CHAPTER III
RAMAVARMA PARIKŚIT TAMPURĀN AND CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARS

Tripunithura at the time of Rājarṣi and R.V.P. had become a great centre for Sanskrit studies. Eminent scholars from far and near came to this capital town seeking royal patronage. Students also sought admission in the Sanskrit College.

The Scholars were closely related to R.V.P. and they were the authorities of various Śāstras. These scholars have been noted for their ability and erudition.

The life of the people at that time is described in Rāmavarmavilāśa. Even giving due allowance to the poetic exaggeration it can be seen that the people moved in righteous Path, and the Śāstras-Vyākaraṇa and Nyāya had great influence among the people.

Tripunithura had by this time-acquired eminence in the learning of Nyāya Śāstra. Three scholars from Kumbham - Śesācaryar, Satkopaćāryar and Rangappacaryar were mainly responsible for the prominence of Nyāya śāstra. Rājarṣi brought the first two scholars to Tripunithura. It has to be remembered that the Sanskrit College was
established in the name of Sēśācarya whom he respectfully remembers in his works. Sāthokopacaryar was the preceptor of R.V.P. These scholars laid sound foundation for Nyāya studies in Tripunithura.

It was in this background that R.V.P. took over the reign of Sanskrit studies from his Uncle. His position is rightly described as those of a moon encircle by the stars - scholars. The following were some among the brilliant stars.

I. CENNAMANGALAM AYYĀŚĀSTRIKAL ⁴ (1864 – 1945)

Śāstrikal was R V P's intimate friend. Ayya is his pet name. Parentally given name was Hariharaputra. He was acclaimed as a brilliant scholar and graded in the first category or receivers of presents in the sastra sadas. Śāstrikal was chosen to be the first recipient of the Maharāja's Paṇḍitaraja gold medal.

On his 70th birthday Anantanarayana Śāstri wrote a greeting Sloka.⁵

Ayyasastrikal was reluctant to write books. The following incident shows his attitude in this matter.

“Sri P.S. Anantha Narayana Sastri, a lecturer in Sanskrit at the Maharaja’s College Ernakulam, was an eminent scholar of high
intelligence. He was a bit proud of his learning and used to embarrass vidwāns at sadas by putting difficult questions. Towards Ayyāśāstrikal however he always showed only profound respect. He used to tell R.V.P. that one of his regrets was that he never had an opportunity to sit as a student at Śāstrikal’s feet. Hence he requested Śāstrikal to write a book. Ready came the confounding question whether he had already read all the works by eminent writers of old, which of course silenced him”. It was Śastri himself who accounted this story to R.V.P. He passed away in 1945. R.V.P lamented on his demise:

“I met Ėśāstrikal a few days before his Satābhiseka. He was then in his usual good health and promised me to write me again sometime after the ceremonies connected there with. Alas, God willed otherwise. I was attending the garden party. His Highness the Mahārāja was giving to His Excellency Lord Wavell, the then Viceroy of India, when a friend, Desamangalath Narayanan Nambuthiripad, brought the sad news of Śāstrikal’s almost sudden passing away from this world. I was alone among his class mates — whom the hand of death had already scratched away- to grieve over this loss and found solace in the firm belief that the departed soul was in heaven enjoying the sweet-fruits of good deeds he had done here.”
II. **K. RAMAPIŚAROTI:** (1867-1947)

Ramapiśaroti was, as it were the outer life – Bāhīścarapāṇa – of R.V.P. On several occasions, he had expressed his intimate relation to Parīksit.

Their friendship so sweet as that of the mingling of milk and sugar.°

Kuttamāśeri Narayana Pisaroti has given a touching description of their mutual relation.°

RP has himself written about his strong friendship with RVP.°

Kavithilaka P Sankaran Nambar has given a graphic account of their mutual co-operation in the matter of Śastraic discussion.°

**LIFE HISTORY IN SHORT**

RP had his preliminary education in his house.

Later he studied Nyāya under Rājārṣi. At that time R.V.P. was also studying under him. Their mutual love and respect started during their student days and lasted till the end.

Rājārṣi awarded the title of Sahādaya Tilaka to R.P. In 1922, the Prince of Wales, when he visited Madras awarded him a Golden Bangle. Sri Chithiratirunal of Travancore awarded him a Golden Medal. The great
scholar Khozikode Mānavikrama Ettan Tampurān also conferred honours on RP

RP was fond of teaching and studying the Kāvyas of Kalidasa. It is this admiration for Kalidasa that prompted him to write commentaries on all the dramas of Kalidasa.

RP has given detailed and exhaustive commentaries on Abhijñānasākuntala 12 Mālavikāgnimitra, Vikrmorvaśīya, Nārāyaṇīya 13, Śivānandalahari, Devīmāhatmya, Śukasandesā, Citramimāṁsā and Kuvalayānanda: The commentary on Abhijñānasākuntala is jointly authored by RP and RVP. Most of his commentaries are known as Sārūrthadīpīka.

A small Viṣṇustotra written by Ramapiśāroti is known Ślokavimśati Mālika. Sangameśastuti and Pūrmatrayīśastotra are hymns to the deities of Irinjalakuda and Tripunithura respectively. They are published in Ravi Varma granthāvali.

Ramavarma Sataka was written in the year 1913 A.D., when the king of Cochin was in the sixties. The king’s extra-ordinary qualities are described in this Mahākāvya.

Among all the commentaries Rasikapriya stands first 14.
He passed away in 1947 A.D. at the age of 80. RVP said about the demise – “the tilaka of sadas has gone.”

III. **MÄNTHITTA KUÑJU NAMPÜTIRI (1877 – 1957)**

Mänthitta Kuñju Nambootiri used to attend from his early youth days; the Sāstra Sadas conducted in Tripunithura. He had by his extraordinary scholarship had won many awards. Titles like Pañditarāja and Tārkkika tilaka were conferred on him.

Gangātarangini, Viśwanathāstaka, Nacaratnamāla and Cātaka Sandesa are his famous works.

Tiśa prasūnañjali is a commentary on Gangātarangini. He himself has written the commentary for this. This poem is an example for his ability to depict the sentiment of Bhakti. ¹⁵

Nacaratnamāla is a Nyāya work. Teachers like Reghunātha Siromani; Chakravarthi etc. have given fourteen definitions to vyāpti. In this second commentary is Nacaratnamāla. ¹⁶

He has written a sandesākāvya – cātaka sandesa. It is published recently. ¹⁷
IV. P.S. ANATHANARAYANA SASTRI (1885-1947)

Ananthanarayana Sastri was born on 1885 A.D. Tripunithura Sastras Sadas, conferred Paṇḍitrāja title on him. Navarātri Sadas, of Travancore awarded Kirtimudra.

Sastri had an extra ordinary ability to write beautiful prose works both in Sanskrit and Malayalam.

His works are above ten in number. Laghukaumudi, and Vākyatattvam are two of his important works.

He used to participate in the sadas from the very early age of 24 and in the age of 41 he was awarded the Paṇḍitrāja degree and honoured by Parīkṣit Tampuran.

V. M.B. SANSKARANARAYANA SASTRIKAL — (1885 – 1966)

MBS was appointed Professor of Vyākaraṇa in the Sanskrit College, Tripunithura, on the 4th January 1914. He was a profound Scholar in Vyākaraṇa. The most important accomplishment that distinguished him from many of his contemporary traditional scholars was his knowledge of English language. He had a deep knowledge in the intricacies of ancient Mathematics.
VI. ACYUTA POUVAL (1898 – 1972)

He was the disciple of Meladath Govindan Nambar and Mānthitta Kuriju Nambootiri. He was the editor of Śrīrāmavarma Samskrta Granthāvali. Famous books are Vilāpa Saptati and Śri Pariksitcarita, Matrivilāpam, Vilāpasaptati, a poem in 700 stanzas bemoaming the death of H.H. Rama Varma of Cochin well known as Rājaṛṣi. He has also written a stotra work called Sivastuti and Laghugīti, which is the poem in four cantos on the life of RVP. He has some papers and books published in Malayalam also.

A galaxy of eminent scholars was associated with Tripunithura during that period. Included among them were Uzhutra Warrier, (the famous Ayurvedic Physician), Panditarajan Thrikkovil Rama Warrier, K. Achuta Warrier, C.K. Raman Nambar, D. Damodara Pisharody and many others.

Scholars from other parts of the country like Sethumadhavadikshitar also had close links with the sadas here. A glance at the scholars who were honoured in the Sadas alone will suffice to give an idea on the wide range of sastraic knowledge of that time.

Many scholars who flourished in central Kerala for the last five decades had their instruction from the institution under the guidance of
these eminent preceptors. Sri. N.V. Krishna Warrier and P.C. Vasudevan Elayath and Sri. G. Viswanatha Sarma are important among him.

RVP as a Teacher

RVP spent all his time in pursuit of knowledge. Paṇḍitaśājan Achutapoduval has summarized it in a single dictum.

काव्यात्मकेन इतिहासेन कार्यो भविष्यति धीमतान्।

This was perfectly true in the case of R V P.

He took teaching as his principal duty. Even in the midst of his official schedule he found time, at least an hour a day, to give higher lessons in Śāstra, Sāhitya or Nyāya to his disciples. The famous Kūtiyattam artist Sri Mani Madhava Chakyar was one of the brilliant students of R V P. Chakyar had high respects for his master. It was R V P. who inspired him to write an exhaustive work on Kūtiyattam – Nātya Kalpa druma.

RVP was a scholar par excellence, apart from that he was the source of inspiration for hundreds of scholars of his time. He patronized them and extended all encouragement in the pursuit of knowledge. In short the traditional scholarship of the state during the early half of this century centered around RVP.
Reference:
1. Rupakambech guru bhushan vidurushi vidhavathe havyadine
   kushmanghi ch vininirvatsadmay kavyasidhik vatsalim
   pradaladharitaraknaradhani shirasanvani vrupo
   varni daksahmprathissh uttabayancharvatwapi ch ||
2. Kerala thinte nyaya parramparyam – K.G. Paulose Sanskrit College,
   Magazine,
3. Gośrimandala Paṇḍitodunikaram – Rama Varma Vijaya
5. Shreyanandadhanro hirhanadhan pramnajata
   kavyabhbutichhindmabadamit mahaneva samudhassita:
   nimalaśaśirbhitayanukt pratvayāvadādha bhuvēvash
   dvayajaisvita mahasaya chitrjataamadantairas sukhvi ||
6. Ibid.
7. See the Obituary note on him by Dr. C. Kunchan Raja, ALB X – 4,
   P.P. 527. Manuscripts are with his son K. Narayana Pisaroti, Trichur.
9. Pārakeyinnariya pāṇḍitarā janenna
Perālāriṇā Sudhi, Sāhitān nidhānam /
Neray vaidūṣīkku Viśistānkhilāgama
Vārakaram, mahitarāmapiśārakāhyan //

Oonam vināSaḥrdayarkkakatārinetta —
Mānandavardhana, nahomama tātapādan /
Jñānapradhāna dhanānām dharaṇīdhā rannu
Tānadvītya kṛtaketaramitramayi //

Ī rand satpriya satṛthya janaṅgalotu
Sārasva śāstraviṣayam paricarca ceytum
Sārasvatāṁṛtarasam paramāsvadiccum
Nerām nayikkumitayil kanvaṅgalīrttum.

(Mangalopahāram – Kuttamasseri Narayanapisāroti)

10. आर्यस्थानात्तित्वात्विविधाभिः परीक्षित्वानामकः ||
    ॥ श्रद्धेऽन्ति प्रभो गदीखर्मि धर्माकल्यायिते शरदाः ||

Ramapisāroti - Baḷapriya
11. Kavitiilaka Prof. P. Sankaran Nambiar—“A few years ago, I had occasion to pay a surprise visit, in an official capacity, to the Oriental Manuscript Library, attached to the Sanskrit College, Tripunithura, the seat of the Cochin Royal Family. In the library I discovered two scholars alertly engaged in a serious discussion about the reading in Kalidasa’s Raghuvamsa. On closer approach, I found that the scholars who so zealously carried on the discussion were none other than H.H. Parikshith Thampuran and the late Panditarajan Rama Pisarati of revered memory. The discussion centered round the one word—‘Vanitām’, whether it gives better sense in the context then ‘api tam’, which of the two alternate readings should be accepted as nearer to the Kaviḥṛdaya. This is a matter of vital importance to scholars of old type.

12. Mangalodayam press, Trichur, 1913


14. 1. Vyākhyaṁ Sākuntalādīnāṁ lochanasyāpi cākarot
    
    rāmaḥ panditarajo yaḥ sārakastena khalviyam //
ramaḥ panditarajo yaḥ śarakastena khalviyam //

Vyākhya sāhāyyato vidvatpareeksinrpaterumude
Sahitaika vidām yattalkitam talkarotviyam //

Yathā narayaneeyam me tadvyakhyanamidam tada
Srecenarayanasyastu prasadaya tadarpitam //

15. Gangātarangiṇī

16. Nacaratnamāla – Published in 1956 at varanasi in Sarasvatībhāvana
granthamāla series, Varanasi Sanskrit University – No. 93


18. Maṇīmaṇjuṣa, Navapuṣṭamāla, A commentary, named Anuvamsam to
Bhagavat gīta, Devī Māhātmya commentary, Nārāyaṇeeeya
commentary (incomplete), vākyatatva, Tarkasāra, Bālarāmāyaṇa, A
critical appreciation of Meghasandesā. Vākyatattva a publisher in the
Ravivarma Samskṛta Granthāvali. See introduction by Dr. K.G.
Paulose.

21. Parīkṣiccarita is a Khaṇḍa-kāvya written by Acyuta Poduval, 1958. In this Kāvya R V P’s life history is describing. There are four Sargas in this Kāvya. Raja Press, Tripunithura
List of Scholars who have been honored by the award of Pandita Rāja, Sahitya Nipuna and Vedanta Gold Medals

Pandita Rāja

1. Ayyā Sāstrical – Sabdikatkalan

2. Setumadhava Dikshitachariar


5. Sahṛdaya Tilakam K. Ramapisaroti


7. R.V. Krishnahācharyar, Abhinava Bhatta Bana

8. T.V. Lakshminarayana sastrical

9. D.T. Thathachariar

10. T.A. Venkateswara Dikshithar

11. K. Sambasiva Sastrigal, Curator, Manuscripts Library T V M

12. E. Kuṇjan Warrier

13. M.S. Venkatesa Sastri

14. T.V. Ramchandra Dikshithar

15. O.V. Subramanya Sastrigal.
16. P.S. Ananthanaraya Sastri
17. Smt. Kochikkavu Thampuratty, Cranganore W/o Manthitta
18. P.S. Venkitachala Sastry
19. S.K. Padmanabha Sastri
20. K.S. Krishnamurthy Sastri
21. Sabdikatiakam M.B. Sankaranarayana Sastrical
22. Atoor Krishna Pisharoti
23. S.Subrahmanya Sastri
24. K. Achyuta Poduval
25. K. Sankaranarayana Sastrigal
26. V.S. Ramachandra Sastry
27. N. Vijayindra Carya
28. T. Ramawarrier
29. C.K. Raman Nambiar
30. K. Narayanan Namboodiripad
31. Pulpallam Damodaran Namboodiripad
32. T. Achyuta Warrier
33. R. Subramanya Sastrical
34. P.S. Sree Rama Sastry
35. P. Narayanan Namboodiri
36. D. Damodara Pisharoti
37. Kalakkathu Govindan Nambiar.

Sāhitya Nipūna

1. K.L. Vyasaraya Sāstry
2. K. Krishnan Bhattatiripad
3. A.V. Krishna Warrier
4. P.S. Subharama Pattar
5. Prof. Joseph Mundassery
6. K.Kesavan Nair
7. P.Sankaran Nambiar
8. K. Vasudevan Moosad (KVM)
9. A.D. Harisarma
10. G. Sankara Kurup
11. Puthezathu Raman Menon
12. D. Padmanabhan Unni
13. Venñikulam Gopala Kurup
14. C. Krishnan Kartha
15. Śūranadu Kuñjan Pillai
16. Smt. Ambādi Meenakshi Amma
17. V. Unnikrishnan Nair  
18. T.R. Nair  
19. Smt. Sreedevi Werrasiar  
20. Lalithamba Thampuratty Mavelikkara  
21. N.V. Krishna Warrier  
22. T.M. Chummar  
23. K.K. Raja  
24. Ullattil Govindankutty Nair  
25. Smt. Nalappat Balamani Amma  
26. P. Kunchiraman Nair  
27. Kuttikrishna Marar

Vedānta Gold Medal

1. Sri Narayanan Nambutiri K.  
2. Peruvanam Jagannathan Namboodiri  
3. Varikessari Kavu Namboodiripad  
4. Sr. T.V. Parameswara Iyer  
5. C.K. Narayana Iyer  
6. G. Viswanatha Sarma  
7. N. Rama Iyer
8. Kaipilliil Krishnan Namboodiri
9. Lakshminarayanopadhyya of Mysore
10. Venkitachala Sastrigal, Tirupathy
11. S. Subramanya Sastry, Kumbhakonam
12. K. Narayanan Naboodiripad
13. S.R. Krishnamurthy Sastry
14. Balakrishna Sastrigal
15. V. Narayanachary, Thiruvaniyoor
16. K. Krishna Sastry, Tpra
17. Chenkalapurathu Krishnan Nambutiri
18. V. Mahadeva Sastry, Trichy
19. K. Krishna Jois, Sringa Giri Mutt
20. Polagam Sree Rama Sastry, Madras
21. K. Balasubrahmanya Sastrigal, Madras
22. T. Srinivasa Iyanger
23. V.S.V. Guruswami Sastrigal
Part II
WORKS OF PARIKSIT MAHARAJA

The wisemen spend their time by relishing kāvyā and śāstra. This dictum is true in its full meaning in the life and mission of R V P. He read, relished and discussed; taught many scholars, inspired several others and motivated many to pursue their scholastic endeavor. Immersed in these activities he did not write himself many works as was expected of a full time scholar of his calibre. Its seems that he was led by the saying of his dear friend Ayyāśāstri in the matter of writing new books.

Yet we are fortunate enough to get several brilliant treatises from him. The following chapters attempt on a detailed study of his works.

His works are classified for the sake of convenience under four heads – Commentaries, Prabandhās and Stotras. Some works, which do not come under the above category, are studied under.