

*The Divinity of Krishna*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publication, New Delhi, 1984, pp. XV+179, Rs. 80/-.

This book is substantially the same as the thesis of the author for which he was awarded the Ph. D. in Sanskrit and Indian Studies by Harvard University in 1980. Through a thorough comparative analysis of various incidents of Krishna's life in the Viṣṇuparva section of *Harivaṃśa*, the Fifth Book of the *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, and the famous Tenth book of the *Bhagavata Purāṇa*, the author convincingly shows that a progressively more divine images of Krishna emerges from these sources. These texts belong to different centuries and they seem to manifest three different attitudes, namely, the attitudes of hero-worship, self-surrender in devotion, and mystical love. The evolution in their understanding of Krishna's divinity and identity does not imply a process of divinization of Krishna. It only means that the believers endeavoured to remove the blemishes from their earlier portraits of Krishna thus making his divinity shine forth more brilliantly.

The work has four chapters with an introduction by Daniel H. H. Ingalls. The first chapter gives an outline of the events in the life of Krishna which portray him first as a hero and then as a divine Being in *Harivaṃśa*. The second chapter considers the theological implications of these episodes in the *Viṣṇupurāṇa* and *Bhagavata Purāṇa*. The third chapter deals with the development of philosophical and theological ideas concerning Krishna's divine nature and his relationship to the world and creatures in the three sources examined in the earlier chapters. The last chapter briefly and clearly states the findings of the study. The author himself states the achievement of the work in unmistakable terms. "Thus we witness an evolution in the understanding of the divinity of Krishna from the *Harivaṃśa* through the