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संस्कृतभारती यू एस् ए

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अन्ततः एतत् सर्वं श्रीमुकुन्द्-पद्मनाभवर्येण व्यवस्थापितस्य गुरुकृपा नाम्नः धर्मसंस्थापनस्य प्रभूत-जिलाहाय्येन एव साध्यमस्ति । संस्कृतसेवानिरताय तस्मै भूयो भूयः संस्कृतभारती-नाम्ना कृतज्ञतां अपयामि इति शिवम् ॥

संस्कृताय हि कार्यकरणं नित्यजीवनभागभूतम् । अमरवाणी विजयतेतराम् !

ेशार्यः जानकीरामः ॥

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The bud that it was, has now blossomed and is spreading the sweet fragrance, as it were, among the students of SAFL (Samskritam As a Foreign Language); truly a cause for celebration. This book series "Mukulam", "Kusumam" and now the final "Saurabham" is a labor of love and dedication of many a volunteer; an effort of Saṃskṛtabhāratī North America to teach saṃskṛtam using the medium of saṃskṛtam and to equip young students with day-to-day conversational skills.

Continuing the lessons of its predecessor Kusumam, the teaching materials in this book are organized nicely in 16 chapters. On saṃskṛtam grammar the following topics have been excellently dealt with in this book: Ātmanepadi-roots, passive voices, vowel, consonant and visarga related sandhi-rules, prefixes and treatment of some suffixes, Cardinal and Ordinal numbers, cit-cana rules, some aspects of active and passive uses of potential/imperative tense, present continuous tense etc.

While giving proper and adequate emphasis on grammar, this book walks the students through the steps of parsing a poem according to traditional rules. Short life-stories of some great poets and poetesses are given. Also, proverbial citations and worldly rules of human conduct (laukikanyāyāḥ) with allegories have been added. In order to improve day-to-day use of saṃskṛtam, instructions on writing stories, essays and letters are given. There are several chapters on exercises interspersed to strengthen the understanding of the studied materials. Importantly, this book, as its predecessors, includes materials, to understand and appreciate our tradition and culture; an important element concerning the children of the Indian diaspora in North America. Consistent with the objective of SAFL, English translation is limited; only meanings of hard words in the middle of a lesson and recap at the end of a chapter are provided in English.

Course materials are organized in this book series such that students upon completion will be able to, either through self-study or in regular class rooms, continue further studies on saṃskṛtam literature. Also, the student will be able to carry on day-to-day conversation in saṃskṛtam; this we already see while interacting with the graduating students. We repeat our desire, as before, that this book series be adapted in high School instructions everywhere.

SAFL is one of the important programs in North America for young students. For the past 8 years, this program has been growing steadily. 190 students enrolled in three levels during this academic year. Many of the graduates of SAFL are not only continuing their studies, but also do volunteer work for the spread of saṃskṛtam and Saṃskṛtabhāratī. They are indeed the leaders of the future who will nurture our language and culture for generations to come.

Dear students: Let me make an appeal to you all. Consider this as the very first step in your long journey. Throughout your life immerse yourself in the study of the treasures of saṃskṛtam, speak in saṃskṛtam in everyday life, sacrifice as much as you can for the cause of saṃskṛtam and participate in our collective effort to bring the saṃskṛta-sarasvatī back in our midst.

There are numerous people who have labored hard in the preparation of this book. Our heart-felt gratitude is conveyed to the authors, editorial staff, proof-readers, designers, the publisher, printers and others too numerous to mention by name. Also, the SAFL project members, who like the hidden foundation stones and pillars of a mansion below ground, have been carrying the burden of this program with self-less zeal; they are invisible to the world outside but we cannot do without them. To the SAFL group members we are all indebted.

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Natesa Janakiraman President, Samskrita Bharati USA

कृतज्ञता

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