

Question: Children of Indian immigrants in this country are the most confused lot about their religion and culture. What do you suggest to parents to help their children overcome this predicament on the issue of their religion?

HH: Yes, the children are confused but they are very intelligent and receptive. The parents must find some time to spend with them. Like charity begins at home, the grooming of children also must begin at home. The first generation Indians came to this country without realizing the fact that they would encounter a situation when they have to face their confused children. The parents did not give much thought to it nor did they have thorough knowledge about the issues related to their religion and culture back home. But all the same, they had been exposed to the religious teachings and experienced the culture. With some effort, they would be able to guide their children. Now, it is the primary duty of the parents to learn a little so that they can convey that to the children and satisfy them. Unless they are satisfied, they won't accept and believe. Not only that much they become against to the Sampradayam also. But, once they are convinced, they are very strong to that. No Hypocrisy in them. To avoid that one should learn first and then pass it on to the next generation. There is no other way.

Question: Do you think the temples in the country would be of some help to the parents to ensure their children get the desired exposure to the religious practices and the culture?

HH: Yes, the temples will be of great help. But the temples constructed in the US have not followed the rigid rules of temple architecture. The temples are constructed according to the whims and fancies of the donors. The trustees did not insist on following the rules of temple architecture for the fear of losing the donations or displeasing the donors. Now these temples became places for more confusion rather than for Realisation.

Question: Do you mean to say that the Agama Sastra has been violated? If so what is your advice for the future?

HH: Yes, the Agama Sastra has been violated in almost all temples. In a temple, there is a specific location and place for each deity. When you are building a temple with a cluster of deities, the Sastra clearly specifies, which deity must be placed where. But the temples in the US have not followed these rules. Some of the priests, who are performing pujas in these temples, are also not sufficiently trained. Therefore, they compromise on the rules of Agama Sastra. The best way to overcome this problem is to build temples for individual deities. Such individual temples can follow the corresponding Agama Sastra. The difficulty comes only when a cluster of deities are located in one temple complex. You can better call these places as Mandirs, Museums or Malls of God.

Question: What is the age of the Vedas? Who authored them?

HH: The Vedas are ageless, therefore their origin is also ageless. No one person or persons have authored them. They were there since this Universe came. As we do



not question the origin and existence of the God,so also, we do not question the origin and existence of the Vedas.

Until Veda Vyasa period - that was 6000 BC - the Vedas were passed on from person to person through the word of mouth. All the 1131 branches of the four Vedas were passed on in that fashion. It was only during Veda Vyasa's time, a systematic effort to write them on palm leaves or on copper plates had begun. It was during this very important Vedic period, the 1131 branches were codified and grouped into four Vedas - Rig-Veda, Yajur-Veda, Sama-Veda and Adharva-Veda.

Again, it was at this period of time Veda Vyasa selected four students and trained each one of them to master each Veda. Since then the lineage started in imparting the Vedic knowledge. There is no area of human life, science and technology that has not been thoroughly discussed in the Vedas.

Question: With so much of knowledge packed into the Vedas, what is the effort going on now to make them available to everyone?

HH: Now a systematic effort to study the Vedas and interpret their meaning is being done by various institutions and individuals. Some universities - both in India and foreign countries - have also courses in Vedic studies. A concerted research is being conducted on the Vedas at various universities. Earlier, people used to believe whatever is said of the Vedas. In the process some distortions also found place. Some serious distortions have crept into them. Now such distorted texts of the Vedas are being corrected with valid reasoning after an extensive research. In translating the texts of the Vedas, maximum damage was done by the noted German scholar, Max Muller. Recently we have come across a serious discrepancy in the translation of "Mythrayani."



Question: Can we find the Vedas in their original form?

HH: Vedas are available now, by original Vedas, we mean, the text part of them only. The text part is still in practice. But, out of the 1,131 branches of the four Vedas, only 11 branches are available. Of them, we are teaching six important branches in our Vedic University, under the Jeeyar Educational Trust at Sithanagaram in Guntur district.

Question:What happened to the remaining five branches?

HH: The remaining branches are available with us. They are available not only with us, but also with other scholars.

Question: It is said that the British and Germans had taken away most of the texts of the Vedas from India. Do we have an access to them?

HH: The British Library in London and Berlin University in Berlin have the texts of the Vedas. I happened to visit the British Library. I have seen huge racks of "indexes of Vedas," while the original volumes are stacked elsewhere. Imagine if the volumes of indexes are so many, how difficult it would be to trace the texts of the Vedas. You will be surprised to know that all the indexes are written in Telugu script. To lay your hand on a particular text or volume of the Vedas, it may take hours or even days before you trace them. That is the volume of material now one has to wade through.

Some texts are also available in the American universities. These universities have Vedic studies and they encourage research in the Vedas.

Question: What is Vedanta and what is Upanishad?

HH: The answer is very simple.

Vedantha is essence of the Vedas. The word "Upanishad" is a synonym of Vedantha.

Question: What is Hinduism? How do you define it?

HH: The term 'Hindu' is a wrong name interpretation to our 'Vedic system'. It was introduced by some western historians of medieval period who couldn't understand the tradition of Universality of our Vedic system, to equate it with one of the "isms" that came into existence very recently. However, the term became popular by means of habitual imposition and also initial publishing through various media when we were under reigns of foreign rule. Unfortunately, we took it even after independence without proper basis for it. Essentially, there is no proper root / meaning for the term "Hindu" and great scholars and learned wise have already recognised its invalidity, for, it can be found nowhere in our ancient scriptures, other than in those that came during and after medieval period. Most of the times, it refers to the Vedic system of life.

Question: What do you think of future of Hinduism?

HH: The term Hinduism is absurd. As I said Vedic system is the oldest known civilization. A grave mistake was committed in the preamble of the Indian Constitution. It is not "India that is Bharat." It should be the other way. It should have been "**Bharat that is India.**" Vedic system is forever. We follow the Vedic principles. The Vedic principles are relevant to human life at all times. A Vedic person sees God in every animate and inanimate thing. Vedic system survived all the four Yugas. It existed in Krutha Yuga, Dwapara Yuga, Thretha Yuga and Kali Yuga. It survived for 27 cycles of four Yugas, each Yuga spanning over millions of years. There is no threat to it. It exists forever. The oldest-ever known



religion and culture in the world, after a person actually gets highly civilized is "Vedic System". Vedics always tried to elevate the values of humanism. That is the culture to which we all belong. That is the original culture of this world. Even when the sword civilization or capturing civilization came, Vedic system, as a religion and as a culture survived. It will survive as long as human race survives.

The word "Hindu" is derived from the name of the river Sindhu which was inferred to explain the civilisation that flourished on the banks of that river. Westerners have stamped our history that we came from that civilisation that takes us back to few thousands of years only.

But, You know! History according to Bharathiyas runs to several millions of years back with highly advanced civilisation and living of human race. As does the present generation, Highly Learned Scholars sooner or later realise and resort to the Vedic system in all its technologies and living. There is No doubt about it.

Question: What do you think of Aryan invasion theory?

HH: Aryan invasion is just a figment of imagination. It is the creation of Western invaders. The Westerners, who doubted the intelligence, culture and heritage of Indians, created the Aryan invasion theory. How a Westerner or for that matter anybody else can decide on the religion and cultural origin of Vedics. Vedics themselves only know about it. Our own scriptures revealed what and how we were from ancient times. Some of the Westerners who craved for their Supremacy over all others, created an imaginary theory which is baseless and irrelevant. Our civilization was there much much earlier than Greek, Roman and Egyptian civilizations. There is no history to prove that we had ever fought with anybody for the survival of our religion or invade somebody's country. Because it