Hyperlink to Hinduphobia:
Online Hatred, Extremism and Bigotry Against Hindus

HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

HYPERLINK TO HINDUPHOBIA: ONLINE HATRED, EXTREMISM AND BIGOTRY AGAINST HINDUS

WWW.HAFSITE.ORG/HATEREPORT/

"Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill."

-- Gautama Siddharta, "The Buddha"

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The **Hindu American Foundation (HAF)** is a human rights group whose purpose is to provide a voice for the 2 million strong Hindu American community. HAF interacts with and educates government, media, think tanks, academia and public fora about Hinduism and issues of concern to Hindus locally and globally. Promoting the Hindu and American ideals of understanding, tolerance and pluralism, HAF stands strong against hate, discrimination, defamation and terror. The Hindu American Foundation is not affiliated with any religious or political organizations or entities. HAF seeks to serve Hindu Americans across all *sampradayas* (Hindu religious traditions).

www.HAFsite.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD

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Hate is an ugly thing, and its ugliness is well illustrated in its various manifestations on the Internet, including those detailed in this report.

The Internet, on the other hand, is a beautiful thing, an ingenious technology with a vast potential for liberating human creativity and facilitating communication across national, cultural, and religious boundaries. Many of us cannot remember what our lives were like before we were able to correspond with people across the globe in an instant, or have vast stores of knowledge, the equivalent of an entire library, available at our fingertips.

But while our technology has advanced, our moral wisdom, sadly, has not. The Internet, this tool of knowledge and communication, is regularly abused, becoming a vehicle for the worst human impulses, as reflected in the pervasiveness of pornographic websites and websites devoted to fomenting hatred and violence against particular religious and ethnic groups.

Though it is less well known in this country, anti-Hindu bigotry is every bit as ugly and dangerous as anti-Semitism or racism, and every bit as present on the Internet. As we all know, murderous rampages have been inspired by anti-Semitic and racist websites. And it is not necessary for a website to exhort its readers to actual, physical violence for it to lead to such violence. Indeed, hateful speech and false information can create a climate in which such violence is to be expected. As this report demonstrates, the distribution of hateful misinformation about Hindus and Hinduism is alive and well on the Internet. So how long will it be before a crazed gunman attacks a crowded Hindu temple in America, believing, as some of the websites detailed in this report claim, that Hindus are possessed by demons? How many children will grow up believing Hinduism is a "filthy" religion, or that Hindus worship the devil? When they grow up, how will such children treat their Hindu co-workers and neighbors? Will they give them the respect due to a fellow citizen and human being?

Hatred is inevitably fueled by ignorance, and ignorance is perpetuated by misinformation. This report is the beginning of an attempt to address the problem of anti-Hindu bigotry on the Internet head on: by exposing it and correcting the errors the websites detailed herein perpetuate. The Hindu American Foundation is firmly rooted in the ideals of tolerance and pluralism basic to Hinduism and to this country. Many of the websites described in this report claim to speak from religious perspectives. But is the greatness of traditions like Christianity or Islam served by denigrating Hinduism or spreading false information about it? This report is a wake-up call to all Americans to work for a society in which all religions are respected, and in which the practitioners of all religions can feel safe and included.

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INTRODUCTION

Hate on the Internet – A Growing Concern

Starting out as a small computer network used primarily by scientists and academic researchers, the Internet has now become a revolutionary phenomenon. It is one of the most important technological achievements of the past century. The magnitude of information disseminated through this medium is well beyond comprehension as it enables the spreading of ideas to millions of people worldwide. As with any significant technological advancement, though, the Internet may also be manipulated by purveyors of bigotry and intolerance. Technology offers such individuals the unprecedented ability to communicate. In fact, the growth of hate and extremism on the Internet mirrors the expansion of its use. The Internet's current use by al-Qaeda and other Islamist terrorist organizations to celebrate attacks, inspire new recruits and, most insidiously, transmit coded messages to operatives overseas is widely known.

In January 1985, before the Internet's meteoric rise, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released a report entitled, "Computerized Networks of Hate." The report exposed a computerized bulletin board named the "Aryan Nation Liberty Net," which was created by and for white supremacists and which could be accessed by anyone with a home computer and modem. The report "warned that 'complacency' about this development 'would be unwise'."[i] Though the Internet was still in its embryonic stages, what concerned the ADL so early on was the notion that an idea disseminated via the Web and spread to a large number of people could shape attitudes and opinions throughout the world. Where the activities of hate groups were once limited by geographical boundaries, the report argued that the Internet allowed even the smallest fringe group to spread hate and freely recruit members online by tapping into the worldwide audience that the Web provides.

Although hate-mongers represent only a tiny proportion of the total Internet population, their ability to reach users worldwide gives them a voice that far outweighs their numerical strength. Don Black, a white supremacist who was once national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, launched one of the first extremist hate sites on the World Wide Web called "Stormfront." Black recognized the Internet's power early on, telling the Philadelphia Enquirer in 1996 that, "the potential of the Net for organizations and for movements such as ours is enormous. We're reaching tens of thousands of people who never before had access to our point of view."[ii]

Not only is the Internet's breadth in delivering hateful messages a concern, but so is the fact that Web "surfers" can rarely distinguish whether or not the person or organization disseminating the information is credible. As the ADL mentioned in its report, "Increasingly, web development tools have made it simple for bigots to create sites that visually resemble those of reputable organizations. Consequently, hate groups using the Web can more easily portray themselves as legitimate voices of authority."[iii] The Simon Wiesenthal Center, which monitors websites of hate groups, currently monitors more than 4,000 websites which it considers "problematic" – those which contain messages of hate, racism, terrorist agendas, and bomb-making instructions.[iv] Websites extolling the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi organizations with nihilistic agendas are prominently featured.

The International Network Against Cyberhate (INACH) "calls the Internet 'a virtual nursery for real-life crime.'"[v] Christopher Wolf, the former chair of the ADL's Internet Task Force and Chair of the INACH during its fourth annual conference in 2005, wrote an article in 2004 titled, "A Gay & Lesbian Legal Guide to Internet Hate." In that he stated, "The use of the Internet to send bias-motivated messages is increasing. When one witnesses the anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic, and Holocaust-denying websites that are proliferating, and the hate mongers who are capitalizing on the Internet as a tool to spread their messages, a natural response is 'There ought to be a law!' … Innocent users of the Internet inadvertently may be exposed to hate online. When uninformed or easily influenced people come across hate propaganda, they can fall prey to its deceptive reasoning and adopt hateful beliefs themselves."[vi]

Hatred Directed Towards Hindus

Notwithstanding the considerable efforts of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), American Jewish Committee (AJC) and other groups such as the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in combating online hatred, focus on hate sites against Hindus has lacked thus far. Perhaps the sole previous effort was collaboration between the SWC and the Hindu American Foundation, an effort which resulted in the inclusion of websites promoting hatred against Hindus within the SWC's annual online hate report, "Digital Hate and Terrorism 2005." The overall lack of focus on Hindus and Hinduism, however, is quite disconcerting given the tolerance and pluralism of Hinduism and the hate Hindus face worldwide.

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest spiritual traditions. From its emphasis on non-violence and respect for all living entities, to its introduction of practices such as yoga and meditation, Hinduism has had a tremendous impact on the world. This makes it all the more repugnant that, through the spread of inaccurate and malicious content over the Internet, online readers are too often taught that the deities Hindus worship are demonic figures and that Hindu beliefs and practices are morally degrading. Hindus are portrayed as a condemned people destined for hell, even as their lasting contributions in science, mathematics, astronomy, and medicine are appropriated and separated from their source. The religion is falsely described as a racist construct and such social evils as untouchability, female infanticide, and bride-burning are conflated with Hinduism. Such purposeful misportrayals are a manifestation of bigotry and chauvinism, and the unfortunate outcome of such depictions is clear to Hindu-Americans. Attacks on Hindus and their institutions are a daily reality in countries such as Bangladesh.[vii] Last year, even within the United States, a newly completed Hindu temple in Minnesota was desecrated by vandals that went on to destroy deities within the inner sanctum.[viii] The hate sites reflected in this report inspire and justify such violence.

Documenting ongoing human rights problems, the Hindu American Foundation recently released its second annual report on the status of Hindu human rights titled, "Hindus in South Asia and the Diaspora: A Survey of Human Rights 2005."[ix] Atrocities committed against Hindus in various parts of the world are documented in the report. In each of the regions covered, an environment of hostility and hatred towards Hindus was created in order to enable persecution and violence to take place.

Previous Initiatives Against Internet Hate

Combating online hate, often perpetrated by shadowy front organizations funded and inspired by irredentist or terrorist movement activists, is, of course, extremely difficult and measures taken against it by various countries are by no means uniform. Most of the attempts at curbing its spread have been observed in Europe thus far. In 2000, the United Nations held a conference in Geneva, Switzerland aimed at addressing the propagation of racial hatred around the world. Mary Robinson, then the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, was quoted as saying: "New forms of communications technology such as the Internet are being used to support the dissemination of racial hatred."[x] Other speakers noted the legal challenges of controlling Internet content in and originating from the United States.[xi] However, David Rosenthal, a Swiss-based information technology law expert, argued that, although the U.S. government cannot ban racist speech outright, it could impose reasonable restrictions that would ultimately curb hate speech.[xii]

In late 2002, the Council of Europe (comprised of representatives from 44 European countries) adopted a measure criminalizing Internet hate speech, including hyperlinks to pages that contain offensive content. The amendment banned "any written material, any image or any other representation of ideas or theories, which advocates, promotes or incites hatred, discrimination or violence, against any individual or group of individuals, based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as religion if used as pretext for any of these factors."[xiii] Germany has since banned neo-Nazi proselytizing in all forms.[xiv] Consequently, German Internet "surfers," in theory, should not be able to access webpages containing anti-Semitic or Nazi propaganda. Spain also "recently passed legislation authorizing judges to shut down Spanish sites and block access to U.S. web pages that don't comply with national laws."[xv]

Canada has focused on this issue as well. In 1997, B'Nai Brith Canada held an international symposium on the issue of hatred on the Internet. Over 100 Canadian and international government and police officials, as well as experts in the fields of law, legislation, human rights, technology and education, convened to explore this problem from various philosophical perspectives and professional approaches.[xvi] Among the key recommendations were the application to the Internet of existing laws and international standards pertaining to hate, along with the establishment of voluntary codes of conduct by internet service providers (ISP's).[xvii]

While many countries have national laws criminalizing online hate messages, the United States does not. Questions of whether and how to legislate the Internet in the United States continue to be debated. Various arguments have been put forth against the restriction of Internet content, the primary one being that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's freedom of speech. Civil libertarians describe any attempts to regulate the Internet as censorship and an invasion of privacy, while some technologists claim that all such attempts are futile and that regulatory laws are virtually unenforceable. Another argument asserts that if all potentially offensive information is removed, the Internet will be reduced to just a plain, vanilla newspaper. Nonetheless, several nations have already recognized the need to balance people's freedom of expression with their right to be free from hate targeted against them.

Approaches to Blocking Content on the Web

In an article in the "OECD Observer" in March, 2001, Dr. Ulrich Sieber, a professor of criminal law, information law, and legal data processing in Munich, Germany discussed approaches European countries have used in attempting to block online hate. Sieber wrote that countries wishing to limit access to Web material deemed hateful and inciting of violence appeared to attempt to protect themselves against the illegal content by either blocking it on their territory, or extending their own criminal jurisdiction to the territory of origin of the material.[xviii] He stated that "the first approach was tried in Germany when CompuServe Deutschland, an internet company, was required to filter out child pornography coming through to German users from the United States...The second approach was tried in France…in which a French judge demanded that … Yahoo!, Inc. control access by French users to American sites selling Nazi memorabilia, such as by blocking IP numbers coming from France."[xix] Also, in a decision by Germany's Federal High Court on December 12, 2000, "an Australian citizen was convicted for publishing Holocaust lies and hate speeches on a website hosted on an Australian server. The person was acting only in Australia, but was arrested while on a visit to Germany."[xx]

However, due to the lack of uniformity in laws against Internet hate, coordinated international legal regulation seems virtually impossible. This is not to say that nothing can be done. For instance, in 2000 the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) called on Yahoo!, one of the Internet's most popular sites, to remove dozens of hate groups which had established "clubs" in plain view on Yahoo!'s servers.[xxi] The aforementioned Christopher Wolf, ADL's Internet Policy Committee Chairman at the time, wrote that, "In this case, ADL and Yahoo! were able to work together to pull the plug on these individuals, resulting in the company's removal of some of the most offensive clubs because they stood in violation of Yahoo!'s terms of service agreement, which clearly prohibits hate speech."[xxii]

Due to the large volume of data carried on the Internet, its encryption, and the potential necessity of real-time control of the material transmitted, it is impossible for network and access providers to control and block all content sent over the Internet. Effective solutions require, therefore, the cooperation of hosting providers who may unwittingly be storing hate material over long periods. Hosting providers are companies that maintain and run Web servers which rent space for websites. They may be required to check disturbing content and either remove it or make it inaccessible. In fact, it is these providers that are generally viewed as the most effective means to combat online hatred. Under European Union regulations, the hosting providers are not required to take active measures to control the material but only to accept responsibility once they know they are providing illegal data. In the United States, some providers "require subscribers to sign contractual terms of service which prohibit using their facilities to promote hate", although "they are not legally liable for the content of the sites they host."[xxiii]

Also, several NGO's have taken action. The Southern Poverty Law Center is one of the foremost monitors of hate group activity on the Internet. The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) has led the way in tracking hate groups and their activities. In fact, the SWC publishes an annual report documenting hateful content on the Internet. The American Jewish Committee has taken an active public role on this issue as well. Also, the ADL tracks existing hate sites on the Internet and focuses on educating people about the dangerous consequences of such sites. In addition, the ADL, in conjunction with Cyber Patrol, provides hate filter software. This software acts as a gatekeeper to block websites of individuals or groups that advocate hate, bigotry or violence and, therefore, empowers individuals to fight hate that can enter their home.

Overview of this Report

The focus of this report is to identify and analyze websites that target Hindus and their religion in the firm conviction that, if left unchallenged, such websites perpetuate hatred at best, and breed violence at worst. It exhibits a myriad of websites found to contain hateful content towards Hindus and their beliefs and also reveals the individuals and groups sponsoring these sites. This report is intended to serve as just the beginning of an annual campaign by the Foundation to highlight hatred against the Hindu community. While this report focuses on online hatred, future versions will also encompass hatred exhibited in other media, such as television, print, and recordable media.

The methods generally used to degrade Hinduism are: 1) categorizing Hindu rituals and traditions as "devil worship," a characterization used time and time again in order to promote a fear of Hindus and their beliefs; 2) portraying Hindu practice as profane and morally repugnant, i.e., depicting Hindu deities as perverse and lurid caricatures; and 3) falsifying Hinduism's teachings and principles in order to claim the religious superiority of other traditions. The ultimate outcome is the same – another unfortunate blow to tolerance and pluralism.

The websites listed are not arranged in any particular order within the report and are but a small sample of what currently exists on the Internet. At the time of print, all such websites were active, however, due to the ever-changing and unpredictable nature of the Web, the Foundation cannot ensure that all such websites will continue to be active after publication of this report. A brief overview of each website's content and purpose is provided along with specific quotations substantiating the hate exhibited. Though the intolerant nature of the remarks and depictions are thought to be evident independent of further commentary, a "Frequently Asked Questions about Hinduism" section has been included in the appendix for those readers who seek a better understanding of how the content demeans the Hinduism. The appendices also contain information of the individuals and organizations responsible for the websites, definitions of common Hindu terms used frequently within the sites, and an index of those words most commonly used against Hinduism within the websites profiled.

OVERVIEW OF HINDU HATE
ON THE WEB

A limited number of screenshots of copyrighted web pages have been used throughout this report for the purpose of identifying, illustrating, commenting and/or teaching for nonprofit educational purposes. A limited number of quotations expressing the opinions of the owner of cited websites have also been used throughout this report for the same. The screenshots may contain material, including, but not limited to, information and/or images, which is copyrighted. Quoted and cited material may also be copyrighted. All said copyrights for the web pages and material found on such websites is presumably owned by the respective owner(s) of each website. Screenshots, quotations and other material found in this report may also contain trademarked logos, which are in no way affiliated with nor endorsed by the Hindu American Foundation. The Hindu American Foundation shall not be liable for the content found in web pages mentioned or displayed throughout this report. Certain words and phrases have been bolded for emphasis.

WWW.CBN.COM

Summary of website – This website is a compilation of daily news stories impacting the Christian world, programming on the various CBN outlets, and other features.

Website creator/sponsor – Pat Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), a multi-media non-profit organization which broadcasts to nearly 200 countries and also offers a round-the-clock telephone prayer line.

Hatred conveyed by website – Chief among CBN's programs is "The 700 Club," a daily television program featuring Robertson. He has reportedly made hate-filled statements against Hindus and followers of other religions over the years, such as stating that Hinduism is demonic.

The fact that this website would contain hateful comments towards Hindus is, therefore, not surprising. Hinduism is disrespectfully referred to as a cult instead of as one of the world's major religions and practices such as yoga and meditation are, once again, linked with Satan and demons – "**Demons lurk behind the Hindu and other oriental religions**, as well as behind the mind control teachings."[xxiv]

Robertson also asserts that poverty and overpopulation in India are the result of the Hindu religion and conveys his intolerant attitude towards the practice of Hinduism in America with the statement, "it seems strange that **religions which have brought such trouble to India would be imported to America where we have flourished and prospered under Christianity for several centuries**."[xxv] He also states that Hindus are worshipping the "**wrong God**."[xxvi]

<u>Summary of website</u> – The website provides online information that is also contained in pamphlets, booklets, videos, and other material of Chick Publications, all of which degrade Hinduism and other "false" religions. These material are available for purchase and patrons of the website are encouraged to widely distribute them.

<u>Website Creator/Sponsor</u> – Chick Publications was founded by Jack Chick and has published hundreds of illustrated booklets in nearly one hundred languages.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – The practices of meditation and yoga are becoming more and more accepted in the West as not only techniques to reduce stress and improve one's overall physical condition, but also as means to achieve mental balance and spiritual upliftment. In spite of this growing awareness, this site associates meditation and yoga with demons:

> "What is actually happening is that as the person meditates to blank out his mind, he is **opening himself up to the entrance of demons**. These **demons** then give all sorts of experiences in the spirit world and the link between the soul and spirit is forged…**It (yoga) cannot be separated from the demonic religion which created it.**"[xxvii]

It also describes Shiva, a deity revered by Hindus, as a demon: "Yoga students are taught to 'reach for Shiva, or light.'…**When they reach out to the 'light of Shiva,' they are reaching out to a demon god**."[xxviii]

In a booklet titled "The Traitor," a fictional story is told about a child offered as a sacrifice to the Goddess Kali. Kali becomes angry with the village inspector for arresting the servant who sacrificed the child and, therefore, kills the inspector. Through it all, the booklet demonizes Goddess Kali (who represents the feminine energy of the universe in Hindu belief) and states that Hindu Gods are controlled by Satan:

> "…**Kali will destroy both you and your family**…"[xxix]

> "**Satan created all the gods of India**. They are demons who will rob your soul and take you into hell. **Satan controls all false gods by telling the great lie…that after death, the soul is reincarnated**."[xxx]

Another example of Chick's malicious publications is a booklet titled, "What's Wrong With This?" This fictional story concerns a lady at a museum who becomes disgusted by a work of art depicting a man worshipping an idol in the form of a bird. In one part, the characters are looking at a painting that is obviously made to depict a Hindu god when a man states: "That includes paintings which can be worshipped. Jesus left Heaven to stop all of that **nonsense**…"[xxxi]

<u>Hatred towards other faiths</u> – Chick Publications promotes hatred not just against Hindus, but also towards Muslims, Catholics, and others as is evidenced by the following titles of their tracts: "Last Rites – **When this Catholic dies, he learns that his church couldn't save him**"; "The Little Bride – **Protect children against being recruited as Muslims**. Li'l Susy explains that only Jesus can save them"; and "Allah Had No Son – **The Allah of Islam is not the God of creation**"[xxxii]

Summary of website – The thoughts offered on this website are the personal opinions of the website sponsor/creator (see below) and are very derogatory towards all faiths, not just Hinduism.

Website creator/sponsor – This website is the product of Steve Van Nattan, a pastor at the House of Prayer in Roane County, Tennessee.

Hatred conveyed by website – This website contains some of the more malicious attacks against Hinduism. The website's Hinduism section is called, "**Hinduism: The Pig Pen from the East**."[xxxiii] It refers to the religion as, "**one of the world's most dirty and dignity destroying religions**"[xxxiv] and also speaks of it as being "**filthy**"[xxxv] and "**sexually perverted**."[xxxvi] It uses sexually explicit imagery to assert false notions, such as when it states, "**The penis, (particularly if flaccid), may be adored as *Ganesha's* trunk**."[xxxvii]

The site is not just hateful but contains widespread misstatements leading to distortions of Hindu philosophy, precepts and practices. An example of such a distortion is found in a discussion on the concept of karma where the site states that Hindus will not eat meat because "**they are terrified that they may eat their grandmother or uncle**."[xxxviii] The concept of karma isn't the only one distorted, however. Mr. Van Nattan's offers his own thoughts of what the "Ten Commandments" would be for Hindus. Among them are:

> "Do not get caught. **If caught, blame Kali** or the Prime Minister, and offer a generous bribe."[xxxix]

> "There are 400,000,000 gods in Hinduism. If you don't like the one assigned to you, make your own."[xl]

Hatred towards other faiths – As was previously mentioned, Hinduism isn't the only faith which is hated. The website states that the color of its section on Buddhism was chosen "to match the saffron robes of the **devils in men's bodies in the system called Buddhism**."[xli] Baha'ism is called "**just plain silly**"[xlii] and is said to have "**a rather old history based in violence and depravity**."[xliii]

Summary of website – The website's mission is to proselytize and evangelize through economical mass communication.

Website creator/sponsor –This site is operated by Films for Christ, which has various registered names, including Eden Communications, Christian Answers, and Christian Answers Network.

Hatred conveyed by website – This website claims that "**domination of demons and bondage**" are an integral part of Hinduism.[xliv] It also falsely claims that, "**Hinduism in general does not stress humanitarian efforts**."[xlv]

Summary of website **–** This website serves to communicate Christian views and show how other beliefs are wrong in the authors' eyes.

Website creator/sponsor – Unknown

Hatred conveyed by website – The type of maliciousness expressed is exemplified by the website's words referring to the Goddess Kali, who it calls a "**murderous, blood-thirsty consort to Shiva**."[xlvi]   The site states that "**Hinduism ALWAYS does spiritual harm. Hinduism knows nothing of a God of love**."[xlvii]   It even goes as far as to link the devil with yoga – "**Through yoga, Hindus experience the power of devil spirits who guide them and give them psychic powers**."[xlviii]

WWW.STR.ORG

Summary of website – The site trains Christians on how to defend their religion.

Website creator/sponsor – Stand to Reason

Hatred conveyed by website – Another brutal attack on Hindus, Stand to Reason refers to them as "**enslaved**...deeply immersed in **spiritual filth**, in spiritual feces as it were...**debauched spiritually**, so completely **lost**."[xlix]   It also vilifies Hindu priests for "**being underhanded and double-minded and double-tongued**"[l] and states (in reference to the priests) that "**there's a tremendous amount of immorality that goes on behind the scenes**."[li]

WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/Athens/Pantheon/4789/Articles/Scripture/hind.htm

Summary of website – The content on this website includes a series of attacks on the Hindu faith and is one of the more egregious ones discovered. It aims to present the "truth" about Hindu scriptures but offers nothing but claims about sexual improprieties by Hindu deities.

Website creator/sponsor –Hinduism Unveiled Enterprises

Hatred conveyed by website – The following list of topics from the website are just a sample and clearly display the hate with which it is infused:

> "**LORD *KRSNA'S* FOOLISH DRUNKEN WIVES ARE READY TO COMMIT INCEST WITH HIS SON (SAMBA)**"[lii]

> "**LORD RAMA'*S* MOM (& CO-MOMS) HAVE SEX WITH A DEAD HORSE (*ASVAMEDHA* SACRIFICE)**"[liii]

> "**LOW-CASTES SHOULD HAVE GARBAGE NAMES** – Hinduism teaches that Sudras are trash & should be named accordingly"[liv]

Summary of website – The website contains daily headlines about major news events impacting Christians, updates on evangelical activities around the world, and features on individuals who are preaching the Gospel.

Website creator/sponsor – The International Mission Board (IMB) is an affiliate of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is the nation's largest evangelical denomination with over 40,000 churches and nearly 16 million members. The IMB's main objective is proselytization and church-planting around the world.

Hatred conveyed by website – Hindus are one of IMB's main targets for evangelization and, in an attempt to convert them, many derogatory references to Hindus are found on this site. In fact, the organization launched "12 Days of Prayer" for Hindus during Diwali (also known as Deepavali, one of the most important festivals in the Hindu tradition, celebrating the victory of good over evil) so that they could dispel, "**the darkness that holds more than 900 million Hindus in spiritual bondage.**"[lv]

A prayer booklet targeting Diwali was distributed at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1999. This booklet declares that, "**More than 900 million people are lost in the hopeless darkness of Hinduism.**"[lvi] It also states that, "**Mumbai is a city of spiritual darkness. Eight out of every 10 people are Hindu, slaves bound by fear and tradition to false gods and goddesses**…"[lvii]

Summary of website – The website shares with the viewer information related to issues and topics of concern to Southern Baptist churches, ministries and missions.

Website creator/sponsor – This site is the online journal of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hatred conveyed by website – Hindus are targeted by this site as it attempts to "reach" Hindus by fiercely attacking Hindu beliefs. Essays on the website continually refer to Hindus as "lost" and the religion as "dark" (for example, in an essay titled, "The Unfinished Task: **Dispelling the Darkness**"):

> "Southern Baptists who pray for **lost Hindus** play an important part in getting the gospel to **lost millions**…"[lviii]

> "Continuing devotion to millions of Hindu deities, the garlanded Buddhist images in Asia and ancestral altars in Chinese homes **attests to darkness still waiting for the light to dawn**."[lix]

Hatred towards other faiths – In addition to Hindus, the website also conveys hatred towards Buddhists as is displayed in the quote above.

WWW.GOSPELFORASIA.ORG

Summary of website – The site details the missionary work by the organization.

Website creator/sponsor – Gospel for Asia, a missionary organization in Asia with the goal of widespread proselytization and church-planting.

Hatred conveyed by website – As a means to convert Hindus, the organization continually associates the Hindu faith with Satan and demons. A report about Himachal Pradesh (a state in North India that is predominantly Hindu), includes the following statements:

> "**Most of the people in this state are under the bondage of Satan**…**Please pray that the Lord may break the stronghold of Satan,** which has blinded the eyes of many people."[lx]

> "A simple, agrarian lifestyle belies the **spiritual darkness dominating this land…and the demonic control that terrorizes and destroys thousands of lives**."[lxi]

Hatred towards other faiths – Gospel For Asia also attacks Buddhism – "**Pray for Satan to be bound** and hearts to be open to the Good News of Jesus Christ…**May our Bible school overflow with those called to reach Tibetan Buddhists.**"[lxii]

WWW.GO2SOUTHASIA.ORG

Summary of website – This website contains various resources for carrying out evangelical activities in South Asia, focusing on India and Pakistan.

Website creator/sponsor – The International Mission Board

Hatred conveyed by website – This website contains links to various IMB articles and prayer requests. One article is titled, "Uttar Pradesh: vast state is **epicenter of 'lostness' in India**."[lxiii] Uttar Pradesh is one of India's most populous states with a substantial Hindu population.

WWW.SSPX.CA

Summary of website – This site contains information on the Society of Saint Pius X such as traditional Latin mass centers, documents, an index of Catholic saints, and more.

Website creator/sponsor – Society of Saint Pius X, a worldwide priestly fraternity.[lxiv]

Hatred conveyed by website – The society publishes a monthly journal called The Angelus. In the April 2001 volume, Father Thomas Blute wrote an article titled, "**False Gods in India**" in which he referred to Hindus as "**heathen**"[lxv] and that Hindu gods are "**devils**"[lxvi] who "**keep the people in bondage**."[lxvii]

WWW.MISSION1.ORG

<u>Summary of website</u> – This contains information on the organization's evangelical activities around the world.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Mission O.N.E. has the primary goal of building churches around the world. The organization's strategy is to link with individuals who are from a particular region for more focused evangelizing.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – In an essay written on the website titled, "Where there is oppression, there is idolatry," the author justifies the organization's aim of converting Hindus by falsely declaring that "**in the Hindu world, apathy toward the poor is true religion**"[lxviii] and that "**Idolatry is, again, the reason for oppression**."[lxix]

WWW.FAMILYBIBLE.ORG

<u>Summary of website</u> – The website is filled with numerous articles on Biblical prophecies, Messianic Judaism, Israel, and "Jew-Gentile" relations.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Family Bible Church (Adat B'nei HaMelech), a ministry whose mission is to convince Jews and Gentiles that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – The website is filled with hatred of Hindu deities, such as Krishna, Kali and Shiva, once again equating worship of them with Satan-worship as well as misrepresentation of Hindu worship:

> "Thus we see that the Hare Krishna cult, along with all of the other forms of Hinduism, is in reality the worship of Satan."[lxx]

> "It is estimated by authorities in India that even today there are approximately 100 reported human sacrifices to Kali every year, as one might expect from **Satan-worship**."[lxxi]

> "Shiva**:** The Destroyer, a god of the Hindu triad. Because of his designation as 'the Destroyer,' **he is possibly Satan**."[lxxii]

<u>Hatred towards other faiths</u> – This site also spreads hate towards Buddhism, referring to it as "**demon worship**".[lxxiii]

<u>Summary of website</u> – This website contains commentaries on current world events from a Christian perspective and provides a brief history of major events in Christianity, book reviews, and other miscellaneous items pertaining to Christianity.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Tradition in Action is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation based in Los Angeles. The organization's purpose is to promote and protect Catholic traditions and the Magisterium of Holy Mother Church.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – In a section of the website titled, "Pictures of a Desecration: Photo Report of Hindu Ritual at Fatima," venom is spread towards Hindus for worshipping at a Catholic shrine located in Lisbon, Portugal after they (the Hindus) were invited to do so by local priests. Scorn is also directed towards the Shrine Rector for allowing the Hindus to worship at the site. The reason is because the organization feels that "**Hinduism worships false gods who are demons**."[lxxiv]

Please note the caption underneath the bottom picture from the website, which reads, "All the invocations of the pagans are hateful to God because all **their gods are devils**."[lxxv]
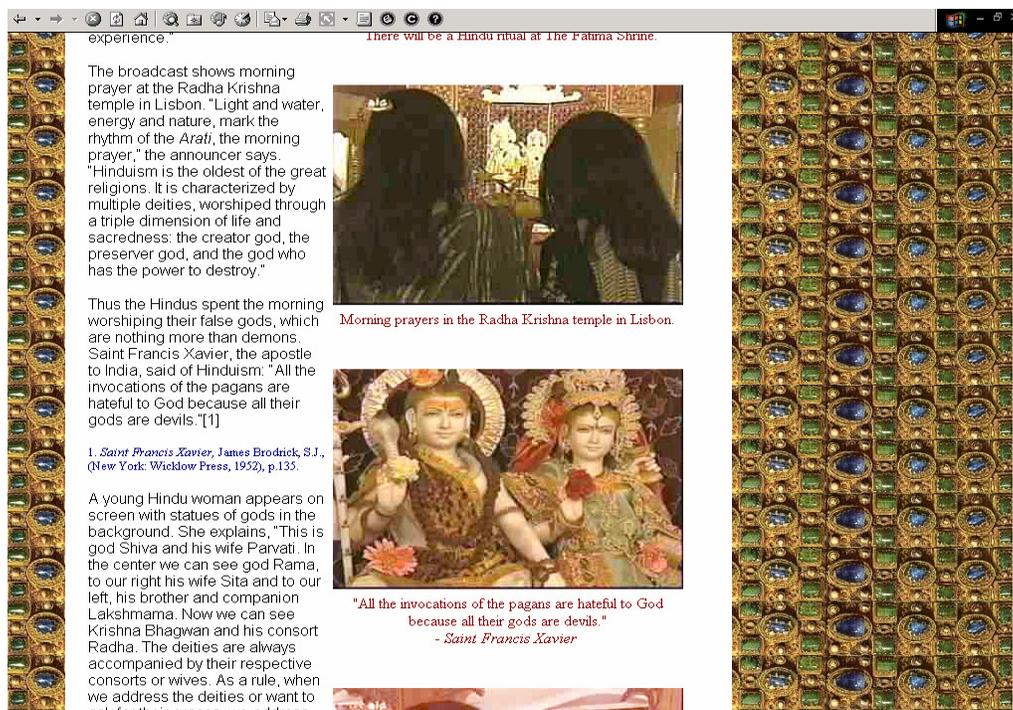
http://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/g08htHindusAtFatima_Vennari.html
Last viewed – February 3, 2007

Summary of website – On the website such notable individuals as Pope Benedict XVI are vilified for "heresies" and various other topics within the Catholic Church are discussed.

Website creator/sponsor – Most Holy Family Monastery, a Benedictine community.

Hatred conveyed by website – The website attacks Hinduism by stating, "The Catholic Church teaches that pagan religions (such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Voodooism, etc.), which worship various 'gods,' actually worship **demons, since all the gods of the heathen are the devils**."[lxxvi] The organization also expressed its displeasure with the Hindu prayers offered at a Vatican-sponsored World Day of Prayer for Peace, saying, "the Hindu prayer said: 'Peace be on all gods.' But **their gods are devils**, as we saw above, **so peace was being prayed for all the devils** (who created these **false religions**)..."[lxxvii]

WWW.PEACE-OF-MIND.NET

Summary of website – This is a personal website which includes commentary on the Gospel, and why other religions are "false."

Website creator/sponsor – Unknown

Hatred conveyed by website – In a section of the website titled, "Why I Believe Hinduism and Hindu Belief Are **False**," the author attacks Hinduism repeatedly:

> "I believe yoga meditation, which involves a process of emptying oneself of logic and reason, is a **ploy by Satan** to deceive the devotee into preparing himself as **fertile ground for demon possession**."[lxxviii]

> "When the Hindu or Buddhist parents bring their children to their temples, they are **actually offering their children as human sacrifice to demons for possession**…**Through Hinduism and Buddhism, Satan and his fellow demonic spirits** have deceived many generations of people in large parts of the world into **unwittingly allowing their bodies and souls to be possessed**."[lxxix]

Hatred towards other faiths – As the above quote illustrates, the website also asserts Buddhism is a "**demonic**" faith.

<u>Summary of website</u> – This site contains the personal commentaries of the author, who claims to provide objective information regarding the beliefs and practices of various religions. The author also includes his misrepresentative opinions on such beliefs and practices. The site claims to receive over one million hits per month.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Dr. J. Dominguez created this and over three-hundred other websites in both English and Spanish.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – The website attacks the concept of mantra (sacred words repeated in prayer, meditation, or incantation that help reach one's spiritual goal) by conveying the notion that, when repeating a mantra, "**the devil comes very easily and takes possession of that body** getting things more complicated."[lxxx] He also unequivocally states that the deities which Hindus most revere never exist and, in fact, are actually the devil.[lxxxi]

<u>Hatred towards other faiths</u> – Dominguez also targets Buddhism with the same notion that "**the devil settles in**" when a Buddhist meditates.[lxxxii] The Sikh faith is demeaned for its belief in reincarnation and karma as the site states, "**all the devotion and hard work of a good Sikh can not erase a sin!**"[lxxxiii]

<u>Summary of website</u> - This website is based in Spain (with text translated into English) and contains commentaries on each book of the Bible.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Dr. J. Dominguez, creator of www.religion-cults.com

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – As with Dr. Dominguez's other website, this one maliciously attacks ideas and concepts that formulate Hindu philosophy. A main focus of it is reincarnation, which it refers to as a, "**lie of the Devil**, **a false theory to enslave about 1,500 million people today on earth**…**I order Satan to get out of the heart of any Hindu, or anyone who believes in Reincarnation**."[lxxxiv]

WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/~ABDULWAHID/

Summary of website -- "The Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jama'at" website, which can be very loosely translated as "An Invitation to Islam," seeks to propagate Islamic history and teachings and condemns alleged atrocities against Muslims. The purpose of the site is to call all non-Muslims back to Islam, to inform and educate those who are Muslim, and to invite those Muslims who are educated and informed to go forth in Allah's path.

Website creator/sponsor – Unknown

Hatred conveyed by website – The section on Hinduism, titled "Hinduism: Inside and Out," starts with a commentary which states that Hinduism is oppressing **"98% of the country of India (as well as other Hindu-majority countries)**" and that it is an "**atrocity**" upon humanity.[lxxxv] It also contains demeaning language describing Hindu deities, such as "**Lustful Sita vs. The Impotent Rama**," and "**Sick 'goddess' Panchali**".[lxxxvi]

WWW.EXPOSINGSATANISM.ORG

Summary of website – The site is filled with content trying to convey the superiority of the Christian faith and the "falseness" of other religions.

Website creator/sponsor – The creators of this website say they are non-denominational

Hatred conveyed by website – Reincarnation is called a "**lie of the Devil, a false theory** to enslave about 1,500 million people today on earth, and one of the main reasons to perpetuate the infamous Caste System in India."[lxxxvii] Biblical passages are also inserted in order to emphasize that reincarnation is a tool of Satan:

> "The **devil…is deceiving 2 billion people with the trick of reincarnation**... because 'Satan disguises himself as an angel of light', and uses persons to do wonders and divinations to deceive people (Jn.10:10, 1Cor.11)..."[lxxxviii]

WWW.DEMONBUSTER.COM

Summary of website – This site harps on how individuals have been infiltrated by "demons" and how to cast the demons out.

Website creator/sponsor – End-time Deliverance Ministry, an organization whose purpose is to teach Christians how to defeat demons.

Hatred conveyed by website – When discussing Far Eastern religions, the website states that Hinduism is the source for the "**many common demon names associated with these religions and their practices**."[lxxxix] The author of the site also wants to, "**break the curses that came on me from Hinduism**."[xc]

<u>Summary of website</u> – The website aims to provide an understanding of how current events impact people's lives from the point of view of Biblical prophecy.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – The Cutting Edge is an independent fundamentalist Baptist church with promotes its outreach ministry.[xci]

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – This website condemns Pope John Paul II, and the Roman Catholic Church because the Pope graciously received a "mark" on his forehead by a Shiva priestess on a visit to India in 1999 (see picture on the screenshot of the website below). The sacred "mark" of ashes was anointed to symbolize the "third eye" which devotees believe provides spiritual vision. Therefore, the mark was offered as a sign of respect. However, the website equates those who believe in Shiva and the "third eye" with Satanism:

"Let us now examine how very **heathen the practitioners of the Shiva religion of the Hindu truly are**…"[xcii]

"The teaching of the **Third Eye is Satanism**"[xciii]

http://www.cuttingedge.org/news/n1161.cfm
Last viewed – February 3, 2007
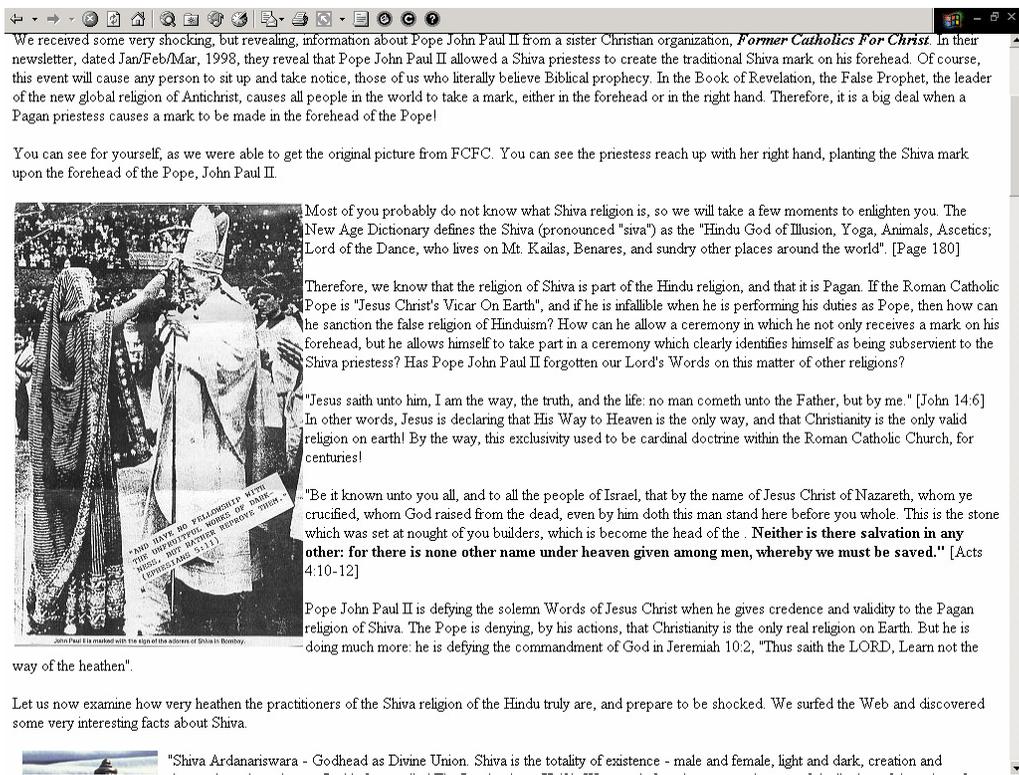
WWW.SCIONOFZION.COM

Summary of website – A site preaching its interpretation of the King James Version of the Bible

Website creator/sponsor – Scion of Zion Internet Ministry

Hatred conveyed by website – The website scorns one of the Christian church's favorite patrons, Mother Teresa, because they claim she did not try to convert the "unregenerate religious people" and "lost heathen" (referring to Hindus) to Christianity but, instead, instructed them to have faith in their own beliefs:

> "She was instructing these staunch Hindus to pray sincerely to their own Hindu idols and she felt that if they did this, God would certainly not judge them!... when good works are conducted by **unregenerate religious people**, **what is promoted is a cursed false gospel**, encouraging **the lost heathen to have hope in their false gods**, even as they lay upon their death beds. In God's eyes, therefore, **the entire endeavor is a cursed one**, and **no Christian should support, assist, or praise a work cursed by God**!"[xciv]

WWW.WAYOFLIFE.ORG

Summary of website – The website shares articles from Way of Life Literature.

Website Creator/Sponsor – Way of Life Literature, a fundamentalist Baptist preaching and publishing ministry.

Hatred conveyed by website – Titled, "Hinduism's Pagan Practices," the website's section on Hinduism once again portrays the religion in demonic terms and talks about why it grew in popularity during the 1960's: "The Beatles and other rock and rollers were in **direct communion with demons** when they popularized Hinduism to the hippy generation in the 1960s."[xcv]

WWW.CONTENDERMINISTRIES.ORG

Summary of website – This site includes essays on topics such as evangelism, Apologetics, and Christian living. There are also comparisons to many other faiths, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.

Website creator/sponsor – Contender Ministries

Hatred conveyed by website – The website constantly states that a greater hope exists than that offered by Hinduism and that Hindus live "**a life of hopelessness**."[xcvi]

Hatred toward other faiths **–** The section on Buddhism refers to "**evil spirits**."[xcvii]

WWW.BIBLEQUERY.ORG

Summary of website – This website contains information on the Bible, Christian history, and commentary on other religions.

Website creator/sponsor – Christian Debater, an organization which seeks to explain the Bible through topics such as experience, prophecy, manuscripts, and false religions.

Hatred conveyed by website – Under the title of "Hinduism – Apartheid of the Gods?" the organization accuses Hindus of not having "a desire to do 'good'" and Indian holy men of swindling others.[xcviii] It also attacks Hindu deities such as Shiva (who it says "**hacked his Father to death**")[xcix] and Krishna (who it says "**had adulterous affairs with other women**")[c]

Hatred towards other faiths – This website uses hateful language in describing other faiths such as Bah'aiism, Mormonism, and Buddhism.[ci]

WWW.OLIVETREEVIEWS.ORG

Summary of website – Olive Tree Ministries tries to help people understand current events from a biblical perspective. It links to the Omega Letter site which carries many of the articles from the main site.

Website creator – Jan Markell, founder/director Olive Tree Ministries and a Contributing Editor to Omega Letter.

Hatred conveyed by website – In an article linked from this website entitled "Eastern Mysticism and Christianity are Incompatible"[cii] Markell tries to persuade the readers to avoid yoga because of its Hindu roots and declares that, "**Hindu gods are responsible for enormous damage on a scale too vast to measure**."[ciii]

WWW.INPLAINSITE.ORG

Summary of website – This website asserts the superiority of the Bible and Christianity over other religious texts and religions.

Website creator/sponsor – Unknown

Hatred conveyed by website – A passage from the website titled "Being Slain in the Spirit" conveys that Hindu gurus try to help people connect with a "cosmic power" that is "**demonic in origin**."[civ] Transcendental Meditation (or "TM," a meditation practice made popular within the United States by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi during the 1960's) is attacked – "**Transcendental Meditation is no less harmful than is idolatry**. **Demons were involved in idol worship in Bible times**."[cv]

<u>Summary of website</u> – This website claims that worshipping Jesus Christ is the only way to truth and that all other religions are false.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – The Miracles of Jesus Ministry, an organization started by Patricia A. Thomas[cvi]

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – The following statements are from the website, and some are in the screenshot below:

> "Shiva is called 'the destroyer' (**Hello! what is Satan called?**) and he represents both the destructive and procreative forces."[cvii]

> **"**Have you ever participated in, read about, or worshiped **a Hindu 'god' (demon?)**"[cviii]

> "**I truly don't believe that most Hindus REALIZE what is going on. They are misled by traditions and false beliefs**…**Also - India is in the <u>1040 window</u> – in the middle of the seat of Satan's power**."[cix]
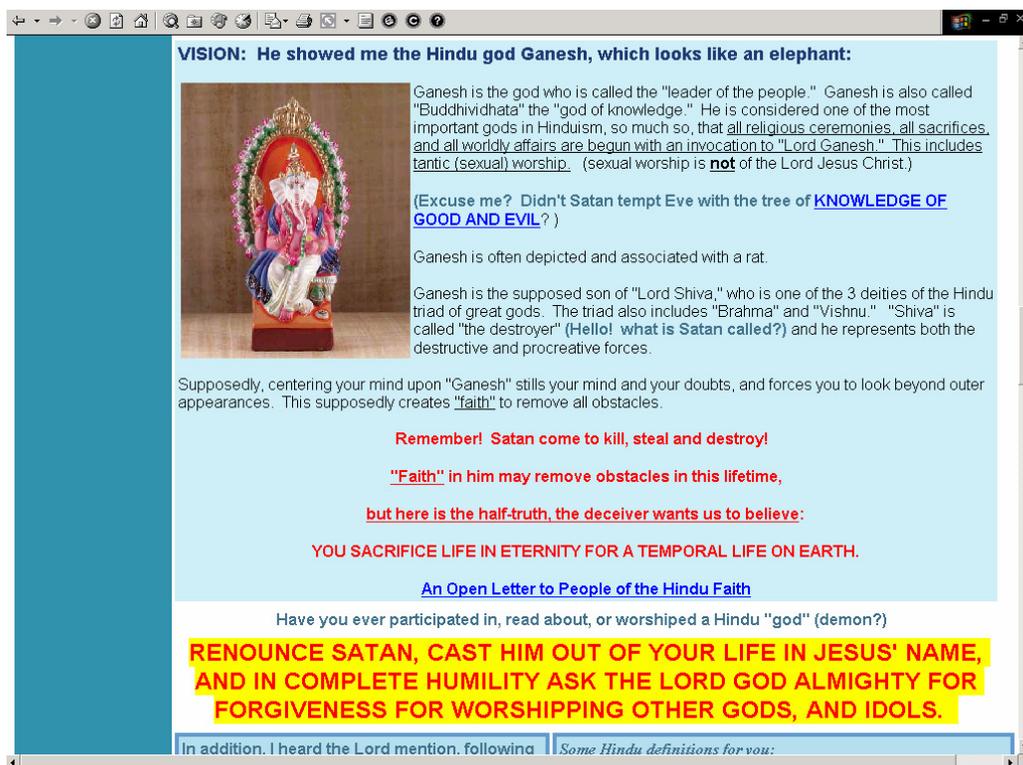
http://www.themiraclesofjesusministry.org/vision-1-30-05.htm
Last viewed – February 3, 2007

Summary of website – This website contains the organization's online magazines which repeatedly call for Hindus to be converted to Christianity. The magazines are published bi-monthly by the U.S. Center for World Mission and are dedicated to proselytization around the world. The magazine claims to have a circulation of over 120,000 subscribers in 150 countries.

Website creator/sponsor – Mission Frontiers, an organization which seeks to train missionaries

Hatred conveyed by website – Mission Frontier's online magazine has continually conveyed the non-pluralistic attitude of the organization. In an article published in its September/December 1992 issue named "Communicating Christ to the Hindu World," it asserted the need for "more prayer because of the **invisible forces of darkness** we need to confront, and more people because of the visible millions of Hindus to whom we need to communicate."[cx] Another article states that Hinduism cannot not lead the South Asian continent towards "forgiveness and reconciliation," something it feels only the Gospel can accomplish.[cxi]

Summary of website – This website is an Australian Christian network which receives over 40,000 hits per month.

Website creator/sponsor – The website is sponsored by over 100 different Christian organizations including churches, ministries, and colleges.

Hatred conveyed by website – The now too familiar references to Satan and demons are made when referring to Hindu beliefs and practices:

> "Similar to most other occultic teachings and **Satan's first lie**, it supports the promise of evolution to becoming equal with God. It further supports **Satan's second lie** in following the theory of transmigration (or reincarnation)."[cxii]

> "Thus we can clearly see the Scriptures teach us **to use our time of meditation on God and not blank or open our minds for the demons**…"[cxiii]

Summary of website – The website offers online lessons on the Bible, Jesus and Christianity.

Website creator/sponsor – David Pratte, a gospel preacher in Illinois[cxiv]

Hatred Conveyed by Website – Mr. Pratte states Hinduism, "**worships the wrong God, follows the wrong religious authority, seeks the wrong destiny, and teaches the wrong ways to achieve that destiny**."[cxv] He also contends that, "**there is no valid evidence why anyone should believe it.**"[cxvi]

<u>Summary of website</u> – This site contains many links on various aspects of Islam, from the Quran and Muslim newspapers to Muslim colleges and universities.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – No information is available on the creators of this website. The site is titled "Islamicdownloads.com."

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – In its section on Hinduism, the website insinuates that Hindu scriptures preach terrorism and promote pornography as is evidenced by the following screenshot:
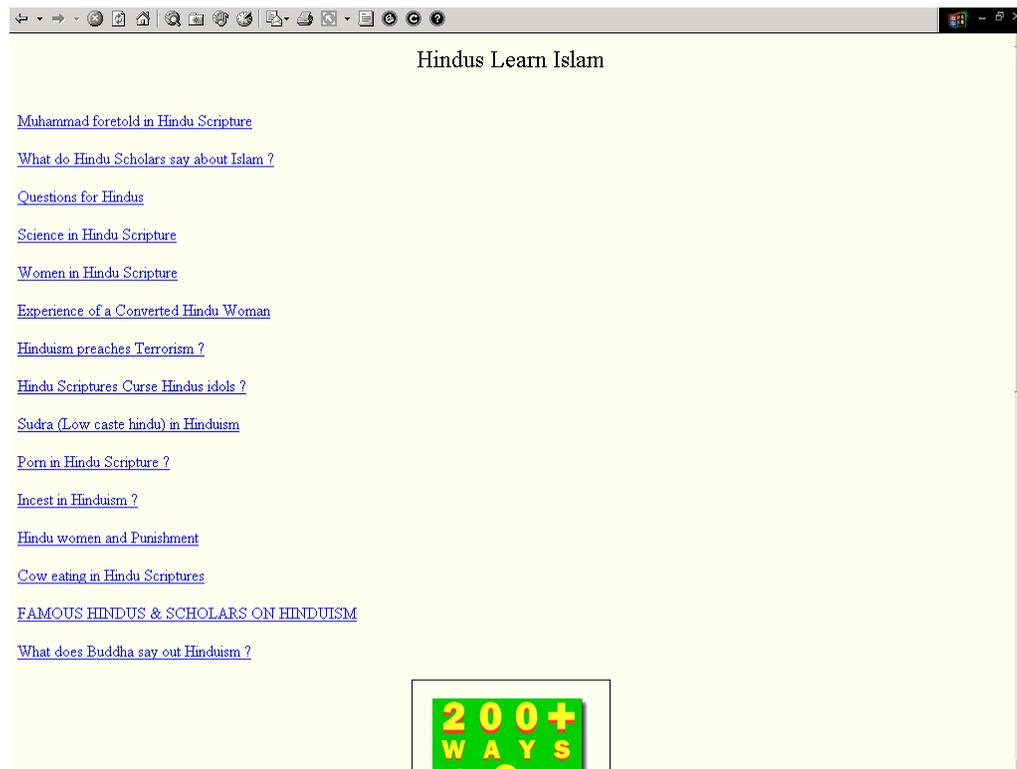
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/4229/ind.html
Last viewed February 3, 2007

It states that, "**immorality and indecency are sanctified in the name of Hinduism,**"[cxvii] and that the *Ramayana* (one of the most revered Hindu epics) "**contains much pornographic material** and cannot be read in public."[cxviii]

<u>Hatred towards other faiths</u> **–** Along with its section on Hinduism, this site also contains links to websites hateful towards Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and atheism. The Judaism section is titled, "Jews for Allah," and includes the article, "**Judaism -- a religion of terrorists?**"[cxix]

<u>Summary of website</u> – This is a review of other religions and beliefs.

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – It is part of The Bible Web Ring, which is a ministry promoting Bible study and growth around the world.

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – Under its "Hindu Index," the website offers a series of articles and reports from newspapers which denigrate Hinduism's philosophies and customs. The following screenshot, titled "**Hindu hopelessness**," includes comments on Hindu prayers and the educational system. Please note the hand-written words, "**Hinduism = no hope**":
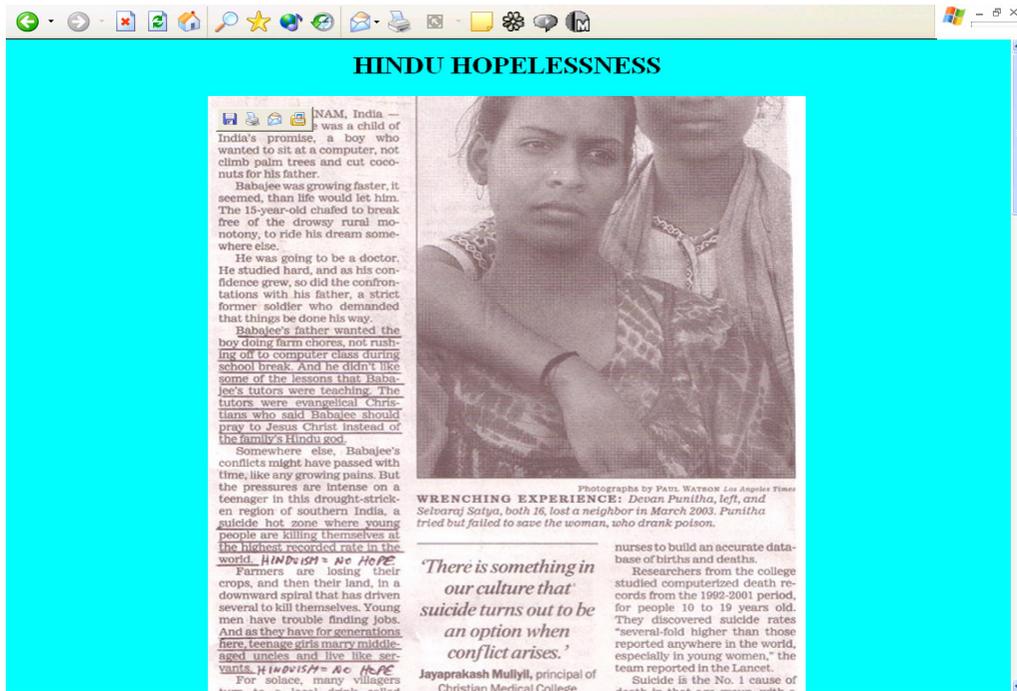
http://www.truthandgrace.com/Hindueducation.htm
Last viewed - February 3, 2007

WWW.CHRISTIANDOCTRINE.NET

<u>Summary of website</u> – The website provides access to approximately 400 pages of studies on Christian doctrine and commentary.[cxx]

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Bible Theology Ministries, an organization which teaches Protestant doctrine.

<u>Hatred Conveyed by Website</u> – In an article posted on the site, the author tries to portray Transcendental Meditation (TM) as a "cult practice" that brings **evil spirits and demons** into those who practice it.[cxxi] Bible Theology Ministries, however, attacks more than just TM as it also continually attempts to reinforce the idea that **devil worship** is inherent in Hindu practices such as yoga and in Hindu culture in general. It even threatens that, "Christians cannot practice yoga and expect God's blessing."[cxxii]

WWW.THE-TESTAMENT-OF-TRUTH.CO.UK

<u>Summary of website</u> – This site presents the personal commentaries of Terence Malaher of what he considers to be "true."

<u>Website creator/sponsor</u> – Terence Malaher, based in Tasmania

<u>Hatred conveyed by website</u> – The website falsely asserts that Hinduism is distorted by "untruth" and that, Hindus have **"found themselves 'trapped' on the never-ending 'wheel' of reincarnation or lost within the dark sectors of spiritual realms of demons and witchcraft**."[cxxiii] Malaher goes on to declare, "If any of you <u>believe</u> that you can <u>appease</u> your ancestral spirits, or **demons**…or Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva by offering 'gifts' and fine clothes or dancing, then you are also deceived by the **satanic 'web' woven through your 'culture**.'"[cxxiv]

CONCLUSION

The proliferation of websites promoting religious hatred on the Internet is an unfortunate consequence of the growing universality of access to this medium and its widespread use to provide and obtain information. Those who seek to convey such hate use it to intimidate and provoke fear towards another belief system and espouse chauvinism and bigotry over the principles of pluralism and religious tolerance.

While in no way exhaustive, this report encapsulates the methodology commonly used to demean Hindus and their faith over the Internet – to exoticize, objectify and contemptuously discard. The terminology alone speaks volumes: demonic, false, hopeless, satanic, cursed, evil, filthy, perverted, murderous, and sinful.

Organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamtion League and Southern Poverty Law Center are dedicated to combating anti-Semitism, homophobia, racism and other forms of bigotry and hatred. However, to date, reports devoted to documenting and exposing anti-Hindu, or Hinduphobic, online content has been absent. This report is a first and vital step in critically analyzing anti-Hindu hate groups and their message. Such analysis is of utmost importance as the hateful content identified in this report caricatures and ridicules Hindus, and threatens interfaith dialogue, mutual respect and civil discourse – basic underpinnings of American culture – at best, and ultimately leads to violence at worst. If the ignorant defamation of Hinduism and those practicing the faith is not vociferously countered, there are tangible fears in the Hindu American community that Internet hate is at the forefront of a maelstrom of objectification and derision that can only lead down a retrogressive path to persecution. That anti-Hindu violence is already a brutal reality in various countries around the world has been documented by the Foundation and most major human rights organizations.

The authors of this report are cognizant of its severe limitations if it does not serve as a pretext for a broad, cooperative, multi-institutional effort to successfully combat hate in all of its manifestations. Therefore, the Hindu American Foundation asks the following of Internet hosting providers:

> a. Require any individual or organization seeking to host a website on their servers to voluntarily restrict any behavior which demeans or reduces a religion and its adherents, or which promotes hate or discrimination, and that these policies be incorporated into any contract entered into by the hosting providers.

> b. Take the initiative in removing those websites from their servers which wantonly promote, in whatever way, hatred and intolerance towards Hinduism and its adherents or any other religion.

Racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Hindu hate, Islamophobia – whatever the name and context – must be exposed and condemned for it necessarily precludes civilizational dialogue that is so crucial today. It is not the intention of the Foundation to curtail freedom of speech, but it is incumbent on a civil society to inhibit that speech which has the intent to inflame hatred and violence. Hate speech leads to real life victims. Preventing that downward spiral is the shared responsibility of all who may access the Internet.

APPENDIX I – LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORING HATRED

The contact information presented below was obtained through WHOIS records as provided by the owners of the domain names to domain registrars. These records have not been verified for accuracy and have been presented alphabetically based upon the website's name.

www.biblequery.org
Christian Debater
P.O. Box 144441
Austin, TX 78714

www.biblestudylessons.com
David Pratte
841 Hillandale Dr
Antioch, IL 60002

www.biblia.com
Dr. Jeronimo Dominguez, M.D.
600 W. 157 St. Apt.46
New York, NY 10032
mail@biblia.com
(212) 281-1111

www.blessedquietness.com
Stephen Van Nattan
PO Box 39
Kingston, TN 37763

www.cbn.com
The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc.
CBN – CSB310
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463
Nancy.Stowell@cbn.org

www.chick.com
Chick Publications
PO Box 3500
Ontario, CA 91761
(909) 987-0771

www.christiananswers.net
Christian Answers Network
PO Box 200
Gilbert AZ 85299

www.christiandoctrine.net
Bible Theology Ministries
PO Box 415
Swansea SA5 8YH
Great Britian

www.contenderministries.org
Contender Ministries
P.O. Box 4053
Federal Way, WA 98063

www.cuttingedge.org
Cutting Edge Ministries
100 Old Cherokee Road, Ste. F-1
Lexington, SC 29072

www.demonbuster.com
Stan and Elizabeth Madrak
Deliverance Ministries
Terry, MS 39170

www.exposingsatanism.org
Jon Watkins
3029 Tarpey Avenue
Texas 77590
(409) 945-9650
jon@online-ministries.org

www.familybible.org
Rick Sawyer
Family Bible Church
1108 17th Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 422-2566

www.go2southasia.org
Steve Evans
South Asia Region, IMB
PO Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 353-0151

www.gospelforasia.org
Gospel For Asia
1800 Golden Trail Ct
Carrollton, TX 75010

www.imb.org
International Mission Board
3806 Monument Drive
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 219-1595

www.jesus-is-lord.com
Internet Bible Church.
PO Box 58
Beltsville, MD 20704
tracy@jesus-is-lord.com

www.mission1.org
Mission O.N.E
P.O. Box 70
White House, TN 37188
werner@MISSION1.ORG

www.missionfrontiers.org
Mission Frontiers
1605 Elizabeth Street
Pasadena CA 91104

www.mostholyfamilymonastery.com
Most Holy Family Monastery
Brother Michael Dimond
4425 Schneider Road
Fillmore, NY 14735
(716) 567-8279

www.olivetreeviews.org
Olive Tree Ministries
P.O. Box 1452
Maple Grove, MN 55311
(763) 493-3010

www.peace-of-mind.net
peace.of.mind55
3 Mount Elizabeth
Singapore, 228510

www.religion-cults.com
Jeronimo Dominguez, MD
3439 Country Club Road
Bronx, NY 10465
jdominguez3@optonline.net

www.sbclife.net
Southern Baptist Convention
901 Commerce St.
Nashville, TN 37203-3699
(615) 244-2355

www.scionofzion.com
Scion of Zion
51 First St.
Edison, NJ 08837-2628
(732) 225-1209
kmatto@scionofzion.com

www.sspx.ca
Society of Saint Pius X
Father Jean Violette, District Superior
St. Michael's Priory
45 Guthrie Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 3L2
(416) 251-0499

www.str.org
Stand to Reason
1438 East 33rd St.
Signal Hill, CA 90755
(562) 595-7333

www.themiraclesofjesusministry.org
The Miracles of Jesus Ministry
Patricia A. Thomas
(877) 887-1038

www.traditioninaction.org
Tradition In Action, Inc
P.O. Box 23135
Los Angeles, CA 90023

www.truthandgrace.com
ChristRing Ministries
152 Pine Street, #206
Wellsville, NY 14895

www.wayoflife.org
P.O. Box 610368
Port Huron, MI 48061–0368
(866) 295-4143

Contact information could not be obtained for the following websites:
www.geocities.com/~abdulwahid/hinduism/
www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/4229/in9.html
www.geocities.com/Athens/Pantheon/4789/Articles/Scripture/Hind.htm
www.inplainsite.org
www.pastornet.net.au
www.testament-of-truth.co.uk

A list of frequently asked questions on Hinduism is presented here to provide those readers without an extensive background in Hinduism with the proper context to evaluate the assertions and misrepresentations found in the various websites discussed in this report. Please note that Hinduism can be, and is, interpreted in numerous ways. The summary below is not meant to represent the beliefs of every Hindu, but is given in order to present a basic understanding of the major concepts in Hindu thought and practice.

What is "Hinduism"?

Hinduism, or "Sanatana Dharma" as it is often called, is one of the world's oldest religions (according to some historians, Hinduism dates back over 5,000 years)[cxxv] and is followed by almost one billion people. "Sanatana" is a Sanskrit word that denotes "that which does not cease to be" or "that which is eternal." The word "dharma" can be defined in various ways, as there is no exact English equivalent. From its Sanskrit root, dharma's approximate meaning is the "natural law" or "that which contains or upholds the cosmos."[cxxvi] It can also be defined as the way of righteousness, religion, duty, and truth.[cxxvii] Thus, the term Sanatana Dharma can be roughly translated to mean the "eternal religion."[cxxviii]

Why Does Hinduism Have Many Gods?

Followers of Hinduism believe that God (Brahman), the ultimate reality or Truth, can be understood in various ways and often use the terms interchangeably. This not only reflects the diversity of practice and perspective in Hinduism, but also reflects the belief that this infinite reality is beyond the comprehension of undisciplined minds. Therefore, Hindus celebrate God's various attributes through different representations. "This God's name may be Vishnu, Shiva, or Devi, but the role and status are the same whatever the name: this is the God who is both the all-containing, all-pervading Reality in which time and space exist, and the accessible and gracious Lord whom worshippers may encounter in a loving relationship."[cxxix] Most Hindus believe in one, all-pervasive supreme God, though He or She may be worshipped in different forms, in different ways and by different names. As such, Hinduism can be described as monotheistic and henotheistic; monotheistic in its belief in one God and henotheistic in that any one God can be worshipped without denying the existence of other forms or manifestations of God. This Hindu concept of divinity is best represented by the ancient Sanskrit hymn, "*Ekam sat vipraha bahudha vadanti*,"[cxxx] which means, "Truth is one, the wise call it by many names."

Thus, to a Hindu, God is the inspiration of all sects and religions and is omnipresent. Due to this belief, followers of Hinduism traditionally are tolerant of other people's cultures, religions and views. Hinduism does not require its adherents to accept any one idea of Truth, view of reality or path to God. Philosopher Jeaneane Fowler states, "Hinduism can never be neatly slotted into any particular belief system – monism, theism, monotheism, polytheism, pantheism, panentheism – for all these systems are reflected in its many facets."[cxxxi]

Does Hinduism Have a Bible?

Hinduism is rich in scripture, but does not have one single "Bible" in terms of a central, authoritative book. Hindu scripture is an extensive collection of ancient religious writings which expound upon eternal Truths. Many Hindus believe that scriptures such as the Vedas were revealed by God and/or realized by ancient sages and enlightened wise men. These Truths, which were passed on for generations through an extraordinary oral tradition, include the *Vedas* and *Agamas*, the *Upanishads*, the Epics – including the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana,* the *Puranas*, and many other philosophical and sectarian texts. Within the *Mahabharata* is contained the *Bhagavad Gita*, literally "the song of God."

Scripture in Hinduism, however, does not have the same place as it does in many other faiths. Hinduism is premised on realization, not revelation. To be enlightened, one must have personal experience of the Truths set out in the Vedas and other revealed scriptures. It is also important to note that the words of a living, enlightened teacher (guru) are as valid as the words of scripture. Hindus also believe that the Supreme Being is benevolent and guides individuals towards the path of liberation from all worldly difficulties. Human beings must exert effort, but God is always there to help. "Self-effort and divine grace are not opposed to each other; neither is divine grace conditional. In the words of Sri Ramakrishna, a well-known and revered spiritual master, the breeze of divine grace is blowing, but we must set sail to catch it."[cxxxii]

What is an Avatar?

Hindus believe that God has come to Earth on many occasions, in different forms or incarnations (known as "avatars") in order to promote dharma and righteousness, and alleviate suffering. In fact, in a famous shloka in the *Bhagavad Gita,* Sri Krishna, the protector and preserver of the universe, declares: "*Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati bharata abhyutthanam adharmasya tadatmanam srjamy aham.*"[cxxxiii] Translated, this verse means, "Whenever there is a decay of righteousness, O Bharata, and a rise of unrighteousness, then I manifest Myself."[cxxxiv] Sri Krishna, in whom Hindus find the personification of love, is one of the most highly revered avatars. However, quite the opposite is propagated by many websites, where Sri Krishna is often referred to as Satan. Some of the other avatars are Sri Rama and Buddha, each who came to Earth in order to help others survive and, ultimately, achieve liberation.

Likewise, some Gods more commonly linked to Satan by the hate promoting websites listed throughout this report are Shiva and Kali. Shiva is the deity responsible for both the creation and destruction of the universe, symbolizing the creation and destruction going on in all places at all times. "Shiva is responsible for change both in the form of death and destruction and in the positive sense of the shedding of old habits…Shiva Nataraj's [the dancing form of Shiva] dance represents both the destruction and the creation of the universe and reveals the cycles of death, birth and rebirth."[cxxxv]

Goddess Kali is perhaps a more favorite target of anti-Hindu bigotry as She is traditionally depicted with Her tongue out, wearing a garland of skulls, and holding a severed head. Kali is a form of Goddess Parvati, whom Hindus believe to be Shiva's consort. Quite naturally, these images are prime fodder for the ignorant to depict Kali as a demon or an evil goddess. However, as with all images of deities in Hinduism, there is great symbolism in the depiction of the "Mother Goddess":

"..Kali's black color symbolizes her transcendence of all form…She represents the inherent creative and destructive rhythms of the cosmos. Her right hands, making the mudras of 'fear not' and conferring boons, represent the creative aspect of Kali, while the left hands, holding a bloodied sword and a severed head represent Her destructive aspect. The bloodied sword and severed head symbolize the destruction of ignorance and the dawning of knowledge. The sword is the sword of knowledge that cuts the knots of ignorance and destroys false consciousness (the severed head). Kali opens the gates of freedom with this sword, having cut the eight bonds that bind human beings."[cxxxvi]

What are Karma and Reincarnation?

Hindus believe that man's reason for existence is to spiritually evolve toward the eventual goal of realization of the Truth or union with God, by which human beings will ultimately attain liberation (moksha). Personal spiritual development occurs through the closely related processes of karma and reincarnation. The individual soul undergoes the cycle of repeated birth and death based upon its karma, known as the wheel of samsara, until it finally achieves moksha (liberation). Karma is the universal law of cause and effect. Dr. Frank Morales, a Hindu scholar, provides the following explanation of karma:

> "During each earthly manifestation, an individual's karma (literally work or actions) determines her future psycho-physical state. Every ethically good act performed by someone results, sooner or later, in happiness and spiritual development; whereas ethically evil actions end only in loss and sorrow. Thus, the principle of karma is an idea that celebrates freedom, since at every moment, we are all free to create our future states of existence through our present actions and states of consciousness…This philosophical world-view encourages followers of Hinduism to live happily, morally, consciously and humbly, following the path of Eternal Natural Law (dharma)."[cxxxvii]

To leave the cycle of samsara, Hindus strive to remain unattached to the fruits of their virtuous action in thought, word, and deed. When one can work without expecting rewards, Hindus believe that society as a whole benefits and the individual is freed from the cycle of karma and reincarnation. The *Bhagavad Gita* expounds on this: "*Tasmād asakta satatam kāryam karma samācara asakto hy ācaran karma param āpnoti pūrusah lokasampraham evā'pi sampaśyan kartum arhasi.*"[cxxxviii] This shloka means, "Therefore, always perform actions which should be done, without attachment; for, by performing action without attachment, man attains the Supreme…Even with a view to protecting the masses you should perform actions."[cxxxix]

Reincarnation is a favorite target of anti-Hindu commentary because it is not a concept many in the West are familiar with. In reincarnation, the souls of all living beings, not just humans, pass on from one body to another after death. Hindus believe that the soul is immortal and evolves by experiencing varied lives through the process wherein the soul reincarnates into different physical bodies through cycles of birth and death. Guided by the laws of karma, the soul continues on its path of spiritual evolution. The ultimate aim of Hindus is for the soul to attain freedom from this continuous cycle of birth and rebirth and discover its divine origin.

The belief in reincarnation does not allow for discrimination of any kind, including based on one's presumed caste, because discrimination is adharmic, or against dharma, and reaps "bad" karma. It is also worth pointing out that belief in reincarnation was at one time widespread in the West.[cxl]

Why are Many Hindus Vegetarian?

In India, many Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs, and most Jains, are vegetarian because of the fundamental belief in non-violence, or in Sanskrit, ahimsa. The *Vedas* propound that all beings, from the smallest organism to man, are considered manifestations of God and members of a universal family. With this worldview, violence in thought, word or deed against a living being is contrary to the natural balance of the universe. Many Hindus, therefore, refrain from harming or killing other living beings, or eating animals. The Himalayan Academy gives the following rationale for vegetarianism[cxli]:

> "For India's ancient thinkers, life is seen as the very stuff of the Divine, an emanation of the Source and part of a cosmic continuum. They further hold that each life form, even water and trees, possesses consciousness and energy… Hindus teach vegetarianism as a way to live with a minimum of hurt to other beings, for to consume meat, fish, fowl or eggs is to participate indirectly in acts of cruelty and violence against the animal kingdom. The abhorrence of injury and killing of any kind leads quite naturally to a vegetarian diet… Man's appetite for meat inflicts devastating harm on the earth itself, stripping its precious forests to make way for pastures."

What are Yoga and Meditation?

The term yoga comes from the Sanskrit root "yug", meaning "to unite." Yoga, in its most spiritual sense, refers to the process of merging one's own soul, the jivatma, with the Supreme Soul, or paramatma, and, by doing so, receiving moksha. Various methods have been developed by which an individual can accomplish this including karma yoga, or through one's actions; bhakti yoga, through one's devotion; jnana yoga, through the pursuit of knowledge; or raja yoga, through the concentration of the mind. In the West, the term yoga has come to be understood as an altogether different method of union – physical exercise, or hatha yoga. Hatha yoga is becoming more and more acknowledged as a superior technique to not only improve one's outer physical condition but also treat various inner ailments as well.

Meditation, the ancient Indian technique of clearing the mind of its impurities so that one can advance spiritually and attain realization of the Truth, is also becoming popular. In 2004 Time Magazine ran a cover story on meditation. According to Joel Stein, the author of the piece, "ten million American adults now say they practice some form of meditation regularly, twice as many as a decade ago."[cxlii] The article goes on to say, "Meditation is being recommended by physicians as a way to prevent, slow or at least control the pain of chronic diseases like heart conditions, AIDS, cancer and infertility. It is also being used to restore balance in the face of such psychiatric disturbances as depression, hyperactivity and attention-deficit disorder (ADD)."[cxliii] Unfortunately, none of the benefits of yoga or mediation, neither physical nor spiritual, are mentioned in the many anti-Hindu websites that proliferate on the Internet. On the

contrary, most of them speak derogatorily of these practices and even portray them as devil worship.

Are the Caste System and Untouchability Part of Hinduism?

Caste was the division of the ancient Indic civilization based on four general occupational groupings, which included workers, business people, law enforcers and lawmakers, and priests. Within these four groups were thousands of sub-groups. Over the millennia, what was to be a skills and aptitude based guild system was rigidified into a hereditary hierarchy. This distortion was a result of certain social practices and taboos gaining acceptance over time and countless invasions by foreign civilizations. The "lowest" class, deemed untouchables, was marginalized and, in some regards, continues to face social prejudice. It should be emphasized that there is no basis for a discriminatory caste system in revealed Hindu scripture. Vedic and non-Vedic scriptures advance the concept of equality of all mankind as demonstrated in the ancient hymn: "*Ajyesthaso akanishthaso ete sambhrataro vahaduhu saubhagaya*"[cxliv] which means no one is superior, none inferior; all are brothers marching forward to prosperity.

Lacking an authoritative scriptural basis, it is unfortunate that the Hindu religion has been conflated with the reprehensible practice of social discrimination that has manifested as racism, religious persecution and slavery in other cultures throughout the world. Despite immense societal discrimination and prejudices, however, there have been countless saints and sages from the "lower" castes who have profoundly impacted Hindu philosophy and devotional practice. To cite only a few: Sant Raidas, a "chamar" or cobbler who was the guru of Mirabai, the most famous of the women devotional poets of northern India; Sant Ramdev, a prominent devotional poet from central India important to both Hindu and Sikh traditions; and Sant Tiruvalluvar of southern India who wrote the *Tirukkural*, an influential scripture of sacred wisdom. Modern-day saints, with millions of followers worldwide include Mata Amritanandamayi or Ammachi who was born into a fishermen community and Satya Sai Baba who was born into an agrarian community.

APPENDIX III – DEFINITIONS OF HINDU TERMS USED

Many of the definitions below are referenced from Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami's Dancing With Siva as well as input from Professor Jeffrey Long. The definitions below are neither meant to convey an authoritative or exhaustive explanation of each term nor to represent the beliefs of every Hindu. They are provided in order to present a basic understanding of the major concepts in Hindu thought and practice.

Bhagavad Gita – The "Song of the Lord." One of the most popular Hindu scriptures, the *Bhagavad Gita* is a conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna on the brink of the great battle at Kurukshetra in the *Mahabharata*. In this central episode of the *Mahabharata*, Lord Krishna illuminates Arjuna on yoga, asceticism, dharma, and the spiritual path.

Brahman – Name of God or Supreme Deity in the Vedas, where He and/or She is described as 1) the Transcendent Absolute; 2) the all-pervading energy; and 3) the Supreme Lord/Being or Primal Soul.

Diwali/Deepavali - The "Festival of Lights" which symbolizes the victory of dharma. Diwali is the one of the most celebrated festivals in the Hindu world. The word is a variation of the Sanskrit word Deepavali, and refers to the rows of earthen lamps celebrants place around their homes. Hindus believe that the light from these lamps symbolizes the illumination within the individual that overwhelms ignorance, represented by darkness. Diwali commemorates the return of Lord Rama (the incarnation of the Supreme Lord Vishnu), His wife Sita and brother Lakshman to their capitol, Ayodhya, after 14 years of exile. The residents of Ayodhya, overjoyed at the return of their beloved King, lit diyas in His honor. Thus, the entire city looked like a row of lights.

In addition to the spiritual significance the day holds for Hindus, Sikhs celebrate the release of the Sixth Guru, Hargobind, from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir and Jains commemorate Diwali as the day Lord Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras, attained Nirvana, or liberation, after his death in 527 B.C.

Ganesha – The beloved elephant-faced deity honored by Hindus and followers of other Indian religions is the remover of obstacles. He is revered for His great wisdom and is invoked first before any undertaking.

Guru – A term used to describe a teacher or guide in any subject but especially spirituality.

Hare Krishnas – Members of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which was founded in 1966 by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Hinduism – India's indigenous religious and cultural system followed today by nearly one billion people, mostly in India but with large populations in many other countries. Also known as "Sanatana Dharma" (the eternal natural law), Hinduism is one of the world's most ancient religious and spiritual systems and encompasses a broad spectrum of philosophies ranging from pluralistic theism to absolute monism.

Kafir - An Arabic word meaning a person who hides, denies, or covers the truth. In cultural terms, it is a derogatory term used to describe a non-Muslim, a Muslim of a differing sect, or an apostate from Islam. It is usually translated into English as "infidel" or "unbeliever" and can carry the equivalent weight as a racial epithet.

Kali – A form of the Goddess. She is the incomparable protector and mother of liberation.

Karma – One of the most important principles in Hindu thought which refers to 1) any act or deed; 2) the principle of cause and effect; and 3) a consequence of some action which sooner or later returns upon the doer.

Krishna – One of the most popular representations of God in Hinduism. He is worshipped as the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu and is best known as the Supreme Personage in the *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavad Gita*.

Mahabharata – "Great Epic of India." The world's longest epic poem, written by Sage Ved Vyas, is longer than the Iliad and Odyssey combined. It revolves around the conflict between two kingdoms and their great battle near modern Delhi over 3,000 years ago. Woven through the plot are countless discourses on philosophy, religion, and astronomy, and many stories illustrative of simple truths and ethical principles. The *Bhagavad Gita* is one section of it.

Mantra – A sound, syllable, word, or phrase endowed with spiritual power, usually drawn from scripture. A mantra focuses the mind toward spiritual progress.

Meditation – A quiet, alert, sustained, powerfully concentrated state wherein new knowledge and insights are awakened from within as awareness focuses one-pointedly on an object or specific line of thought.

Murti – An image or icon of God used during worship. A manifestation, embodiment, or personification.

Parvati – One of many names for the Universal Mother. A form of the Goddess to whom prayers are offered for strength, health, and eradication of impurities. Hindus believe that She is Shiva's consort.

Rama – Seventh incarnation (and one of the two most popular, the other being Lord Krishna) of Lord Vishnu and venerated hero of the *Ramayana*. Rama's exemplary life helps to set high standards of dignity and nobility as an integral part of the Hindu way of life.

Ramayana – One of India's two great epics (the other being the *Mahabharata*) which details the life of Sri Rama, who descended upon earth in order to defeat the demon-king Ravana.

Reincarnation – Re-entering the flesh: the process wherein a soul takes on a physical body through birth. It is one of the fundamental principles of Hinduism and Indic religions.

Sadhu – An ascetic who dedicates his life to the search for God or Truth. Sadhus usually have no fixed abode and travel unattached from place to place, often living on alms.

Shakti –The active power or manifest energy that pervades all of existence.

Shiva – Another popular representation of God in Hinduism. He is worshipped as the Creator, Destroyer, Preserver, Lord of Ascetics, and the Universal Divinity.

Sita – The wife of Sri Rama, esteemed by Hindus as an example of womanly virtue. She herself was an incarnation of Lakshmi, Lord Vishnu's eternal consort.

Swastik(a) – The word Swastika is derived from the Sanskrit *svaastika,* which means "auspicious, luck". In Sanskrit, *svasti* means "well-being" and *svastika* is usually translated as "the symbol associated with well-being". It is also a sign of the Sun-God Surya and his generosity. The swastika is one of the 108 symbols of Lord Vishnu and represents the sun's rays, without which there would be no life. The symbol is one of the most popular and auspicious signs for Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists. The swastika is used in religious and civil ceremonies in India – both public and private. Unfortunately, the swastika used by the Nazis was a perverted version of the ancient Hindu swastika.

Transcendental Meditation – A form of meditation introduced in 1955 and made popular by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a disciple of Brahmananda Saraswati.

Vedas – Hinduism's most ancient scriptures. They are four in number: *Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Sama Veda* and *Yujur Veda*. The *Vedas* include over 100,000 verses and additional prose. The word itself is derived from the Sanskrit root 'vid,' meaning "knowledge." Many Hindus believe that the Vedas were revealed by God and/or realized by ancient sages and enlightened wise men.

Yoga – Literally meaning union, it is the philosophy, process, disciplines, and practices whose purpose is the unification of individual consciousness with transcendent or divine consciousness. It's most common form in the U.S. is hatha yoga, the practice which emphasizes bodily perfection in preparation for meditation.

APPENDIX IV – INDEX OF DEROGATORY TERMS USED AGAINST HINDUISM

atrocity – 24

curse/cursed – 24, 26

darkness – 18-19, 29

demon/demonic – 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

devil – 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 32

dirty – 16

evil – 26, 32

false – 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28

filthy – 16

heathen – 19, 22, 25, 26, 31

hopeless/hopelessness – 18, 26, 31

lost – 17, 18, 19, 26, 32

murderous - 17

perverted – 16

satan/satanic – 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32

sin/sinful – 23

witchcraft - 32

wrong – 14, 29

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