

Correspondence

EXTRACT from Viśvakarma and his Descendants by Alfred
Edward Roberts, M.R.A.S., (Ceylon Branch) Page 16

The name " Jagadguru " the teacher of the world, is a distinction to which the people of Viśvakarma Caste alone are entitled (Winslow's Dictionary). When the world-famed Śaṅkarācārya of Travancore, the founder of the Advaita School of Philosophy, which is Buddhism in disguise, halted at Masulipatam he styled himself " Jagadguru ". The Devakammalars of South India, who were very jealous of their title, incensed at an apparent impostor trying to assume what was their own exclusive property, questioned his right to the distinction, when the celebrated philosopher sang the following lines :—

" Acharyo Sankaro nama
" Twashta putro nasanyasa,
" Viprakula gurordiksha,
" Visvakarmantu Brahmana."

" My name is Śaṅkarācārya, I am a descendant of Twashtar. I have come here to teach the Vipras the right of wearing the sacred thread I am a Brahman of the Viśvakarma Caste."

(Śaṅkara Vijaya)

This is irrebuttable proof that the people of the Viśvakarma Caste are Brahmans.

* * * * *

I shall be highly thankful if any of the readers of the Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute were to enlighten me as to where can I get a copy of the Śaṅkara Vijaya which contains the śloka referred to in this extract.

A. Padmanabhan
No. 9 Jangam Maistry Lane
Balepet, Bangalore City