

Hindus And Hinduism – A talk in the Hindu Satsang Group Meeting on April 26, 2019

By Brij Sharma

I have to speak on two parts of my “*Parvachan*” Hindus and Hinduism. This subject is very huge and needs hours and days to talk on. Let’s see how much I can we cover these two topics in a short time.

1. **What is PARVACHAN?** Means, what has been spoken or written by someone else. So, whatever I am going to talk about has been written or spoken by others. My discussion is based upon the knowledge obtained in the holy company of spiritual people, such as various swamis and reading some books on spirituality and doing my own analysis. I am just going to present that in my own words and in my own style.
2. **Hindus:** The story starts with Iran. In the seventh century, the Arabs attacked and destroyed the Iranian Republic. Slowly, Iran became Islamic Republic. Iran’s fundamental religion was not Islam, rather it was based upon Vedic traditions wherein “Fire Worship” was given important place. This religion was called “**Zoroaster**” which was named after the then “**Saint Zarathustra**”.
3. The meaning of word “Iran” basically is the same as that of word “Arya” in Sanskrit. “Iran” means “Nation of Arya”.
4. Their language “**Avestha**” is said to be the sister language of “Sanskrit”. So much so, many times the language scientists even recommended to take the aid of this “Avestha” language to understand the VEDAs. By now, you must have understood the relation between Farsi and the Northern India’s languages. Avestha – mother of Farsi, Sanskrit – mother of modern Indian Languages.
5. Because of the attacks by Arabs, the Zoroastrians, who did not want to convert to the Arabic religion, ran to the Gujrat state of *Bharat* and became migrant there. The then Hindu King of Gujrat gave them refuge and they settled there. Today, we call them “Parsi”.
6. The pronunciation interchanges between Avestha and Sanskrit. **S** sounds as **H**, **Saptah** vs **Hafta**, **Sindh** vs **Hind**. Greek invaders pronounced **IND** for **SINDH**. In ancient Europe, names of the countries, under influence of Latin language, always ended with “**ia**” – such as, *Bartania* (Britain), Italia (Italy), Germania (Germany), Romania, Espania (Spain) etc. Similarly, Bharat’s name also first became **Hindia** (India) and later on, the invaders and travelers from other European countries (Portuguese, Francis, English) also started calling our country as **India**.
7. Pure Farsi speaking rulers started with the **emperor Akbar**. It was then that the Mughals started using the “**Hindu**” word for “**non-Muslims**”, thus connecting them with

the religion instead of using this in relation to its geographic location. Thereafter, the British knowingly used the Hindu word for non-Muslims and divided them by religion.

8. Today, the Indians identify themselves connected with the religion, not knowing that this in fact identifies with the place or region in which they live in and has no connection with their religion.

What is the religion of Indians? Now in India, if you are not a Muslim, you are a Hindu. The ancient religion of Hindus is **Sanatana Dharma**, which means eternal, a natural-dharma, that was already there in the beginning of mankind. Based upon the foregoing discussion, Hinduism is not a religion but a Vedic-culture which is based upon ancient traditions and teachings of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna.

Hindus believe that in order to reach Godhood, one can take any spiritual path. It is this flexible philosophy, (*The Muslims and some others, make a joke – Hindu Dharm, kachadhaga...*), that many other faiths, such as Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism and some others, came into being under the big umbrella of *Sanatana Dharma though*. Buddhism (by Gautam Buddha), Jainism (by Mahavir swami), Sikhism (by Guru Nanak Dev) and some others believe in GOD as do the followers of *Snathana-Dharma*. However, with the passage of time, and due to some other reasons, they modified their faiths in order to make it fit into need of the time. The main goal of all the faiths, however, remained same, as how to reach the "GODHOOD".

Let's briefly look at the spiritual concept of *Sanathan Dharma*. First, the word "Parvachan – meaning that someone else's talk". So, whatever I am saying now, was also said by some other person. Some of you may have different opinion, this what I believe in.

Definition of GOD:

- In layman's belief, GOD stands for Generator-Organizer-Destroyer.
- **BRAHMA** (Creator) – **VISHNU** (preserver) – **MAHESH** or **SHIVA** (destroys and recreates). Hindus worship images of GOD in the idols of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna and many others.
- **VEDIC definition:** " **SATYA**" (Existence), **Cit**(Knowledge), **ANAND** (Bliss)
- KARMA YOGA postulates SATYA – existence.
- JANANA YOGA or GYANA YOGA postulates CIT – knowledge.
- BHAKTI YOGA postulates ANAND - BLISS.
- **Snathana Dharma is a religion of symbols**. How to find GOD (within). YOGA – the path to reach GOD. Law of Dharma means the purpose of your life. Try to understand, who am I, what am I.
- **Adi Shankara's vakya:** Mano Budhyahankaar ChitaniNaaham, Na Cha Shrotra Jihve Na Cha Ghraana netre. Na Cha Vyoma Bhumir Na Tejo Na Vayuh, Chidananda RupahShivoham Shivoham (मनोबुद्ध्यहङ्कार चित्तानि नाहं, न चश्रोत्रजिह्वे न च घ्राणनेत्रे । न च

व्योम भूमिर्न तेजो न वायुः, चिदानन्दरूपःशिवोऽहम् शिवोऽहम् ॥१॥ (Meaning: I am not the intellect, ego, mind, neither am I the hearing, taste, smell, sight. Nor am I space, earth, light, air, field of consciousness, I am the pure consciousness of bliss – I am Shiva)

- If Shiva is self, then who is Ganesha? Ganesha is not an elephant man. The **trunk of Ganesha** is pointing to “Budhi” or “third eye” to think about everything before doing.
- **Hanuman** was not a monkey, but it was a tribe whom he belonged to.
- **BHAGVAN: Meaning of word “BHAGVAN”** - **BH** for Bhoomi (Earth), **AG** for Agni – (fire), **V** for Vaue (air), **A** for Akash (space), **N** for neer (water). **So, five elements in the human body make the word “BhAgVAN”.**
- **BHAGWAN** is he who fully manifests with six divine qualities which are: **bala**, omnipotence; **dharm**a, righteousness; **Aisvarya**, lordship; **Sri**, Wealth and beauty; **jnana**, wisdom; **vairagya**, dispassion. Further He knows the past, the present and the future of beings. His manifestation in the human form remains known to the Devas themselves; how then shall the Danvas or Asuras come to know of His intents and extents! (The answer is given in Chapter 10 of Bhagvad Gita)
- **AUM**- the sound of universe, discovered by Rishi Vishwamitra. While in “Samadhi” he discovered that when earth circles around the Sun, it generates the sound “AUM” similar to the sound of moving blades of an, electric fan at very high speed.
- **Radha is a concept**, not a body – constant companion of GOD. Atma – psycho-physical. Believers in existence of ATMA.
- What is Devta and what is Danav: The KNOWLEDGE.
- GOOD KARMA: Devta, BAD KARMA=Danav, Mixture of good & bad karma=Manav -Who is **Maha Purusha?** = who loves everybody, unselfishness.

Where does the GOD live? A funny answer. Once in a primary class, the teacher asked, “Where does God live?” Many students said he lives in the clouds, in heaven. Others said God lives in the hearts of human beings. A small boy said, “God lives in the Bathroom”. What do you mean?”, asked the teacher. “Yes, because sometimes in the morning the bathroom door is locked from inside, and my father walks around in front of it and says, “**OH God, you are still in there!**”.

Here is the correct answer though: Once a GurudevBrahmrishi came in HTGC and explained that GOD is everywhere – Where is the proof?

Here is the proof:

1. How many directions the universe has? Ten.
2. How many *Indriyaan* we have? Ten – five *gyan indrian*, five *karam indriyan*.
3. How many “*Avatars*”, Ten . How many Gurus? Ten in Sikh dharm. (There was no 11th Guru, all the “Guru shiksha” is collected into the holy book “Sri Guru GranthSahib”, which was composed by Bhat-Brahmins.

So, ten *dishayein*, Ten *Avatara*, ten Gurus, ten *Indriyan*; as such GOD is in all the ten *dishaein* means, GOD is everywhere.

Here are some of the points he highlighted in his lecture:

1. LIVE IN TODAY, NOT IN PAST, NOR IN THE FUTURE.
2. By a little devotion, you can go to heaven. Full devotion, heaven comes to you.
3. Many, even don't wake up in the morning. If you wake up, it's a blessing. Be grateful for what you have.
4. Your mind runs fast too. You have to put a rein "*lagam*" on it.

Sanathana Dharma is a great religion, but over a period of centuries and millenniums, many of its concepts became outdated. This is how new faiths got established. Let's look at some of those concepts that need to be changed.

1. In Tulsi Das's Ramayana there is a *chopayee*: "*Dhol, pashu, shudar aur Naari, charon tadan ke Adhikari*. All that is not doable or practicable in today's world. If you beat an animal or *shudar* or *Naari*, you will go to jail. So, don't follow this concept literally. (Mundak Upnishd woman's power)
2. Don't follow the rule without understanding the reason. (new wed lady)
3. Guru Nanak went to Haridwar and he started throwing water to the west while others were throwing to the east (planted rice in Nankana...) Don't follow the rule without understanding the reason. (Ram Ram Japna..)

Here are some of the rules of dharma that I personally believe should really be followed:

1. **Past life – present life – future life etc.** Everything is THIS PRESENT LIFE. (Example: good karma in the beginning brings good fruits. With the good fruit you prosper, you enjoy the good old life etc. Example of doctor and ditch digger).
2. It is your karma that brings fruit. Don't blame GOD for your suffering. Do the GOOD KARMA to get good luck or success later in life.
3. Doing good to others out of grace (*para-anugrah*) is clearly manifest in the person who is in the state of Self-realization. The Self-realized person spontaneously works for the cultural progress, betterment of the society.
4. Use your unique talent in the service of the society. We are "Unique", not created equal.
5. Donate money, not expecting something in return. The purpose of making donations is to keep our religious institutions functioning.
6. GOD doesn't live in the temples, but when we go to the temple, we surrender to the concept of GOD that inspires us to do good karma.
7. Don't follow anything blindly. Try to understand why are you doing that?
8. Surrender yourself to uncertainty. Addiction to security is the biggest cause of your failure. Uncertainty is another name of "Maya" or "Leela" that nobody has control over.

Just keep smiling, the world will stay confused. God knows what kind of comfort and good luck he is enjoying. सिर्फ मुस्कराते रहिये... दुनियां कंप्यूज रहेगी