

HINDUISM IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649256921

Hinduism in Europe and America by Elizabeth A. Reed

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ELIZABETH A. REED

**HINDUISM IN
EUROPE
AND AMERICA**

FOREWORD

HINDUISM long remained on its native soil, but during the last few years, classes have been organised in Great Britain, and on the Continent, as well as in America, for the propagation of misleading representations concerning its doctrines, and the gathering in of foreign coin.

In this expurgated system which is offered at first, many have become interested without investigating the foundation upon which it stands. No doubts need be entertained concerning the real teachings of Hinduism by those who have access to the invaluable series of "The Sacred Books of the East," prepared under the editorial care of Professor F. Max Müller and published under the auspices of England's greatest University. We have here translations of undoubted integrity, but the great cost of the work places it beyond the reach of many libraries, and not only this but the vast amount of literature therein contained presents to the ordinary student a most discouraging prospect.

We can well understand that only an enthusiastic specialist would be willing to devote years of his life to the examination of these thousands of pages of exaggerated statements, and abstruse theories, but common prudence should prevent any one from embracing a fad without making some rational inquiry into its true character.

In order to facilitate such investigation, there is need of smaller volumes giving the results of careful work along these lines—volumes which may be quickly read, and are free from technical terms, so that they may be easily understood. This condensed information is especially needed by young men and women, for they will be obliged to meet in their own land the problems of the Orient. Indeed the time is already here when extensive information and constant vigilance are needed, as recent arrests in our large cities for the immoral teachings and criminal practices of the cult, only partially reveal the extent to which the insidious emissaries of the East have already penetrated our body politic.

When heathen temples are rearing their brazen domes in some of our cities, and these are built with the money of American women, surely it is time to furnish them with some scientific data concerning the real purpose of the

system into which they are being so adroitly drawn.

In an earlier and larger work the author has given the historical facts connected with the age and the doctrines of the old manuscripts, together with somewhat copious extracts from their contents; these things will not therefore be repeated here, only very brief expositions being presented with the chronological framework necessary to a connected and accurate outline of the subject.

The object of this little book is to present within the smallest possible compass a correct view of this corrupt cult and also to call attention to the authoritative statements of standard Hindu works upon those points which are most frequently misrepresented and lauded by irresponsible writers and speakers.

E. A. R.

CHICAGO, 1914.

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