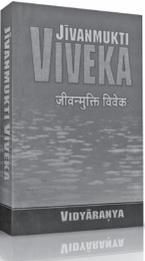


sources for fifty-four countries, are reported and commented upon. Using Principal Component Analysis (PCA), weights are derived from the data. Estimates of *W* are comparable to HDI. Proxy variables chosen by the author are also consistent with postulates other than Vedantic.

The issues discussed by Chatterjee do add an important dimension to our thinking on quantification of human development, particularly through its proposed measure of inner development. Overall, the monograph is interesting, educative, and challenging for the specialists and enlightening for citizens. It opens up an alternative line of reasoning.

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Monash University, Melbourne



### ***Jivanmukti Viveka of Vidyaranya***

Trans. Swami Harshananda and  
Dr H Ramachandra Swamy

Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai  
600 004. Website: [www.chennaiamath.org](http://www.chennaiamath.org). 2009. x + 382 pp. Rs 90.

Swami Vidyaranya is a master compiler of auxiliary texts of Hinduism. A co-founder of the Vijayanagara Empire, he devoted his life to collating established concepts of Hinduism in general and Advaita Vedanta in particular. His seminal work *Panchadashi* is a compendium on the various disciplines of Advaita. Under the monastic name of Madhava-charya, he also wrote *Sarvadarshana Sangraha*, a treatise on various schools of philosophy. After taking the vows of renunciation he wrote the present work *Jivanmukti Viveka*, a compilation, which shows the path to Self-realization and consequent attainment of the state of *jivanmukta*, liberated-in-life.

The present book is an English rendition of Swami Harshananda's Kannada translation of the *Jivanmukti Viveka*. A senior monk of the Ramakrishna Order and a scholar and author of repute, Swami Harshananda is currently the Adhyaksha of Ramakrishna Math, Bengaluru. The English translation is by Dr H Ramachandra Swamy, a philosopher in his own right.

The work is divided into five sections. The author's emphasis on renunciation is evident in the work beginning with a classification of monks. Each category of monks is explained with references from the Upa-

nishads and the Smritis. The nature of *jivanmukti* and the characteristics of a *jivanmukta* are detailed. In keeping with the traditional method of Indian philosophy, the author raises possible objections and gives appropriate clarifications. Succinct definitions of terms like *viveka*, *vairagya*, and *moksha* appear throughout the work. The work draws heavily from such texts as the *Yoga-vashishtha Ramayana* and the Mahabharata. Characteristics of persons with some accomplishment in spiritual life—the *videhamukta*, the *sthitaprajna*, a devotee, one who has transcended all the three *gunas*, a brahmana, one who has gone beyond the four stations of life—are explained.

The second section deals with methods to annihilate *vasanas*, desires. Though an avowed Advaitin, the author unhesitatingly quotes from the *Yoga Sutra*. Various disciplines for control of body and mind are prescribed. The text strongly condemns worldly life and recommends renunciation as an essential condition for spiritual life. Impure desires and attachment have been severely criticized. The third section deals with the dissolution of mind, leading to *jivanmukti*. Here, a forced control of the senses is condemned in favour of gradual restraint of desires. Importance of proper practice of *pranayama* and sitting in the correct posture is emphasized. Moderation in habits and subjugation of pride are recommended. Different types of breath control are discussed. Restraint of speech and right conduct are elaborated upon. The fourth section tells us who a *jivanmukta* is and the need to attain that state. The final section is about *vidvat sannyasa*, a state inferior to *jivanmukti*.

Though *Jivanmukti Viveka* is a compilation, the coherent collection makes it an auxiliary text nonpareil. This work will definitely intensify the spirit of renunciation in those who have already taken to spiritual life and will inspire the uninitiated to plunge into spiritual practices. This new edition is a useful guide for spiritual aspirants and a ready reference for students of Indian philosophy.

*Swami Narasimhananda*  
Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata

## BOOK RECEIVED



### ***Foundations of Dharma***

Pujya Sri Paramananda Bharati

Jnanasamvardhani Pratishthanam, 302,  
3rd Floor, 33 M V Seetaramiah Road,  
Gavipuram, Bengaluru 560 019. 2008.  
131 pp. Rs 60.