

## Program 2

### *Tattva-bodha* —

## The Fundamentals of Advaita Vedānta

### Synopsis

While studying any subject, it is preferable, if not imperative, to be familiar with the fundamental concepts, terms and definitions commonly used in that subject. So too with any philosophy. Studying Vedānta requires the study of the source-texts for Self-knowledge, namely the Upaniṣads, and supportive texts known as treatises. Before embarking on studying these texts, it will help the student to familiarise oneself with the concepts, terms and definitions generally used in these texts. Traditionalists generally opt for some elaborate texts like Śaṅkarācārya's *Ātma-bodha* and *Viveka-cūḍāmaṇi*, Śrī Vidyāraṇya Swami's *Pañca-daśī* and so on. In contrast to such books, *Tattva-bodha* is a small and simple text which presents the bare essentials in this area. It is a book not traditionally enjoined in the study of Vedānta. Rendered in the form of 50 and odd simple and short question-answer format, the beauty and profundity of this text is that it can be read within ten days, studied for months too or be re-visited repeatedly while progressing to advanced texts. '*Tattva-bodha* — The Fundamentals of Advaita Vedānta is intended for those who desire to study *Śrīmad Bhagavadgītā*, the *Upaniṣad*-s and Vedānta related treatises. This programme will acclimatise the student with the basic concepts, terms and definitions in Advaita Vedānta. There are two versions of *Tattva-bodha*, one authored by Śrī Vāsudevendra Saraswati and the other by an unknown author. Manuscripts of both versions are available at the Adyar Library and Research Centre. Śrī Vāsudevendra's version is available in print. This will be the primary text followed in this programme with additional inputs, if necessary, from the other version.

- **For Prior Reading and Revision**

pdf of my lecture for a class will be posted one week before the given class.

- **Suggested Reading**

*Tattvabodha* by H.H. Sw. Paramarthananda, founder-acarya of Vedanta Vidyanthi Sangha. – Book can be downloaded from the website of Arsha Avinash Foundation

*Insights into to Vedanta – Tattvabodha*, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, India

*Tattvabodha of Sankaracharya*, by Svarupa Chaitanya, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai

*Tattvabodha*, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam (Sruti Seva Trust), Anaikatti, Coimbatore – 641 108, India

- **For an Elaborate Reading**

*Tattvabodha* by H.H. Sw. Dayananda, Arsha Vidya Research and Publication Trust, Chennai