









Contents

Acknowledgements	xii
Foreword	xiv
Preface	xviii

Part I-Rishis and Rishi Scientists

	<i>Introduction</i>	xxi
	1. Bhagwan Veda Vyas (3000 BCE) <i>Redactor of the Vedas</i>	1
	2. Yagnavalkya Rishi (3000 BCE) <i>Promulgator of Shukla Yajur Veda</i>	9
	3. Panini (1600 BCE) <i>Sanskrit Grammarian</i>	15
	4. Divodas Dhanvantari (1000 BCE) <i>Father of Surgery</i>	17
	5. Sushrut (1000 BCE) <i>Father of Cosmetic Surgery</i>	23
	6. Charak (800 BCE) <i>Physician of Ayurveda</i>	31
	7. Aryabhatta (476 CE) <i>Astronomer & Mathematician</i>	37
	8. Varahamihir (499 CE) <i>Astronomer</i>	43
	9. Bhaskaracharya (II) (1114 CE) <i>Genius of Algebra</i>	49

Part II—Acharyas of Philosophy

	<i>Introduction</i>	55
	10. Kapilmuni <i>Samkhya Darshan</i>	57
	11. Kanad (600 BCE) <i>Vaisheshik Darshan</i>	61
	12. Jaimini (500 BCE) <i>Purva Mimamsa</i>	67
	13. Gautam (400 BCE) <i>Nyaya Darshan</i>	71
	14. Patanjali (200 BCE) <i>Yog Darshan</i>	77
	15. Shankaracharya (778 CE) <i>Advait</i>	87
	16. Ramanujacharya (1017 CE) <i>Vishishtadvait</i>	93
	17. Nimbarkacharya (1199 CE) <i>Dvaitadvait</i>	101
	18. Madhvacharya (1238 CE) <i>Dvait</i>	107
	19. Vallabhacharya (1472 CE) <i>Shuddhadvait</i>	115



20. Vitthalnath (1516 CE)

Vaishnavism

123

Part III—Mystics and Bhakta Poets

Introduction

129



21. Gopis (3000 BCE)

131



22. Alvars (6-9th century)

139



23. Jnaneshwar (1329 CE)

145



24. Kabir (1399 CE)

151



25. Raidas (1399 CE)

157



26. Narsinh Mehta (1414 CE)

161












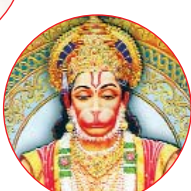
27. Nanakdev (1469 CE)

167



28. Surdas (1479 CE)

173

	29. Tulsidas (1498 CE)	179
	30. Swami Haridas (1512 CE)	185
	31. Eknath (1534 CE)	189
	32. Mirabai (1547 CE)	195
	33. Samarth Ramdas (1608 CE)	201
	34. Tukaram (1609 CE)	207
	35. Gauribai (1759 CE)	213
	36. Tyagraj (1767 CE)	217
	37. The Pativrata	223
	38. The Jati	231

Contents



39. Zamkuba (early 19th century) 241



40. Gopalanand Swami (1781 CE) 247



41. Aksharbrahma Gunatitanand Swami (1785 CE) 253

Part IV-Heroes and Heroines

Introduction 265



42. Rana Pratap (1540 CE) 267



43. Shivaji (1627 CE) 275



44. Ahalyabai (1725 CE) 281

Glossary 286

Bibliography 290

Index 298