Raghunadhanayakudu (1600-1631)

In the history of Telugu literature, Raghunadhanayakudu’s rule is considered a golden era, like that of emperor Srikrishndevarayalu. Raghunadhanayakudu was the king of Tanjavuru (1600-1631). He was famous for his wars, support for arts and culture, and poetry.

Like Bhuvanavijayamu of Srikirshnadevaraylu, Raghunadhanayakudu had a literary assembly called Vijayabhuvnamu. His literary works include: Sanskrit works such as bhaaratakathasamgrahamu, raamaayanakathasaaram, and samgeetasudha. His Telugu works include nalacharitramu, paarijaataapaharanam, raamaayanam, vaalmeekicharitra, achyataabhyadayam, gajaemdramoakshamu, srimgaara saavitri, rikminikrishna etc. Of the several versions of nalacharitramu, Raghunadhanayakudu’s version, composed around 1630, was considered to have the best literary quality.

His religion was Visishtadwaita Vaishnavism and he was very supportive of other religions. He dedicated all his literary works to Lord Rama.

The system of philosophy held by the Sri Vaishnavas and taught by Ramanujaacharya is known as Visishtadvaita. The term advaita literally means non-dualism (na dvaita) and it stresses the oneness of ultimate Reality. Ramanujaacharya teaches three fundamental categories of Reality: God (isvara), soul (cit), and matter (acit). On the basis of the principle of organic relation he upholds that ultimate Reality is one as a unity. God, as the creator of the world, is the immanent ground or inner soul of existence. God sustains and controls both the individual souls as well as matter. Soul and matter are dependent on God for their very existence and are organically related to God in the same way as the physical body is related to the soul within. The oneness of Reality is understood not in the sense of absolute identity, but as an organic unity. Though there is absolute difference
between God and the other two categories of Reality, and for that matter between soul and matter, ultimate Reality is considered one because as an organic unity it is one.

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Hinduism is a way of life, with diversity of religion, and Indian teachings share the importance of seva (service).

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Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya,
Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!
(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)