Abstract No 03

_Vidyā and Avidyā in Iśāvāsyopaniṣad_

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_Iśāvāsyopaniṣad_ (9-11) mentions terms _Vidyā_ and _Avidyā_. _Vidyā_ is taken as knowledge and _Avidyā_ as ignorance when literal meaning is taken. One who follows _Avidyā_ goes to darkness and worshipper of _Vidyā_ to even more darkness. One who knows _Vidyā_ and _Avidyā_ both together crosses death with _Avidyā_ and attains immortality through _Vidyā_. Here words _Vidyā_ and _Avidyā_ are cryptic and do not mean the general connotation. Dictionary meanings of these words are incongruent with the meaning of complete verses. In this case, commentators have adopted different meanings suitable to their philosophy. It is however interesting to note the hermeneutic tools they used for interpretations. Paper aims to investigate and understand concepts of _Vidyā_ and _Avidyā_ through different commentaries and throw light on philosophy behind it.

Keywords: _Vidyā_, _Avidyā_, Connotation, Hermeneutic