PREFACE

Pārva Māṁśa is one of the six orthodox schools of Indian Philosophy. Māṁśa is closely related to Vedas. It has provided the principles of Vedic interpretation. As an aid to achieve its main purpose of interpreting Vedas and explaining the ritualistic acts, it has developed its own philosophy, logic and this has contributed a lot to the stock of Indian thoughts. Māṁśa has greatly influenced Indian Culture, literature and life. South India, especially Kerala has a great tradition of the study of Māṁśa.

This study is designed in five chapters. The first chapter, ‘The Origin and Development of Māṁśa Philosophy’ is described about the meaning of the word Māṁśa and its earliest references, the three prominent schools of Māṁśa, well known scholars of Māṁśa.

The Second Chapter, ‘Kerala’s Contribution to Māṁśa studies - Texts and Teachers’ deals with the Māṁśa tradition in
Kerala. It deals about Māmāṣakas of Kerala and their contributions including Payyur Bhattas and some important texts on Māṃsā is also mentioned.

The Third Chapter ‘Māṃsā Tradition - Philosophical, Ritualistic and Linguistic Aspects’ includes the study about these aspects of Māṃsā. As a philosophical system it includes epistemology, the categories, the qualities, concept of Apērva, Mokāa, Svarga, etc. As a ritualistic system it deals about the types of main sacrifices, eligibility to perform sacrifices and sacrificial tradition in Kerala. As a Linguistic system it describes how Māṃsā is a technique of programme organisation, Māṃsā and modern Linguistics, theories of sentence meaning etc.

The fourth chapter deals about the contemporary relevance of Māṃsā. Māṃsā in Linguistic point of view deals about the theory of sentence meaning, programme organization etc. are relevant forever.

The concluding chapter deals about the scope of further study on Pṛtvamāṃsā in its different aspects. Even though Pṛtvamāṃsā is started in connection with rituals its
contribution to philosophy, social customs, jurisdiction and above all these, linguistics are important. These maintains māyās; relevant.

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