

## [LETTERS](#)

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## LETTERS

### Be Proud, Informed Americans

I always enjoy your magazine. the articles on parenting, vegetarianism, yoga, allied traditions and Hinduism are fantastic. As a Hindu, I have faced some harrassment after the September 11 attack. I believe that Americans need to be informed about the discrimination and suffering we have undergone and continue to go through in Fiji, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Every public library should have a copy of Lajja (Shame) by Taslima Nasrin, to expose some of what was done. Since September 11, I have been wearing a tikka (tilak forehead mark) and have gotten a lot of interest and questions. I use such queries as an opportunity to explain Vedic culture and Hinduism. We should give pictures of the Gods and books to libraries and friends. We should proudly wear the tikka, both men and women, and explain it to those who don't understand. We should display Hindu items and offer these items along with magazines for sale in their businesses and make gifts to friends to help demystify Sanatana Dharma.

Do this for the children, if not for yourself.

Shiva Sookhai [shivasookhai\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:shivasookhai_2000@yahoo.com)

Thank God for Siva's Descent

Om Gam Ganapataye Namaha. Hinduism Today is such an exquisite magazine. Exactly what we needed! Who else will stand up to "one-way" religions proselytizing violence? Thank God for Lord Siva's descent as Gurudeva and his sacred, prolific genius.

Nataraja Baba [Sivamandir@aol.com](mailto:Sivamandir@aol.com)

Heavenly Journeys to God

I was spellbound by Lavina Melwani's

expression of her childhood feelings and thoughts (The Joys of Pilgrimage, Nov/Dec, 2001). Being a devout Hindu, (not a vegetarian yet), I see and share the same. I am a complete devotee of Lord Ayyappa. For many years I made my yearly yatra (pilgrimage) to Sabarimala during the Makarajothi festival, but unfortunately, due to a death in the family, I had to miss this year's yatra. Believe me—the feelings during the yatra are completely beyond words, where you seclude yourself for the 48 days, observe complete vegetarianism and take the yatra from the river Pampa and walk for 72 km over two-and-a-half days. I am married and now have two beautiful children. When we had lost all hope of having our first child, the Lord Himself came in my dreams and assured that we will have our first child that very year. And when

my wife had to undergo an operation after the second child, the doctor informed me that the chances of survival for the mother and child will be 50-50, the Lord came again. Like the song goes: "Kallum mullum kaluku mathai, Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa." ("Stones and thorns form a mattress for my feet. Take refuge in Lord Ayyappa.")

Mohan Poduval [keystrad@yahoo.com](mailto:keystrad@yahoo.com)

## Vegetarianism Is Evolution

I appreciate your article on vegetarianism which is so much in tune with the need to usher in this

new age of sensitivity and to give out our path of light. I draw my argument for vegetarianism from our quest to being more civilized. The more civilized we humans get, the more sensitive we become! All civilizations must have decided to change from being nomadic to settling down the moment agriculture provided a more secure source of food. And with settling down, man must have actually taken his first step as a civilized being capable of growing and choosing his food for the day. As we grew into a more civilized society, humans must have begun expressing more sensitivity to life around due to surplus of

agricultural produce and divine insight to life. This force of sensitivity must have pervaded into extremes, as in Jainism which goes beyond vegetarism to extend sensitivity to roots of plants forbidden to be eaten. As civilization grows, divine insight would most naturally bring out the Godly attributes of mankind as subtle intellectual inputs over time. This statement of mine is a wish for optimism at the time of Kali Yuga!

Adhipen Bose [adhipen@aol.com](mailto:adhipen@aol.com)

## Gurudeva's Spirit. Send More.

Thank you very much for the great issue (Apr/May/Jun, 2002, Gurudeva Memorial Issue) capturing the incomparable contributions and accomplishments of Gurudeva, to help the world better understand Hinduism. The issue presents the spirit and persona of our beloved Gurudeva in a most befitting manner. We shall not only treasure this issue, but also refer to it for inspiration, peace of mind and to invoke

Gurudeva's spiritual presence in our individual, family and community lives. Now, I need 10 additional copies to share with our away-from-home children, friends, neighbors, visitors to our Shiva Vishnu Temple in Livermore, California. Gurudeva helped us start the temple and encouraged us to complete it. We always remember him with gratitude and fond memories of his precious visits to the temple which is prospering beyond our dreams and shining as Gurudeva wished it would.



G. S. and Katyayini  
Satyanarayanaa  
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We printed 1,000's of extra  
copies of the Gurudeva  
Memorial Issue. These are  
available at cost. Contact  
[jothi@hindu.org](mailto:jothi@hindu.org)

I received the recent issue of

Hinduism Today and I am very impressed with the information on Gurudeva. I really admire how much he has done for the Hindu religion. He is really great. Looking at him brings tears to my eyes. I am so lucky to have seen him at Ceylon Temple in Singapore to get his blessing. My wish and dream was to see Gurudeva at Kauai. Now I still want to visit the ashram and hope Gurudeva will help me to make my dream come true.

"Dewie" [Dewie@jel.com.sg](mailto:Dewie@jel.com.sg)

It Is "Deepavali," Not "Diwali"

Why is the Hindu festival of lights spelled "Diwali"? Should it not be "Deepavali," which reflects the description of the essence of this celebration. The word deepa means "light" and avala means "rows." The observance of this festival is

to celebrate the significance of Hinduism. Lighting of lamps has the meaning of eliminating the darkness in the literal sense, and metaphorically it means to overcome and gain the knowledge of Enlightenment. So, it seems that "Deepavali" would be the appropriate spelling.

Jumuna Vittal  
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I live in Tampa, Florida. i am not a hindu but a Catholic. However, I love to read Hinduism Today and I found Mrs. Rama Devagupta's article (Sep-Oct, 2001, The Inner Light) most helpful. For me, this was my first year learning about Deepavali, and I have received cards from my friends. I also have sent many cards to them. I was mainly aware of the association of Rama and

Lakshmi with Deepavali.  
Your article helped me to  
better understand just what  
my friends are observing  
this time of year. I applaud  
Hinduism Today for being  
one of the best resources  
for learning about one of  
the world's greatest  
religions.

Bill Rogers

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# HPI - Tell It Like It Is!

Your daily e-mail news, hpi, is getting better and better with an ever-widening range of topics, <http://www.hinduismtoday.com/hpi> and I find myself reading every story that you write. I am very grateful that you

also write about the shameful things that some Hindus do, as when you wrote about some Hindus who attacked a priest and disrupted a Mass. I want to know both the bad and good that we are capable of, so that we can praise the good, and support those who worked for it to work more to create more good; and I want to know



about the bad so that we can condemn it as behavior not worthy of our religion and of our people.

Mira S. Ghoshal

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I am indeed grateful to you for including my

e-mail address on the Hindu Press International list. Without doubt, you are providing a unique and incredible service to Hindus all around the World. Please keep it up despite difficulties. I hope myself and others should be able to contribute in due course towards sharing the financial costs involved in this invaluable service.

Vinod Prakash, PhD,  
President, India  
Development and Relief  
Fund [vinodsarla@aol.com](mailto:vinodsarla@aol.com)

More Souls Come from  
Where?

I am taking a religion  
course at the University

of Toledo and one of my classmates asked the following about reincarnation. How does population increase? If there are  $X$  amount of souls at any given time, then a soul would be reincarnated when it dies someone/thing would only be born if

someone/thing dies.  
Then how do we  
explain steady  
population increase?  
Can new souls be  
created?

Thomas Drewyour  
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God continually  
creates new souls.

The Jihad Lie

The whole planet  
has become  
intensely aware of

that aspect of the planet called jihad, whose leaders claim a special alliance with God and who are quick to declare a holy war and inspire their youth to become martyrs by blowing themselves up and

taking a few of the  
"enemy" with them,  
which they believe  
earns them a place  
in eternal heaven.  
Last week I read  
where an  
18-year-old Muslim  
girl did this to earn  
a special place in  
heaven. What a



tragic lie to buy  
into. All of the  
civilized world,  
including Muslims,  
who are a little bit  
into the heart  
chakra should  
condemn martyrs as  
murderers who will  
suffer the fate of  
murderers in this

world, in the astral plane and in their next birth. The leaders who inspire the youth and the youth themselves are the perpetrators of all the terrorism. I think it needs to be leaked into the higher

consciousness of  
the mass mind what  
really happens to  
these leaders and  
their misguided  
youth. I suspect  
they go back and  
forth very quickly  
from a murderous  
life to a quick death  
to a murderous life

in a long loop of many short, pain-filled lives until they have experienced enough pain to break that murderous cycle. But I know that if they really knew the consequences of their deeds and

what was really in store for them on the other side and in their next life, they would not be doing what they're doing, and their leaders wouldn't be motivating them to do it and glorifying it after it has been

done. It would further motivate higher conscious Muslims, Hindus and Christians to strongly train their children that this kind of behavior leads to nothing but pain for a lot of people, which

irrevocably comes back to the sender of that pain, the so-called martyr, the murderer, for more than just one or two lives, whether they be Muslim, Hindu, Christian, atheist or agnostic. If the real

consequences were known, it would help put a quicker end to this low-life behavior in the name of any God of any religion.

## Brahmachari Diksha



Kandar

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Abolish

Misunderstandings

I would like to thank the staff of Hinduism Today for their quality work and dedication to the Hindu community. This magazine's devotion to its purpose and strong

commitment to  
their community  
has helped Hindus  
and others around  
the world  
understand this  
great religion.  
There are so many  
illusions and  
misunderstandings

that your  
publication helps  
to abolish. Without  
your commendable  
works, our people  
would be at a great  
loss. Thanks!

Sanjay Goyal

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The Roots of  
Euro-Americans

I hear that many  
Hindus have  
wondered why  
many Americans  
and Europeans  
are rejecting  
Christianity in  
order to convert  
to Hinduism.  
"Why would

someone reject  
their own culture  
to embrace  
someone else's?"  
There are very  
specific reasons  
why this is the  
case. At one time,  
the people of the  
European

countries did not practice Christianity. They practiced religions that were very similar to Hinduism. In fact, Hinduism and the various forms of Paganism that



were practiced in Europe have a common root, hence the terminology "Indo-European." In fact, if you were to compare the Elder Edda (the sacred text

of the ancient  
Northern  
Europeans) to the  
Rig Veda, you  
would find striking  
similarities.

Christianity, on  
the other hand, is  
not really a  
Western religion.

It was directly spawned from Judaism. Later on it was embraced by power hungry Ceasars and Popes of Rome who in turn used this religion as a means of

spiritual, mental,  
and physical  
domination. All  
who did not agree  
with their  
veiwpoints were  
murdered,  
burned, raped,  
and destroyed.  
Missionaries were

sent to other countries outside of Rome as a means to spy on other religions as well as seduce leaders into giving up their native religions (usually with

bribes of gold and land) and to join the Ceaser/Pope in their unholy mission of destroying others cultures (which they perceived as helping).

I would like to  
address a few  
points made by  
Sri Sri Bharati  
Tirtha  
Mahaswamigal  
regarding  
conversion to  
Hinduism in his  
interview for your

March/April, 2001,  
article "On  
Dharma, the  
Pope, Kids, and  
More..." He said,  
"When foreigners  
approach my  
guru's guru, Sri  
Chandrasekhara  
Bharati, seeking



conversion to  
Hinduism, he  
advises them to  
'become better  
Christians. That is  
the essence of  
Hinduism. If you  
cannot find solace  
in your religion,  
you will never be

able to find it in  
any other  
religion.' "

I agree with the  
statement to a  
certain extent.  
True, folks should

seek out their  
own roots first  
and foremost.  
However, Sri  
Chandrasekhara  
Bharati may not  
realize that there  
is no solace or  
substance in  
Christianity for

such seekers, as  
it does not truly  
resonate the soul  
of the American  
or European,  
because it has  
roots outside of  
our blood and  
soul. If  
Euro-Americans

or Europeans are  
ever to find  
solace and  
substance in  
anything, it will be  
found in the  
pre-Christian  
European  
religions. The  
reason for

foreigners being  
attracted to  
Hinduism is based  
on the fact that it  
is more in line  
with their  
blood/soul than  
Christianity is  
(which has  
Semitic/Middle-Ea

stern roots).

If you wish to  
direct non-Indians  
away from  
Hinduism towards  
something that is  
of their own blood

and soul, then  
direct them  
towards the elder  
ways of Europe,  
which capture the  
same spirit of  
polytheism,  
animism,  
mysticism, and  
philosophical



thought that is  
found in  
Hinduism.

Grimulfr

Laugrsson

[Jarnawulf@cs.com](mailto:Jarnawulf@cs.com)

# Kashmir, the Pawn

Thank you for  
your coverage on  
Kashmir  
(Jan/Feb/Mar,

2002, Kashmir's Crisis). Your team boldly shed light on the Kashmir crisis and talked about the plight of the Kashmiri Hindus suffering in the

refugee camps.  
Four hundred  
thousand  
Kashmiri Hindus,  
because of their  
religion, have  
faced systematic  
removal, killing  
and ethnic

cleansing at the hands of Islamic terrorists in the valley since 1989, resulting in a mass exodus of hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits

from their  
homeland. I  
would also like to  
point out a  
significant  
happening  
omitted in the  
article on  
Kashmir's saga,

namely that the  
wills and wishes  
of the people of  
Jammu and  
Kashmir were  
lawfully  
enshrined in the  
Jammu and  
Kashmir's

constitution of  
1957 that  
irrevocably  
bound the state  
to India. The map  
of India in this  
article incorrectly  
labels the state  
of Jammu and



Kashmir as  
Kashmir (Map of  
Jammu and  
Kashmir ref:

[http://www.indianembassy.org/policy/kashmir/kashmir\\_map.htm](http://www.indianembassy.org/policy/kashmir/kashmir_map.htm).

Your article

erroneously  
mentioned that  
the Indian  
leaders were  
interested in  
retaining  
Kashmir, while  
the facts  
mentioned below

prove otherwise.  
In the book on  
the Jammu and  
Kashmir  
constitution (  
<http://ikashmir.org/LegalDocs/140.html>) by Justice  
A. S. Anand,

ex-chief justice  
of India records,  
"According to Mr.  
Mahajan, Mr.  
Nehru was  
interested not so  
much in the  
accession of the  
state to India as

in the power  
being given to  
the popular  
leaders." Mr.  
Mahajan was a  
former prime  
minister of  
Jammu and  
Kashmir and

later became the  
chief justice of  
India. Alan  
Cambell-Johnson  
writes on page  
223 of his  
Mission with  
Mountbatten  
(Robert Hale Ltd,

1951): "...the State's Ministry, under Patel's direction, went out of its way to take no action which could be interpreted as forcing Kashmir's

hand and to give assurances that accession to Pakistan would not be taken amiss by India." The above quote refers to Sardar Patel, the



architect of free  
India.

Mountbatten, the  
Governor  
General of India,  
in his speech to  
the members of  
East India  
Association on

June 29, 1948,  
said "Had he,  
[the Maharaja of  
Jammu and  
Kashmir]  
acceded to  
Pakistan before  
August 14, the  
future

Government of  
India had  
allowed me to  
give His  
Highness an  
assurance that  
no objection  
whatever would  
be raised by

them."

(Reproduced in

Lord

Mountbatten's

Time to Look

Forward, p. 269).

I hope you will

continue

publishing

articles that  
affect Hindus  
worldwide.

Irma Razdan

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[.com](mailto:irma_raz@yahoo.com)

Appologies to the  
author, a bad  
link was removd  
from this letter

Keep the Flame!

I am a lifetime  
subscriber to  
your immensely  
worthwhile  
magazine and  
also have  
contributed  
some articles. It  
has made a

change in my  
life. It made me  
bolder and to  
believe in my  
religion,  
Hinduism, more  
fervently.  
Gurudeva was a  
true



ambassador of  
our religion. He  
has done more  
for it in a  
positive way  
than a lot of  
other spiritual  
giants. Of  
course, it

helped that he was a Westerner; he was fully aware of it and used it to the maximum advantage. His books are masterpieces.

We here in  
Nashville give  
them as gifts to  
our chief guests  
at the Sri  
Ganesha  
Temple. The  
edition  
remembering

him is written  
up so lovingly.  
His successor,  
Satguru  
Bodhinatha  
Veylanswami  
will, I am sure,  
do full justice to  
the Hindu

cause. We  
welcome him  
with open arms.  
Keep the flame  
of goodness and  
truth and purity  
burning through  
your magazine.

Rita Frenchman  
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