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Parameśvara of Vāṭaśseri [Parmeśvara I]

Narahari Achar

Born Ālattūr, (Kerala, India), circa 1360

Died circa 1455

Parameśvara, one of the foremost astronomers of Kerala, hailed from the village of Ālattūr (Aśvatthagrāma in Sanskrit), and his house, Vāṭaśseri, was situated on the confluence of the river Nīla with the Arabian Sea. He was a *Ṛgvedin*, of the *Aśvalāyana Sūtra*, and belonged to the *Bhṛgugotra*. He was a pupil of Rudra I. He carried out astronomical observations near his house for some 45 years. He also observed a large number of eclipses between 1393 and 1432, which are recorded in his work *Siddhāntadīpikā*. Nothing else is known about the life of Parameśvara.

Parameśvara was a prolific writer and authored some 30 works. These include original treatises and commentaries on other works of astronomy and astrology. Among his original works on astronomy might be mentioned the following: *Dṛggaṇita* (1430); a work on spherics, *Goladīpikā* (1443); and three works on the computation and rationale of eclipses, *Grahaṇāṣṭaka*, *Grahaṇamaṇḍana*, and *Grahaṇanyāyadīpikā*. He also commented on a large number of astronomical works including the *Āryabhaṭīya*, *Sūryasiddhānta*, *Laghumānasa*, and *Līlāvātī*. Many of his works are yet to be published.

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