



LOGICAL METHODOLOGY FOR “REFUTING” IN VEDANTA PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITION

- A study based on the “*Avirodha* chapter” of Brahma Sutra

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Abstract

Brahma Sutra is the first ever treatise to have determined the trend of the history of Vedantic philosophy. This treatise, supposed to have been created by Padanarayana during the second century B.C., contains four chapters viz: Samanvayam, Avirodham, Sadhana and Phala. An unwritten rule followed in the world of Vedantic philosophy was that, for a person to be acknowledged as a philosopher, one has to possess the qualification of having written a commentary on Brahmasutra. This testifies the importance of Brahmasutra. Philosophy evolves on the basis of intelligent researches, and the ideologies are reached through them. It is infact an ardent search for truth. The ideologies which one philosopher tries to establish as true, may appear unacceptable to another. Thus, (1) The intelligent refutation of ideas that may appear wrong and (2) Logically establishing what has been realized as truth- are two approaches notable among all Indian philosophers. Several names such as *Nigrasthana*, *Paroksha*, and *Avirodhasthana* are in vogue to indicate the intelligent denial of other philosophical concepts that are contrary to one's own. The key to such methodology in Vedantic philosophical tradition is the Brahma Sutra chapter on 'Avirodha'. The fame of any philosophical concept is largely established not only by achieving one's own ideologies, but also by logically refuting those of their opponents. In this regard it could be seen that the Avirodha chapter of Brahmasutra denies the Samkhya and Vaisheika philosophical thoughts which try to establish the reality and existence of the universe through Parinamavada and atomism. The *Jeeva-Deha* theory of Jainism is also similarly denied. Thereby the advaita philosophical concepts such as *Kanavulaka--vada and Ekanmavada*.... are upheld. Even '*Ganabhangavada*' which forms the basic arguments of Buddhist philosophical sects is denied through the Avirodha chapter. Besides, the ideologies of the Yogacara and Sunyavada schools of thought are refuted by the Avirodha chapter in a subtle way. Apart from these, there are also some other philosophical sectors that are rejected by the Avirodha chapter. However this article doesn't take such schools into account.

Key words: Avirodha, Brahma Sutra, Vedanta