



1981-2007

**Wise Earth Monastery**  
"Peace be your journey"

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April 8th, 2007

Subject: HINDUISM TODAY'S HINDU HISTORY LESSON

Dear Shri Arumugaswami,

Namaste.

We are deeply grateful to *Hinduism Today* for its extraordinary work in presenting Hinduism in its appropriate historical light with tangible facts gleaned from Hindu experts and scholars to support and broadcast the intrinsic values of the Hindu Tradition.

Thanks to the stalwart efforts of the sadhakas of *Hinduism Today* the record has been set straight in your 16-page educational booklet entitled, *Hindu History Lesson*, which contains detailed practice-lessons and fine elaboration on the various sectors of Hindu Tradition, namely, Vaisnava, Saiva, Sakta, and Smarta.

It is distressing to see Hinduism's vast history belittled and whittled down by the hands of those whose personal agendas are ambitious and prejudiced; evidenced by the inured spate of fictitious theories, such as the Aryan Invasion/Migration theory once more being resurrected by Western Indologists, Christian theologians, and academicians. So tenacious is this bias, that Hindu scholars' attempts to correct fictitious ideologies in the presentation of Hindu history at the sixth grade level by the California School Board, for example, are met with uphill battles. Unlike any other spiritual tradition in America with the inalienable right to have their culture portrayed accurately, Hindu academicians and scholars are given far less berth to rectify erroneous information about their culture.

Perhaps, the primary reason for the misinterpretation and misunderstanding of Hinduism by non-Hindu academicians is that, unlike all other major religions, Hinduism is more than a faith-based tradition—it is a spiritual, wisdom-based culture, rooted in the most ancient cosmology on Earth. Non-judgmental, it embraces rivals and accommodates entire religions—such as Jainism and Buddhism, which both emerged from Hinduism—much as a river divides and absorbs its tributaries.

Herein lies the brief facts of how the Hindu tradition is experienced and known by over one billion followers: Hinduism is a vast and ancient wellspring of knowledge and spirituality which addresses all aspects of life.



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The goal of this culture has never been to conquer people, claim territory, or seek dominion, but to understand and know its nature of truth while safeguarding Nature as a whole. For eons, this tradition has generously offered its divine virtues, moral stamina, and inner spiritual strength and wisdom to help nourish the spiritual fiber of civilization. Indeed, it's a breath of fresh air to see this ancient culture of harmony and non-violence portrayed in accurate light by *Hinduism Today*, rather than witness more of the general bias perpetrated for too many centuries against it.

As we begin to address the disparaging light to which Hinduism is subjected by the many misinformed and misguided, we must all take part in undoing, rectifying, and healing the crimes of the past, even though these crimes against Hindu humanity have been largely perpetrated by others. Specifically, let us not turn our backs on the humongous dilemma now pandemic within the Hindu culture—namely, the "caste system."

Apparently, this system is securely tied to the intricately engineered political missile programmed to perennially generate and inflict hurt, damage, and destruction to Hinduism. Factions against Hinduism can be found in many shapes and forms: among India's politicians and religious leaders, European historians and 'experts' (who write their own version of Hinduism's history), and Western Indologists and academicians—all motivated by one or the other ingredient of the illusionary mix of power, fame, wealth, race, and prejudice.

Whatever is the motivation for the ongoing epidemic of misinformation, we have got to dig deep within ourselves to find the collective solution. For us to proceed successfully with the necessary restoration and healing of our communities, we must face the nature of the pathological disease that drives it; one that, for centuries, has been metastasizing deeply into the *dhatu*s of the culture. To do so, we must come to terms with the most pertinent question of our time: How did Hinduism come to find itself mired in the irreverent and inhumane state that is the "caste system"?

The greatest contributor to the hurt and confusion within Hinduism is the perversion of its harmonious community concept of *varnas*, which refers to our inner divinity, the light of consciousness. A primary meaning of the word *varna* is "luster; light of dawn," which reveals the core intention of the Varna Community Constitution that has been erroneously and deviously retooled as the "caste system". This retooling was deliberately performed by the endless foreign invaders and incursions upon the body and spirit of Hinduism. These incursions served to seal the fate of the perverted "caste system" within India. But as the Hindu people know, the karma of fate is never sealed. In this case, it can and must be changed.

In Loving Service,

Sri Swamini Mayatitananda

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