

'Phenomenology of perception' provides a starting point. Even shapes and sizes of objects we perceive depend on our perspective. There is an 'optimum distance' for viewing things. Even in this, a sense of balance is involved. Also involved is our past exposure to the objects viewed, i.e. sedimented knowledge. So how do we perceive symmetry? This takes us next into a discussion of relationship between 'Form and Vision'. The Gestalt's laws of perception are taken up. A certain intriguing relationship between Gestalt's laws and group theory is then pointed out. Closure property of groups and a closure property, where perception fills in the gaps and missing

elements in the Gestalt theory of vision are seen to be parallel. Identity operation in group theory is likened to the Gestalt principle of 'unity of perception', and so on. The rest of the discussion is basically about symmetry and aesthetics relationship. Yet in arts we cannot but agree with the Chinese Tehyi Hsieh, 'Harmony would lose its attractiveness if it did not have a background of discord'.

By its very nature, the discussions in philosophy, even of symmetry, do not come to final conclusions. Still I wonder whether the author should have attempted a synthesis of metaphysical and phenomenological analysis of symmetry as the last part of the

book. However, these discussions sharpen the perception of the problems involved in the concept of symmetry. The cover of the book is beautifully illustrated by the photograph of a sculpture entitled 'Valampiri Shankha'. The book is recommended to all those involved with various aspects of symmetry.

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## Erratum

### **Occurrence of xenotime in the Narasapur beach placers, West Godavari District, AP**

**A. V. Subrahmanyam, T. Desapati, V. Anil Kumar,  
R. D. Deshmukh and G. Viswanathan**

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In reference number 6, the last author should read as Sankaran, R. N. instead of Sankaran, A. V. The error is regretted.

— Editor