Hindu Philosophy: Śankara and Rāmānuja on the origin of Evil

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

**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 Śankaras and Rāmānujas 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 Viśistādvaita 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 14A04, 09.00-10.45,
- **Participation**: Free. Sign up by e-mail to a.l.vroom@th.vu.nl
- **Language**: English

**TIP!**: NEXT ACCORD-New-Voices-Lecture: *anthropologist Scott Dalby on his field-work with the Falun Gong, June 14th 2012, news upcoming on our website.*