

Swami Abhishiktananda

The Further Shore,

I.S.P.C.K., Delhi, 1975, xii -f 120pp. Rs. 10.00

This book is a collection of two essays on *Sannydsa* and the *Upanishads*. The belief in the non-duality of *Sannydsa* and *Brah-mavidya* is to account for the structure of the text, which is nothing but those articles, published by Swamy elsewhere, now edited by his disciples posthumously.

The essay on *Sannydsa* treats different aspects of the same mainly from the point of view of the *Sannydsopanishad*. The fact that it is not a mere visionary ideal of a genius but, as claimed by his own disciples it is the very essence of *sannydsa* as lived by Swamiji, adds to the importance of the text. Any average reader will experience in his inner self the fervour and fire of Swamiji's *ddhyatmika anubhava* and perhaps will be inspired to travel along with him to the *Further Shore* which is beyond. Swamiji's own vision is moulded in the furnace of the Trinitarian experience of Christianity and the "*Saccidananda experience*" of the

Upanishads. Throughout these essays there is the undercurrent of the parallelism between the Hindu ideal of *sannydsa* and the ancient Christian ideal of monasticism. As he himself puts it, "in recognition of the Spirit. Jesus is recognized." In recognizing Jesus one at last recognizes his own true self. What remains is the *guha*, the cave of the heart, and the "Silence of the Father."

The essay on the *Upanishads* is informative to anyone who is not yet initiated into their richness. As it is purported in the subtitle, they will help him to form the right attitude towards those Sacred Texts. Swamiji has done justice to the subjects within the limited scope. All in all. *Further Shore* is Swamiji's final testimony to his faith in the Supreme. It will inspire all those who read it, just as his very life inspired those who were along with him, when he was alive.

Philip Kollithanath