

Ganesha the Elephant Head God

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

Russian Count Leo Tolstoy, of “War and Peace” fame, who was familiar with the Bhagavad Gita, wrote a book on religion called, “The Kingdom of God is Within You.” Translation of the title means: the Kingdom of God (Jesus) is Within You; You are Jesus! Tolstoy’s complaint is that Jesus, as worshiped by Christianity in a Church, has become an idol (blind adoration), and not the true Jesus (Kingdom of God). The true Jesus is Within You, not in a Church.

Mahatma Gandhi, a student of Tolstoy, interpreted the book for his nonviolence movement. Gandhi’s Satyagraha Ashram in South Africa was called Tolstoy Farm. Their correspondence is preserved.

The Hindu Upanishads teach us exactly the same as Tolstoy. The Kingdom of God (Brahman) is Within You. Only one’s own enlightenment can illuminate the inner consciousness.

The Upanishads were pure logic. They were Hinduism. They were composed by Indian Rishi who invented logic. Rishi were an open society of open minds. Anyone could become a Rishi by mastering logic. The Bhagavad Gita was an exposition of the Kingdom of God (Brahman) Within You. Gandhi and Tolstoy interpreted the Gita for their nonviolence movement. The true god (Jesus, Brahman) is Within You.

In India, before the current era, there were no Brahmin, temples, or temple gods. The Indian Rishi had nothing to do with the Brahmin. They were logic. They lived in India for thousands of years. They were deliberately misinterpreted as Brahmin by people who were ignorant of logic.

The Indian Brahmin were recent migrants from Persia. Originally, they were a cult in Persia. They never had intellect or logic. They blindly obeyed their cult leader. They were considered uncivilized, and expelled from Persia. They were refugees in Kashmir.

By 200 BCE, after Ashoka, Greeks occupied all of Persia and Kashmir.

Greeks invented a novel way to collect taxes. The temple was a tax collection office. The temple gods were permanent tax collectors. They promised rewards and punishments in the afterlife, to extract tax revenue in this life. It was an efficient tax collection mechanism with minimal operating costs.

The Greeks hired the Persia Brahmin refugees in Kashmir to invent temple gods, based on local legends, to be housed in temples. The refugee Brahmin were experts in writing Sanskrit fiction. All Brahmin literature was financed by Greeks to market temple gods. Brahmin followed Greeks to India to supply temple gods. There was no archeological evidence of Brahmin in India before the Greeks.

Shiva and Vishnu were temple gods invented by rival Brahmin groups of Kashmir.

Shiva and Vishnu in the Rig Veda were Vedic-Gods, not temple gods. Vedic-Gods were nature worship. They were friends of people. They did not collect tax revenue. The Rig Veda and Upanishads were composed by the Indian Rishi. They were pure logic.

The temple god Jesus Christ also came into existence, at the same time, for the same reason.

Shiva and Vishnu were worshiped as gods, just as Jesus was worshiped as god in Christianity. Shiva and Vishnu were at each other's throat for market share. They committed more crimes against humanity than Christianity. Gods were idols in a Temple (Church), to attract and rob worshipers with a promise of better afterlife.

By 200 CE, warlords of Greek descent crossed the Indus river to enter India. Greeks robbed Persia; warlords robbed India. Both invested in temples to collect tax revenue. The refugee Brahmin in Kashmir supplied temple gods to both. They followed warlords to India to supply temple gods.

There were no Brahmin in India before the Greeks. The Brahmin deliberately misinterpreted Indian Rishi as Brahmin to create the false impression that Brahmin were native to India. Indian Rishi were logic; Brahmin were ignorance.

Religious fights, for market share by rival temple gods, often turned into bloodbaths. By the time of Adi Shankara (800 CE), India was in total ruins with religious anarchy.

Adi Shankara suggested a solution for Hindus to meet their craving for god: Hindus could worship as many gods as they wanted, because they were all reflections (Advita) of the same God.

Advita encouraged Hindus to worship multiple gods. No one god was good enough to deliver all the promised rewards in the afterlife. Advita shattered the grip of Robber-Gods on worshipers. It liberated Hindus from their religious shackles.

Adi Shankara introduced a new form of worship: Hindus should place religious-neutral Ganesha (the elephant head God) at the center, and place any other gods of their choice, no limit, around him.

In the Pancha-ayatana (five altars) Puja, Ganesha is placed on the center altar of a square. Any other gods are placed on the four corner altars, for a total of Pancha (five). Both Shiva and Vishnu may be worshiped, at the same time and place, as long as Ganesha sits in the middle to stop them from killing each other.

Adi Shankara placed different local gods on four corners at each place he visited. He invited rival local gods to join him in a common prayer. He visited all of India, in his short life of 32 years. He was venerated as the Jagadguru (Universal teacher).

Religious-neutral Ganesha was the brainchild of Adi Shankara. The Pancha-ayatana Puja was the nonviolence movement of Adi Shankara. It established a truce among rival Robber-Gods that were tearing the country apart. It spread the message of nonviolence throughout India.

Advaita pulled the plug on Robber-Gods. Robber-Gods were defanged. They lost their ability to demand tax. They lost control of their revenue base. Temples were no longer a lucrative business to investors. The bottom fell out of Brahmin business.

No new Robber-Gods were invented after Adi Shankara. It was the end of a nightmare era in Indian history.

Robber-Gods were a thing of the past. The present-day Indian temple gods are not Robber-Gods. They do not collect tax revenue. They are therapists. They help people who crave for emotional support. They accept token offerings of flowers and bless Prasada. They are community service providers. They are a part of Hindu social life. They are a legacy.

Adi Shankara resurrected Brahman of the neglected Upanishads. He composed a Bhasya (commentary) on the Bhagavad Gita. His nonviolence movement liberated Hindus from the tyranny of Robber-Gods. It was presented as a conflict between Kingdom of God Within You (Brahman) and tyranny (Robber-Gods).

Gandhi followed Tolstoy's advice. He presented to the world his nonviolence movement as a conflict between Kingdom of God Within You (Jesus) and tyranny (Christianity); Jesus versus Christianity. He exposed the true Jesus Within You to the entire world.

The British rulers realized that they could not win a spiritual war against the true Jesus Within You and gracefully surrendered.

Gandhi declared triumph of Jesus over Christianity with a slogan from the Upanishads: Satyameva Jayate (Truth alone succeeds). The slogan, सत्यमेव जयते, is enshrined on the Indian Emblem. The slogan was Gandhi's Bhasya (commentary) on the Bhagavad Gita.

The Kingdom of God (Jesus, Brahman) is Within You.

The Brahma Sutra

Brahman is true knowledge.

Brahman is Order in the Universe (Ishvar).

Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahman.

Satyameva Jayate.

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