Pancharatnastuti of Shri Appayya Dixita

Introduction
This short poem made of five gem like verses establishes the
greatness of Lord Paramasiva based on the authority
of the vedas and puranas. Sri Dixita had also written a commentary on
the verses. It contains a systematic exposition of the theme of the
poem (viz.) the supremacy of Paramasiva as parabrahman by a
discussion of the many scriptural passages. It is a brilliant
discussion by a great scholar.

Background
It seems that during his period there was much unseemly
squabble between the adherents of Siva and Vishnu as to who was the
greater of the two. Sri Dixita was saddened by this spectacle. It
appears that some of the adherents of Vishnu went to the extent of
condemning the Saivashastras as tamasic and Siva Himself as a jiva
only. Sri Dixita was very much pained at all these happenings and was
forced to espouse the other side (viz) supremacy of Siva. Even though
in this poem the author argues to establish the supremacy of Lord
Siva, it has to be emphasised that he had no bias towards Siva or
Vishnu. He had mentioned this in many places in his works. His
Harihara bhedastuti is an example of his attitude. In this stotra he
praises both Lord Siva and Vishnu in each verse. In the last verse he
says clearly that he sees no difference between them. It reads as
follows.

बस्त्रो पिन्युः वसंदु दिच्छो वा गरु़िताः यातुः कक्षुहृताः ।
निवयतु वा नृत्यतु वाराधिर्भुः भेऽ न मे स्यात्तरस्मि धामसः ॥

In fact, he had composed Varadarajastava which shows his intense
devotion to Lord Vishnu. He had also written commentaries on
Yadavabhyudayam of Sri Vedanta Desika. All these go to show his
liberal mind. He was, in fact, a true advaitin.
उक्तवा प्रसूतिमणजीर्षुहे़श्रवणां
संसूच्य दीपकस्नायीतिभिरनयनिधानम् ।
ततं संप्रभायदत्तवशिशा हि यस्य
तं सर्वकारणमनादिश्वं प्रपये ॥ २॥

वेदान्तोऽष प्रथमभवनं वर्णित यस्य यायां
तद्वत्स्य प्रसववचसा जन्म तत्वापवित्ता ।
यस्येक्ष्य स्पुष्टमजनिता विज्ञिता कारणस्य
ध्यायामन्त्त जनविश्वत्य श्रंभुमाकाशमवे ॥ ३॥

यद्भूमिकवश्या विधिहृःरिगिरिश्वयातिवा: शक्तिकोऽव
यद्वस्य देवदेवा: सकलसुवनगाः सनियच्छन्तित्विश्वम् ।
यस्मिनं सर्वदिवसासुरमनुजमुखेर्यति विश्वरूपं
तस्मै नित्यं नमस्यं प्रविष्कृतं प्रवर्ध्याणं शंकराय ॥ ४॥

आस्यं सूक्ष्मं लिङ्गः पत्वलिङ्गः
स्वादुन्त्वऽश्चानावश्ययैवावत्मात्रम् ।
इत्येवनावैद्यतःतुषुकारो
यं भ्रामणं तं प्रपयो महेश्वरम् ॥ ५॥
इति श्रीमदमहद्विध्वीक्षतसारवभीमः
विरचिता पञ्चवर्त्तन्तुःः: संयुग्मां ॥

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