Journalists

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Journalists

We have been asked about this enough times to want to share the untold story behind the stories in Hinduism Today. Basically, the magazine is a global public service to the family of Hindu faiths, produced by a small monastic community based in Hawaii, which does it for the same reason other orders run ashrams, free eye-clinics or orphanages--as a selfless service to the world.

Click here for a list of mission objectives.
But wait, that's just the beginning of understanding this until-now mysterious, international publication and doesn't explain why a select committee seeking the Hindu view on the ethics of human cloning for a report to US President Bill Clinton called our editorial offices in late March of 1997 or why this March the Ford Foundation sponsored two of our editors to join the 50 most prominent religion editors in the US at a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. So,click here for an in-depth article about Hinduism Today, our major outreach service written by a leading Indian journalist.
The Monastic Editorial Team
- Founder:Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami (1927-2001)
- Publisher:Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami
- Editor-in-Chief:Paramacharya Palaniswami
- Publisher's Aide:Paramacharya Ceyonswami
- Deputy Editor:Acharya Kumarswami
- Managing Editor:Sannyasin Arumugaswami
- Production Manager:Sannyasin Sivakatirswami
- Assistant Editor:Sannyasin Senthilnathaswami
- Assistant Editor:Sadhaka Satyanatha
- Advertising:Sadhaka Jothinatha

conditions of Indian children. I realized that Hinduism has the solutions to all the extremely complex problems that face mankind today and therefore Hinduism Today has an extremely challenging role to play in shaping the future. I would like to see Hinduism Today become the voice of downtrodden and weak Hindus who suffer as a silent majority in different parts of the world. It is the job of a magazine like Hinduism Today to convey the eternal message of theVedasandPuranas--that we are not just these perishable bodies but are a part of the Divine. In fulfilling this, I will act as a humble soldier of the HT team for years, generations and births, till the goal is achieved."

Bashudeb Dharwrites from Dhaka: "I became a member of the Hinduism Today family in 1996. I consider it as a rare honor not only for me, but also for the Hindus of Bangladesh, who have been struggling for decades. I am trying to project their struggle. Bangladesh is constitutionally an Islamic country, but Hindus constitute 12 percent of the 130-million population. From 1941 the Hindus here have faced an uncertain future, with deprivation in all sectors of life. There is a wide communication gap among Hindus throughout the world regarding their religious thinking, culture and tradition. None took initiative to foster Hindu solidarity among all sects and lineages seriously. It is reported that dozens of organizations and institutions are working to this end, but the result is not encouraging. Hinduism Today is an exception in this regard. It is not only a magazine, but an institution working to present Hinduism in its real perspective. This I think will go a long way to unite the followers of Sanatana Dharma all over the world, bridging the communication gaps sincerely."

Freelance journalistArchana Dongrelives with her husband, a computer engineer, in Los Angeles. She has been in the US since the early 1970s. Born in Pune, Maharashtra, schooled in Mumbai and Nagpur, linguistically gifted, she excelled in all other languages and sciences. She earned a degree in education and an M.A. in Sanskrit language and literature. Excelling at broad research pieces, her latest articles In Hinduism Today include Adopting Indian Children (4-94), Tribal Art (2-95), Theosophy (6-95), Home, Sweet Europe (9-95), ISKCON's Second Generation (3-96), and a Day in the Life of India (2-97). She writes, "My vision for the future of Hinduism includes a better place for the Hindu woman. In the Vedas, women are respected for what they are in their own right; for example, Gargi, Lopamudra and Maitreyi. In today's society, despite all the advancements that women have made, they are still looked upon as adjuncts, only as somebody's wife, mother or sister, but not for their own capabilities and talents. Of course, all those relations are important, but a woman's own worth and talents need to be respected, nurtured and cultivated, with encouragement from their fathers, husbands and, later, sons. I strongly feel that Hinduism, if rightly understood, has never been just a blind faith, but a rich, variegated source of such fascinating, appealing sciences, like jnana marga and bhakti marga. In the truest, literal sense of the word Dharma, which signifies 'moral sustenance,' Hinduism has all the potential and power to save humanity. I worked in different fields, took college courses in many diverse subjects, but found that no matter what I did, I came back to writing. I just pray to God to give me strength and long life so I can do something significant for my work and my family so I can make a difference and leave a mark."

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(Correspondents Continued)

Vrindavanam S. Gopalakrishnan, based in Kerala, has been a professional freelance journalist since 1983. He had the distinction of covering the 1987 Military Coup in Fiji and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 for the international media. "I would say my bitter experience abroad meted out to me by the organized religions coupled with my luck to meet His Holiness Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami has transformed me totally. The efforts of Hinduism Today from the West to enlighten those crawling in the darkness of ignorance have drawn me further closer. I offered my humble service to become part of Hinduism Today's endeavor for affirming Sanatana Dharma and recording the modern history of a billion-strong religion now in renaissance. In fact, it had enlightened me as it was happening in a scenario where the Hindu organizations, born and brought up in Hindustan with the basic tenets of Sanatana Dharma (Vedanta philosophy) started disowning their heritage--whereas thesannyasisbehind Hinduism Today have exhibited the courage to say "We are Hindus." The attitude and approach of these noble and saintly men could definitely instill confidence and courage in the minds of many Hindus around the world."

Dr. Hari Bansh Jhalives with his wife and three children in Nepal. After serving for 23 years as Professor of Economics at Tribhuvan University, he has turned to writing books, conducting research and serving weaker sections of the society, including women and children. "There is a great freedom within Hinduism. But this is not digestible to alien faiths. So there are deliberate attempts to attack this Hindu way of life. I wish to serve the Hindus who are immersed in problems in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and other parts of the globe. There is a lot that Hinduism could contribute to the

world in its spiritual growth and also for the maintenance of peace on the Earth. If my God allows, I might actively concentrate on some of these core issues through Hinduism Today. To me, Hinduism Today means purity, peace, love and an attempt to develop oneness with Lord Siva. I am part of the Hinduism Today family because I feel that I am able to improve myself day by day, particularly in the spiritual arena."

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(Correspondents Continued)

Lavina Melwani, who is from New Delhi, writes for publications in the US, India and the Far East. Her family is originally from Sindh. She resides in New York with her husband and two children. Lavina is active in Children's Hope, a charity to assist children in India. Her sensitive touch features social issues and the arts, including New York Loves Ganesha (11-93), Mixed Marriages (3-94), Afghanistan Hindus (6-94), Famous Vegetarians (1-95), The Grand Dame of Kathak (3-95), Women Film Directors (2-95), The Veggie Revolution (12-95), the UN after 50 years (2-96), Sky Is Not the Limit (4-97), 35mm Mega-Memoir (12-97) and Hear Krishna's Flute (11-97). In sharing her vision, Lavina tells us, "I have always loved the way Hinduism allows one to have a close, one-on-one relationship with a very personal God. It is a very loving, elastic and all-embracing religion, and I hope in the years to come these will be the features the world will get to see, rather than the fundamentalism or rigidity espoused by a few." You can read her musings on culture, the arts, cuisine and faith at her blogwww.lassiwithlavina.com

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(Correspondents Continued)

Mangala Prasad Mohanty, born in a devout family in the village Batagaon, near Puri town, lives with his wife and son in Delhi. A seasoned journalist, published throughout India, he speaks on All India Radio, and translates poetic works into English and Oriya. In Puri he has registered a Non-Governmental Organization(NGO) called Society for Environmental Action and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (search). He shares, "The world is full of hunger, disease, poverty, violence and hatred, and the worst crime, that perpetrated in the name of caste, religion and creed. But I believe in Divinity and Grace. I strongly advocate that by positive thinking and action, the world would turn better, positive, a place worth living in peace and prosperity. I believe in the ancient Hindu philosophy,vasudhaiva kutumbakam('the world is one family'). I adore diversity, love, peace and Hinduism. Since childhood I was fond of visiting temples and meeting saints. The same old habit made it possible for me to meet Sri Gurudeva, founder of Hinduism Today. Little did I know that meeting would lead to a lifetime affair in creativity and spirituality. My lifestyle has undergone tremendous change. I am more compassionate, peaceful, calm and devoted to what I do. I have greater respect towards elders, brahmins, saints and priests. I take an active role in the promotion of our value system and morality. Attainingmoksha, liberation, remains the sacred and ultimate goal in life."

Prabha Prabhakar Bhardwajis a free-lance journalist living with her husband in Kenya. She grew up in Jammu, North India. She left a Masters in economics to get married, 16 years later earned a Bachelors Degree in Journalism in Hyderabad, then moved to Kenya to teach journalism at Nairobi University. She specializes in environment and gender issues and has published many books, among them, Body and Mind, Women and Environment, translated into Spanish, French and English. Prabha was a key member in writing two environmental action plans, one for the Kenyan government and one for the UN. Her contributions to Hinduism Today include: Kenya Temple Moves (9-94), Kenya's Hindu Kids (9-94), Kashmir Pandits (11-94), Hindus Return to Uganda (12-94), The Ganesha Milk Miracle (12-95), Hindus in West Africa and Dressing for Heaven (3-97). In her vision, Prabha Prabhakar is deeply concerned for the future of Hinduism: "I have seen five generations in my own family, from my grandparents to my grand-daughter, and Hinduism

is successively getting more diluted with each generation. Hinduism Today has the capability to attract the younger generation in a very pragmatic and rational manner. I plan to reach out to the Hindu youth of today and future generations scattered around the world by coming down to their level. I am researching Hindu rituals from birth to death for a book on that subject to attract the young to our traditional religion. There should also be emphasis on caring for elders so that they are not neglected in their late years, an unfortunate modern trend."

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(Correspondents Continued)

Choodie Shivaramcarries over three decades of rich experience as a freelance journalist and is actively involved with Print, Radio, Visual and New Media. She is an Arts graduate and holds a full law degree. She is also an independent HR consultant specializing in the semiconductor industry. Choodie resides in Bangalore with her husband and two children; her daughter Gayathri is an active freelance journalist too. Her many articles in Hinduism Today since 1995 include Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia (10-95), Crafts by Women (1-96), Kerala's Matriachy (2-96), Ganesha Factory (3-96), a Tobaccoless Village (3-96), Tirupati's Priests (6-96), Madhavacharya's Birthplace (11-96), Joint Families at Risk (1-97), India's Beauty Contest (3-97), a Saint's Self-Willed Death (9-97). Choodie's vision statement: "My involvement with Hinduism Today opened my eyes to the real side of Hinduism. Besides the content of the magazine, during the course of penning articles, I referred to a number of books on varied subjects on Hindu philosophy. I was forced to speak to a number of traditional and modern scholars. I was awe struck by Hinduism's profundity. I feel sad to think of how I squandered an important part of my early life in ignorance. I realize that a whole lifetime is not sufficient to understand the beauty that is Hinduism. We had and have great scholars who have written brilliantly about the religion and commented copiously on innumerable scriptures. My windows of perception and understanding of the religion have just started unfolding. Today I am extremely proud of being a Hindu, and this pride comes not by vanity or by virtue of my birth as a Hindu, but by the better understanding of the religion and its greatness. With me, my family has come under the influence of the true essence of the religion, and this has given a sound grounding of the essence and values of Sanathana Dharma to my children." "

Dr. Virendra Sodhiof Washington state shares with reader's his lifetime of experience in medicine and health, unfolding the mysteries of ayurveda for our readers. Dr. Sodhi holds an M.D. (Ayurveda) from India and a N.D. from Bastyr College of Naturopathic Medicine, USA. He covers all aspects of health and well-being in his articles, and lectures extensively around the US.
An invitation:If you are a talented writer and lover of dharma, please contact oureditorial offices. Sannyasin Arumugaswami would love to hear from you, as it is his mission, his vision, to add many more fine souls to our Hinduism Today family!