

## Biography

Sri Kota Vasudeva Somayaji was born on 11-03-1928 at Chitrapadi near Udupi, in Karanataka, as eldest son of *Vedabrahma Gudde* Narasimha Somayaji and Srimati Bhageerathi. He had his primary education in Sanskrit at Sri *Vani Vilasini Samskrita Pathashala*, Saligrama and after *Upanayana* he studied entire *Rig-Veda* under his father's guidance. Simultaneously he acquired knowledge and *Prayoga of Vatula Agama* from *Dikshita Vedamurthy Venkatakrishna Somayaji*.

For further studies, he moved to Mysore to study at Maharaja's Sanskrit College, Mysore, a well known center for higher studies in Sanskrit. He acquired formal degrees (*Vidwat Uttama*) with distinction in four *Shastras* and was referred *Chutushshastra Vidwan*. (*Mimamsa, Dharmashastra, Jyouthisha* and *Sahitya*).

Ardikoppam *Mahavidwan* Subrahmanya Shastri, *Chaturvedi* Ramachandracharya, *Panditaratnam* Varadacharya, *Asthanavidwan* Sampatkrishna Jois were his *Gurus*.

He also studied *Naveena Nyaya* and *Veda Bhashya* at Jayachamarajendra Sanskrit College, Bangalore and *Advaita Vedanta* at Shankara Math, Bangalore.

Recognising his mastery in several branches of *Shastras*, Government of Karnataka appointed him as Professor of *Dharmashastra* at Maharaja's Sanskrit College, Mysore in the year 1958. The fact that he acquired degree in *Jyouthisha Shastra* after his appointment as Professor, shows his keen interest in acquiring knowledge in as many disciplines of Sanskrit as possible, demonstrating that learning is a continuous process.

He retired from Government services in 1998 after 30 years of service and in the process introduced several scholars to the society in the field of Sanskrit.

Sri Somayaji founded '*Sri Ganesha Samskrita Jyouthisha Pathashala*' at Mysore to impart knowledge of Sanskrit among school children and general public in the year 1960. Recently it has started offering courses in *Agama* also.

Nearly for two decades he offered discourses on *Puranas* and *Gita*, at Dattatreya Temple, Subbarayanakere, Mysore, thereby helping general public to get an insight into our great epics.

Sri Somayaji was *Tantri* (Experts in *Agamas* who conduct temple car festivals and other special functions at temples) for several temples in Karnataka.

He composed *Suprabhata Stotram* in Sanskrit in praise of Lord Narasimha, the presiding deity of Saligrama Temple (near Udupi in Karnataka) in the year 1974 and this *Suprabhata* used to be aired on AIR (All India Radio), Bangalore during 1980s.

In fulfillment of his initiation to *Rig-Veda*, Sri Somayaji performed *Shakala Ruk Samhita Yaga* three times starting in 1991.

After living, fruitfully for 75 years, he attained abode of God on 13-06-2003. During his life time he practiced what is said in *Shastras* in letter and spirit.

He was an authority on *Agamas, Shastras* and *Vaidika* tradition and was treasure house for those seeking answers who had doubts in these subjects.

Sri Somayaji was always in pursuit of knowledge and had following works to his credit.

No	Year	Name of the book	Language	Subject
1	1963	<i>Kshayamasa Mimamsa</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Jyoutisha and Dharmashastra</i>
2	1974	<i>Sri Guru Narasimha Suprabhata Stotram (Stotras in Sanskrit)</i>	Kannada	<i>Stotra with Meanings</i>
3	1976	<i>Bharatiya Dharma Darshana</i>	Kannada	<i>Dharmashastra</i>
4	1977 *(3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<i>Anushthana Paddhati</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Agama</i>
5	1979 *(2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<i>Kriyasara</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Agama</i>
6	1981	<i>Lakshana Samhita</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Agama</i>
7	1982 *(2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<i>Vasishtha Samhita and Vinayakodaya</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Agama</i>
8	1984	<i>Rugvediya Nityanushthana Paddhati</i>	Kannada	<i>Sandhyavandane</i>
9	1995	<i>Panchayatana Devapuja</i>	Kannada	<i>Devapuje</i>
10	1997	<i>Vishnu Samhita</i>	Sanskrit	<i>Agama</i>
11	1998	<i>Ashoucha Sangraha</i>	Kannada	<i>Ashoucha Vichara</i>

\* denotes the year of first publication, number within parenthesis indicates current edition.

In recognition of Sri Somayaji's services to Sanskrit Literature, *Agama* and *Shastras* and his expertise in these fields, he was bestowed with several awards and titles by several organizations & institutions and prominent ones among them are listed below.

Date	Institution/Organisation	Award/Title/Honor
28/02/1988	Veda Dharma Paripalana Sabha, Bangalore	'Veda Varidhi'
30/08/1988	His Holiness Sri Sudhindra Tirtha Sripada, Mantralaya	'Dharmashastrabhijna'
14/02/1990	Veda Shastra Poshini Sabha, Mysore	'Shastra Vidyanidhi'
28/03/1990	Sanatana Bhakta Mandali, Bangalore	'Pandita Ratnam'
28/02/1994	Government of Karnataka	State award
12/01/1996	His Holiness Sri Vishvesha Tirtha Sripada, Palimar Matha	Felicitation
21/02/1997	Dept of Public Instructions (Govt. of Karnataka)	Felicitation
03/04/1999	Government of Karnataka (Agama Department)	Felicitation
01/11/2002	Maharshi Vishva Prashasanam, Holland	'Yajnacharya'
12/02/2003	His Holiness Sri Gangadharendra Swami Sonda Swarnavalli	'Nigamagama Kovida'

The only four ways to preserve our *Dharma* and *Shastras* are *Adhyayana* (Study), *Adhyapana* (Teach), *Acharana* (Practice) and *Pracharana* (Propagate). Sri Somayaji excelled himself in all these.

The above biography of Sri Somyaji demonstrates that any one can excel in the chosen field if he has *Shraddha* (dedication, commitment, interest...) and works very hard.

We hope this introduction of Sri Somayaji will inspire those who want to excel in life in whichever field they choose.

*Kootastha Veda Shastra Poshaka Sangha®*

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January 16, 2005