

RELIGION AS A SCIENCE

Hemambika Varma

'Birth' is certainly the most important miracle of life. It is none too less than death, the cessation of physical existence. It is said that up to the age of five, children can see God or that they are equivalent to God. This has been explained time and again in Hindu mythology. It has also been elucidated in Greek mythology which closely resembles the Indian one. They have their Hades which is similar to our land of the dead. They also have Lethe-the river of forgetfulness, through which souls pass and forget their previous existence.

Hindu religion believes that souls pass through several stages and forget their past existence when they are born again. Only great seers like Narada and Kapila knew of their past. This often helped them in detachment from worldly pleasures and pains. Narada was happy when his mother passed away due to snake-bite as it helped him. sever all bonds on earth and serve Lord Narayana. Narada is the manasaputra of Brahma without parents. 'Pralaya' or the great deluge preceded existence, according to the Bhagavatha, the greatest epics of the Hindus. Even science ascertains that 70% of the earth's surface is full of water. Science has shown us that a mother's uterine cavity is filled with water. Our epics show the Lord Narayana as reclining on the septent lord Adishesha in Paalazhi, the ocean of knowledge. Science discovers new things already discovered for us by our epics. The concept of Lord Narayana is surprisingly similar to the young foetus lying in its sac of water. There is a stem of lotus

which grows from Narayana's navel to connect Him to Brahma, the Creator. This is also like that of the umbilical cord which connects the foetus to its mother who is the life-giver. (Thus the Shakthi of Narayana combines with the creative power of Brahma to create new life) Life is already created where in the foetus.

As long as the connection is retained, there is oneness with the Lord. The moment a being is born, it loses this connection and becomes a mortal. As it grows in its material environment, materialism engulfs the spirituality and the being begins to detract, distinguish, deceive and become truly mortal. It is only when a person constantly keeps his touch with the Maker that he retains his other worldly powers and becomes immortal in soul. The Buddha was one such seer who realized that weakness, disease and death are permanent and life is transitory. He renounced worldly pleasures at an early age and went on to experience enlightenment. The lord as we call Him is the force in nature that is prevalent in the universe from time immemorial. This is clearly mentioned in the sage Kapila's sermons to his mother, Devahuti. She was afraid of the world professed and spread 'Brahma Vidya' He explained that the body was made of five elements which dissolved into its original source after death. The mind which consists of ego-the 'I' and the 'Me' destroyed natural balance. When this disappears, the mind becomes free of all worldly emotions. He talks about Bhakthi which is the easiest and surest way of reaching the Lord's lotus feet.' Bhakthi simply means aligning our wavelength to that of the all pervading one. When an electric line is strong and stablem current passes through it with ease and there is electricity and light. Similarly when we attune ourselves to the energy that is God, there is enlightenment.

The world is full of scientists who declare that every living being is made up of atoms. These atoms have been in existence from the beginning of the universe. They are capable of independent existence. There is a theory stating that when these atoms join together into a particular shape they become an entity. The ancient yogis had the knowledge of how to dissolve themselves into atoms and to rejoin again whatever necessary. This has been experimented with in science in the modern ages and has been used as a technique in many -fi novels. Experiments conducted inn Germany during the World War also point in this direction. The independent atoms live in harmony for as long as there is no disturbance. However if anything occurs to disrupt its natural flow, it ceases to exist. This is how we see that often people survive due to mere will - power, while others die without any reason. The energy that help us survive is God, otherwise selected his grace. 'There is no science of man' wrote Novel Laureate, Alexis Carrel in his celebrated book "Man ' The Unknown". Modern medicine, nearly 85years after the death of conventional science following Werner Heisenberg's Uncertainly Principle is still buried in Newtonian Physics. (The Hindu Sunday Oct 23 - Dr. B. M. Hedge) Thus there is actually no disease of the organ. As long as the flow of energy flows undisrupted, organs heal themselves. It is when the flow is destroyed that the entity gets destroyed. Modernisation thus is not modern in itself. When we look back into the portals of human history especially through the epics we find that our ancestors lived a better life than we did by merely sticking on to a natural way of living. Life at its best is denoted in the he epics.

Right from pregnancy itself rituals were done for and by the pregnant mother to ensure a healthy life for the ffspring. Here one must add that in - Vito fertilization was also done then as in the case

of Gandhaari, the queen of Hastinapur. Scientific theory has proved that the unborn child can detect and decipher external sounds. We know it as a fact because of the stories of Prahlada and Abhimanyu. Prahlada, the son of the demon-king, Hiranyakashipu, Prahlada became the Lord's devotee merely by listening to His stories as told by sage Narada to his pregnant mother. Abhimnya learnt about the Chakravyooh while he was in his mother's womb. So the pregnant mothers during the olden times spent their time away from worldly turmoil. Education began for a child at about 4 years of age. Children were sent to the gurukula to stay and learn with other children. The rich and the poor lived in the same circumstances. Later on higher education was provided for those who excelled. Nobody usurped other's position. In marriages, men and women often had their say. Princess married by swayamvara where they could choose their suitor. The participants often had to prove their mettle to take over as the king.

Women of all ages were protected. The passage from Manusm-
rithi has often been mis-quoted.' Pithru rakshyathi baalye, bharth
rakshyathi kaumaare, puthro rakshyathi vaardhake, na sthree
swaathanthryam arhasi'

The passage on protection of women only means that women of all ages should be protected with due respect given to her status. Mythology boasts of many female characters like Kunti, Gaandhari, Draupadi, Sita and the like who took important decisions about their life. As and when children grew up, parents entrusted the responsibility of the household to them and took up vaanaprasta - to chant the name of the Lord and prepare themselves for the other world. All this led to a life entirely in sync with nature. It is when progressive science, as we term it, began to take its hold that changes began to be

made in lifestyle and everything started going haywire.

If a man were to realise that the world and all in it is illusory and that only the power of the Lord - the energy pervading the universe is real, he would be able to bring about a holistic improvement in his life. All that has been discovered now has been already handed down to us by our epics. Man did not have the awareness to perceive it. Knowledge of the facts of life through the Vedas and the Puranas would have helped us better our human condition. It would help us to synchronize our life with the energy prevalent in nature and provide us with a correct direction towards happiness. Even now if we turn to that science called religion we may be able to save the world from its disastrous destiny.

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