



ACCORD *New Voices*-Lecture by Fabian Voelker

Hindu Philosophy: Śaṅkara and Rāmānuja on the origin of Evil

Fabian Voelker studied German language and literature studies, philosophy and religious studies. He is a Ph.D. student and research assistant at the Institute for Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology at the University of Münster (Germany). The working title to the dissertation he works on is *Nondualität als Grundlage einer buddhistischen Gesellschaftstheorie. David R. Loys Buddhismusinterpretation*.

Voelker presents Śaṅkara's and Rāmānuja's approaches to the problem of evil and the dilemma of theodicy, using their respective lines of argumentation as expounded in their commentaries on the *Brahmasūtras* and placing these in the context of their philosophical systems, the Advaita and the Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta. Voelker shows both traditions struggle with an aporia: the first cannot account for the enigmatic origin of nescience (*avidyā*), while the latter cannot account for the origination of Karma. Some fascinating aspects of this debate are dealt with in detail.

- **Place and Time** VU University, Main Building 14A03, 09.00-10.45,
- **Participation:** Free. Sign up by e-mail to a.l.vroom@th.vu.nl
- **Language:** English

New Voices-lectures give the stage to young scholars with original ideas and in-depth knowledge of philosophical and theological comparative questions.