics constitute the only tangible, and, perhaps, the most rational means for us to know the existence of God.

They have no use for the ponderous tomes that speculate about the existence of God, nor are they preoccupied with the diverse schools of philosophy because they need no theory to affirm the existence of God. They speak of God from the solid ground of personal experience, direct communion with the Beloved whose nature is "love inexpressible". And because there are no words in the language — any human language — to express this "divine love", the mystics use for that purpose the language of human love, howsoever imperfect or insufficient it is. Hence the importance of moral purity for getting an insight into their works.

Every land has produced its mystics, and in India every region has been blessed age after age with their birth.

Whether language chauvinists like it or not, placed as we are at present, but for the unifying role of the English language, the stories and writings of these mystics would not have become the common property of all Indians, nay, the whole world.

It was Gurudev Ranade, a realised soul, who did pioneering work in making available to the spiritually-hungry people the authentic accounts of the mystical experiences of the saints of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Hindi-speaking regions. His monumental works, *Pathway to God in Marathi Literature*, *Pathway to God in Kannada Literature* and *Pathway to God in Hindi Literature* are justly famous. The Bhavan had the privilege of publishing these works of this great modern savant.

It is in this context that we readily accepted the thoughtful suggestion of Sri N. Mahalingam to publish Sri Vanmikanathan's magnum opus, "*Pathway to God Trod by Raamalinga Swaamikal*."