

1st DANAM Conference 2003

sponsored by

**Dharma Association of North America
(DANAM)**

THEME

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN
CONSTRUCTIVE DHARMA**

CO-CHAIRS

Adarsh Deepak, Ph. D., *President, DANAM*
Rita D. Sherma, Ph. D., *Binghamton University, NY &*
Berghoffer Institute, NY.

21 November 2003, 1:00 - 8:00 pm
Stockholm Room, Atlanta Marriott Marquis,
Atlanta, Georgia

PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE

To provide a Forum where scholars of Dharma Traditions and interested members of Dharma communities can engage in the examination of, and constructive approaches to, contemporary issues in the study of Dharma Traditions. While there are multiple scholarly arenas for presentation of new textual, sociological, anthropological and historic approaches to the study of Indian cultural and religious traditions, there are no dedicated venues for discourse on, and the presentation of, constructive new approaches to pedagogy, epistemology, theology, or philosophy in these systems. It is hoped that this meeting can explore the possibility that the academic study of these traditions is now mature enough to include and move beyond the limitations of phenomenological methodologies in order to engage the conceptual depth and intellectual applicability of these traditions in an inclusive forum.

DANAM:

DANAM (Dharma Association of North American) is an independent, non-political, membership-based, non-profit organization of Virginia, with a focus on constructive presentation of Dharma traditions in the North American context. Its mission and objectives are described at its web site at www.danam-web.org, which lists distinguished scholars as Patron and Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS) drawn from various disciplines. DANAM is a sponsor of the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, now in its twelfth year.

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AGENDA

12:00noon: REGISTRATION DESK opens at Marriott Stockholm Room.

Registered attendees should collect their name badges (to be worn during the conference)

1:00-1:20pm: SESSION: Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Moderator: Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D., Conference Co-Chair, President, DANAM

“Welcome Remarks” -- Dr. Rajinder Gandhi, M.D., Chairman, Board of Trustees, DANAM

“Dharma Association of North America: An Introduction” -- Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

“Conference Introduction”-- Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

1:20-2:30pm: SESSION: Science and Vedanta

Moderator: P. Venugopal Rao, Ph. D., Physics Dept., Emory University, Atlanta, GA

“Physical World as an Embodiment of Dharma”

E. C. George Sudarshan, Ph. D., Nobel Nominee, Prof. of Physics, U Texas- Austin, TX

“Is there Science in the Vedic System?”

--Subhash Kak, Ph. D., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Discussions

2:30-2:50pm: *BREAK*

2:50-4:20pm: SESSION: Contemporary Issues in Vaishnavism

Moderator: Tracy Coleman, Ph. D., Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

“Viraha-bhakti and Stridharma in the Bhagavata Purana”

-- Tracy Coleman, Ph. D., Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

“Boundless Love and Ethical Boundaries: Reflections on Bhakti and Dharma”

--Graham Schweig, Ph. D., Christopher Newport Univ., VA & Senior Editor, Journal of Vaishnava Studies

“Feminine Concept of Surrender in Vaishnava Literature.”

--E. H. Rick Jarow, Ph. D., Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

Discussions

4:20-5:10pm: SESSION: Dharma in the US Educational System

Moderator: Dr. Kuldip C. Gupta, Hindu Univ. of America, Orlando, FL

“Can Dharma be Taught?”

--Rama Rao Pappu, Ph. D., Miami University, Oxford, OH

“Visual Presentation of Dharma Concepts for School Children”

--Mona Vijaykar, Network of Parents in Classrooms, SF Bay Area, CA

5:10-5:40pm: *BREAK – Refreshments*

5:40-7:50pm: ROUNDTABLE- Creating Bridges: Dharmic Traditions and the Academy

Moderator: Rita D. Sherma, Ph. D., Conference Co-Chair, Binghamton University & Berghoffer Institute, NY;

Panelists: Gerald Larson, Ph. D., Indiana University-Bloomington, IN; Laurie Patton, Ph. D., Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Graham Schweig, Ph. D., Christopher Newport Univ., VA; Rajiv Malhotra, Infinity Foundation, Princeton, NJ; S. N. Balagangadhara (Balu), Ph. D., Gent University, Belgium; Swami Thyagananda, Vedanta Society, Boston; Vasudha Narayanan, Ph. D., U. of Florida Gainesville, FL.

7:50-8:00pm: Closing Remarks & Adjourn

ORGANIZATION

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Adarsh Deepak & Dr. Rita D. Sherma, *Co-chairs*
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Dr. Graham Schweig, CNU
Dr. Tracy Coleman, Colorado College, CO

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