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INDIAN PHILOSOPHIES

VOLUME VI

*Indian Philosophical Analysis
Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika from Gaṅgeśa to
Raghunātha Śiromaṇi*

Edited by
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SIBAJIBAN BHATTACHARYYA

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PREFACE

Volume Six of the *Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies* picks up the history of the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika system where Volume Two left off. The time covered in this volume is much smaller than in any of the previous volumes of the *Encyclopedia*, a scant two hundred years between approximately 1310 and 1510. There are good reasons for this intensive attention to such a brief period. For one thing, two of Indian's most remarkable philosophers, Gaṅgeśa and Raghunātha Śiromaṇi, are covered in these pages—in fact, they initiate and terminate the period surveyed. More generally, we here begin to treat the literature of Navyanyāya, a movement comparable in its implication to the burgeoning of symbolic logic and its concomitant philosophical speculations found in the writings of Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein in the West at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The excitement of newly pioneered techniques of philosophical analysis developed by Gaṅgeśa spawned a bevy of philosophical talents. Indeed, this period is even richer than we are able to summarize here, since a good part of it is still unavailable in print.

The history of Indian philosophy, and specifically of Navyanyāya, has been treated in a quite extensive literature. The *Bibliography of Indian Philosophies* (New Delhi : Motilal Banarsidass, 1970, referred to below as "B"; Revised Edition, New Delhi: Banarsidass and Princeton, Princeton University Press 1983, referred to as "RB") provides assistance in suggesting a chronology of Indian thought in general within which Navyanyāya philosophers find their appropriate places.

The form of this book features an extended introductory section followed by summaries of works belonging to the system's literature. These summaries are arranged in relative chronological order to assist the reader in tracing the development of the school's thought. Summaries have been provided by scholars from India, England and the United States. Remarks in the Introductions to previous volumes of the *Encyclopedia* explaining the intended reading public to whom these volumes are addressed apply here as well.

Thanks are due to the American Institute of Indian Studies, the Indo-U.S. Subcommission for Education and Culture, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, the Joint Committee on South Asia of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities; all of these bodies provided needed assistance in the development of this volume through financial assistance of various sorts. Finally, special thanks are due to Laura Townsend for assistance in preparation of the manuscript.

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