



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

June 1999

Highlights

- Tulsi Conference in November '99 in Miami
- New HU Center in Pittsburgh
- An Article on Origin of Indian Music

**HU is working
towards
"Spirituality
through
Education"...**

HU to Celebrate Fifth Centenary of Tulsidas by an International Conference

Hindu University is planning to celebrate Fifth Centenary of Saint Goswami Tulsidas in U.S.A. by an International Conference on **Tulsidas and His Works** on November 26-28, 1999 at Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA.

For more than four centuries, the works of Goswami Tulsidas, especially *Ramcharitmanas*, have had great impact on individuals, society, political systems, arts and culture and will continue to impact in future. This influence has widened to cover many nationalities and languages of the world. There have also

been great academic activities centered on Tulsidas and his works, resulting in a large number of Ph.D. theses, books, articles, symposia, conferences, academic/social organizations, and centers. Also, films have been made on the life of Tulsidas and on *Ramcharitmanas*. His poetic compositions have been sung by the best of the singers.

The conference is meant to bring together not only scholars, researchers, authors, writers in different world languages who have contributed on Tulsidas and his works but

(Continued on page 5)

New HU Center Inaugurated in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, October 19, 1998: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Hindu University announced inauguration of another regional Center of the University in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania). Like other Centers of the University, Pittsburgh Center will conduct HU classes and provide an interface between the students and faculty in the area and the University headquarters in Florida.

Currently two HU courses are being offered at the Pittsburgh Center. A course in Principles and Practice of Yoga Meditation (YMP5003-3) that includes topics like: Understanding Patanjali's Yoga Darshana, Overview of Sankhya Yoga Philosophy, Sarvam Dukham, Yoga Psychology, Three Gunas, Raja yoga, Mantra Intonation, Art of Meditation, and Relevance of Yoga in Daily Life. The second course on Music Practice and Theory is a custom-made combination of two HU courses in Divine Music (HDM5105-2 and HDM5900-1). This course includes: Scales, Ragas, Improvisation,

Singing Attunement, Rhythms, Music Appreciation, Divine Music, Performance; all of which constitute HU course HDM5105-2 on Svara II: Advanced Voice Training. Also included in the course are Contemporary Music and Sound Acoustics (HDM5900-1 Independent Study or Project). Both Yoga and Music courses are three credits (involving 45 contact hours of instruction) each. At present the number of students in these courses is 18.

The Pittsburgh Center and both of the courses offered currently are run by Professor Raj Kapoor, a practicing internist specializing in chest diseases and critical care medicine. He is a former, Chairman of the Department of Medicine, UPMC Passavant Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Health System, Pennsylvania. A recognized philosopher, he has lectured widely on lifestyle management, and has been featured on numerous radio talk shows. Dr. Kapoor is an evocative writer,

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

From the Editor's Desk	2
The Origin of Indian Music Prof. Chaya Devi	3
A Message from Dr. Khandelwal	4
Hinduism CD-ROM Review	7
Hindu University Mission	8

From the Editor's Desk...

Features to be included in forthcoming issues:

- **Readers forum**
- **Book reviews**
- **Questions and answers**

Please contribute articles to HU Newsletter. The deadline for next Issue is June 1, 1999.

As the delay in publishing this issue of HU Newsletter after the last issue that was sent in late July 1998 indicates, we are still working towards our goal of quarterly publication of these newsletters. Similar to the last issue, the format of this issue is a combination of the news items related to HU activities and brief articles of general interest to the readers. In the first group we have news about the Tulsī Conference being organized by HU in November 1999, about the new Pittsburgh Center, and our regular column on *A Message from Dr. Khandelwal*, Chair Board of Directors of Hindu University of America.

An article of interest included in this issue is *Origin of Indian Music* by Professor Chaya Devi Ramayanam (Professor in the Department of Divine Music at Hindu University). This is an article in our series on the theme of "What is Hinduism?" that was started in the last issue. We will like to hear your comments about this article.

In this issue, we are introducing a new item on Book/CD-ROM Reviews. We will like to have your comments on this review as well as your reviews of the books etc. in areas of interest to Hindu University that you may have been reading recently.

Two other regular features are planned to be included in the forthcoming issues of this Newsletter. These are: i) Readers' Forum – This will include letters to Editors, comments on articles appearing in the Newsletter, and very short articles intended to provoke constructive discussion on items related to Hindu University activities; and ii) Questions and Answers – Questions from readers

on topics of common interest and related to HU activities will be entertained and responded by panels of experts and scholars on specific topics. We are in the process of setting up panels in various areas like: Hindu Dharma, Philosophies, Ayurveda, Yoga and Meditation, Divine Music, Jyotish, and Vastu Shastra. If you like to volunteer on one of these panels, please let one of the editors know.

We like the Newsletter to be a forum for informal exchange of views, as well as an organ for the dissemination of news about HU plans and activities. Your help and cooperation are needed for developing this Newsletter. Please come forward with your suggestions, comments, and advice. Contribute by writing for the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. We are working towards publishing the Newsletter quarterly in July, October, January and April. The articles, letters, reviews, etc. intended for publication need to be received one month ahead of the publication date. The deadline for the material for the next issue (planned for October 1999) is September 1, 1999. Electronic submission of the material is preferred. Please send an e-mail to the address (es) given below for details.

We look forward to hearing from you and to receive from you articles, news, and reviews to be published in this Newsletter. One of the reasons for delay in publishing this issue has been the lack of articles. Your help and cooperation are needed.

Kuldip Gupta & Sanjay Singhal

Hindu University Newsletter is published by Colorado Center of HU on behalf of the Hindu University of America. Editing and publication is handled by a committee which, at present, consists of Kuldip Gupta, Saswati Mahapatra, Sanjay Singhal, Ajay Sreenivas, Ganesh Subbarayan, and J. Vivekanandan.

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The Hindu University of America admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic or other University Administered programs.

The Origin of Indian Music

India is known as the Country of Spirituality, since ages. The ultimate philosophy or goal of an individual according to Indian philosophy is liberation, or 'Moksha'. Many Saints and Gurus with their Spiritual experience gave their disciples or Sishyas easiest ways to attain liberation. One among them is Music. It is said by great Sages in this sloka:

*Sisur vétti-Pasur vétti
vétti Gansa Rasam Phanihi*

which means only music can inspire infants, animals, and also wild snakes. By this it is clear that music is the language of hearts, which is universal. Origin of Indian music is very ancient. It is as ancient as 'Aumkaara'. According to the School of Bharatha, the origin of Indian music is Aumkaar, which is the eternal echoistic sound, known as 'Shabda Brahman'. This 'Aumkaar' is composed of three syllables: 'A', 'U', and 'M', which together sounds 'AUM'. Sage Bharatha in his 'Naatyashastra' says:

*Aumkaaramcha Parabrahma
Yaavadomkaara Sambhavah
Akaarokaara Makaara
Ete Sangeetha Sambhavah*

According to this sloka, Indian music is originated from 'A', 'U', and 'M'. These syllables individually represent the Trinity or 'Trimurthy Swaroopa', Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Sage Bharatha clearly mentions his view in this sloka:

*'A' Kaaro Vishnu roopaucha
'U' Kaaro Brahma roopakam
'M' Kaaro Bharga roopaucha
Sarvamomkaara roopakam.*

He says 'A'Kaara is Lord Vishnu Swaroopa. 'U'Kaara is Brahma Swaroopa and 'M'Kaara is Shiva Swaroopa. Together the three syllables are Trinity or 'Aumkara' or 'Pranavanaadam'.

Pittsburgh Center ...

(Continued from page 1)

who renders complex ideas thoroughly understandable with magical simplicity. He has explored the world of holistic thought through medicine and metaphysics, and sheds new

It is believed in Hindu mythology that Lord Brahma, the creator of Chatur Vedas is the primary source for Indian music. He passed this to Lord Shiva, who in turn passed this divine knowledge to Goddess Saraswathi, who is treated as divine mother of music and literature. Her son, a heavenly Saint, Narada propagated this divine art of Music both in heaven and on Earth. The theory of this subtle sound according to this divine master of music Narada is:

*Aatmaa Vivaksha maanoyam
Manah prerayate manaha
Naabhista Vahni maahamthi
Sapreraayathi Maarutham*

Which means, the soul inspires the intellect, which in turn ignites the fire at the naval point, heart, throat, tongue, nose, and comes out as subtle sound which is 'Naadam' the vibration. This 'Naadam,' or vibration, is of two types. 1. Ahatha naadam and 2. Anahatha Naadam. Ahatha naadam is the sound used in transcendental meditation. Anahatha naadam is the sound used for conversation. The subtle sound that can be heard first is the Sruthi or Key.

The history of Indian music can be classified into four periods: 1. The Vedic, 2. The Puraanic, 3. The medieval, and 4. The recent periods. The period before 15th century B.C. is treated as the Vedic period. The multiple references available in the Vedas are the proof to the fact that music was existing during that period. Among the four Vedas, Samaveda is treated as the treasury of Indian music. The legendary information says that the seven notes of Indian music (Saptha-Swaras) have developed from three notes of Vedas. It is said like this in Narada Sutras:

*Udaathe Nishaada Gaandhaarau
Anudaatta Rishabha Danivatau
Swaritha Prabhaavaahyetheh
Shadja Madhyama Panchamah*

which means: From the note Udatta, Nishaada and Gaandhara ('ni' and 'ga') took birth. From Anudaatta, Rishabh and Daivath ('Ri' and 'Dha') took birth. From Swaritha (nosighm)

(Continued on page 6)

**Indian music
originated from
'A', 'U' and
'M',
The three
syllables of ॐ
...**

**Among Hindu
scriptures,
Sam Veda is
the treasury of
Indian
music ...**

light on the powerful role of awareness in the creation of total freedom and perfect health.

A Message from Dr. Khandelwal

... it is high time for HU to make some major strides.

We invite you to join with us in shaping the University...

HU is probably the only Hindu sponsored nonsectarian University...

“HU and its teachings represent the intellectual vigor and social ethos of integrity, consciousness and thought provoking thinking...”

Hindu University of America is the first higher education institution organized and sponsored by members of the Hindu community living in the United States. It was created in 1984, germinated in 1989, and sprouted in 1993. Since then, it has steadily grown in its various facets and has a base to continue on that path. However, it is high time in the history of this institution to make some major strides. Let us ponder over this a little.

In the early years of settling in the United States, we the Hindus bonded together and formed India Associations, first on college campuses and then in the wider society. As we grew in numbers and became more familiar with our new environment, we developed professional, ethnic, and regional institutions. Then, partly with growing children in focus, we created and joined temple centered and other religious organizations, and became involved in such endeavors as politics and political system, business enterprises, social services, and aggressively entered into other communal and professional activities in such areas as computer science and medicine.

With our dynamism and increasing population, members of the Hindu faith have significantly contributed to both the technology and the economic growth of the United States. We have also pooled our community resources to start and support distinguished chairs in several universities in North America. The time has now come to consciously forge ahead and influence the higher education system. This can be done by expanding Hindu University of America, so that it becomes a recognized force in the country's intellectual thinking and decision making. It is high time for us to contribute in an organized and effective way, rooted in Hindu thought, to our host community and for the appropriate future for our future generations. It should be noted that the environment has already been created here in the United States and we must make use of it promptly. There are several other aspects on these lines and I shall try to continue communicating these thoughts to you through these letters.

In some aspects, Hindu University of America is patterning its growth and expansion similarly to Brandeis University, founded in 1948, as a Jewish sponsored non-sectarian university.

Today Brandeis University is hailed as one of the great research and intellectual educational centers of the 20th century. Hindu University seeks to model itself in that vigor and spirit, emphasizing and maintaining the origins of our heritage. With some of the unique thoughts in the field of education that Hindu University has emphasized, it is set to become one of the leading and newest intellectual universities created at the entrance to the 21st century.

We invite you to join with us in shaping the University that is committed to foster excellence, encourage freshness of mind, embrace diverse perspectives, and instill a commitment to the highest ethical and moral standards, which have been the foundation for Hinduism since its beginnings.

Hindu University is probably the only Hindu sponsored nonsectarian university, especially outside India, as Brandeis University was in 1948, when it opened its doors, as the only Jewish sponsored nonsectarian university in the United States. Although, Hindu University has similarities with several other universities in the U.S., I am choosing Brandeis University for a special purpose that will soon become clear. “Education is a precious treasure to be held, used and enjoyed, and if possible, strengthened, and passed on to others in the same trust”, said U. S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis. On the similar lines, Dr. Raj Kapoor, a noted medical internist, Hindu philosopher, author of a recently published book *Mend the Mind, Mind the Body, Meet the Soul*,² and a professor at Hindu University; wrote that in bridging the gap between ancient philosophy and contemporary social thinking and action, Hindu thought sheds new light upon modern day intellectualism, its tools and actions.

According to Dr. Caroline Westerhof, a graduate of the first class of Brandeis University, and a student at Hindu University, “Hindu University and its teachings represent the intellectual vigor and social ethos of integrity, consciousness and thought provoking thinking”. She continues, “There is a passion, I feel, for the development and growth of Hindu University. Its professors represent the intellectual challenge of daily life through the mysticism

(Continued on page 5)

Tulsi Conference...

(Continued from page 1)

also persons of arts, music, media, films, press and above all a very large number of persons who love *Ramcharitmanas* and other works of Tulsidas. This will be the first big conference of its kind on the Western Hemisphere. There shall be several symposia, wide range of paper presentations, panels and displays. Some suggested titles for the symposia are 1. Goswami Tulsidas' life and message; 2. Tulsidas' philosophy and purport; 3. Comparative study of various versions of Ramayana; 4. Influence of Tulsidas' work outside India; 5. Relevance of Ramcharitmanas for the present and future generations; 6. *Vinaypatrika* & Tulsidas' works other than *Ramcharitmanas*; and 7. Presentation of Ramcharitmanas in popular forms such as Ramlilas, films, plays, community recitations.

The conference is planning to honor and recognize persons of different nationalities and languages who have made outstanding contributions on Tulsidas' work in any form - literature, arts, music, publication, public life, etc. Nominations giving details of contributions (books, papers, pieces of art, musical compositions, films and episodes, etc.), with full references and suggesting names of three referees, who are familiar with the work of the nominee, are being solicited for this purpose. These may be sent to: Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma, 6300 Ackel Street, # 265, Metairie, LA 70003,

Message from Dr. Khandelwal...

(Continued from page 4)

and teachings of Hindu philosophy. It is a university that will be rising to great heights because its teachings are so pertinent in the complexity of understanding the actions in today's society. It is a university of heart and learning; of reasoning and the rational, bound up in the realism and relevance of Hindu ethics, philosophy and its long standing commitment to meet the intellectual, moral and spiritual needs of the society."

I value and ask your support and commitment. I seek your active participation and friendship. I shall be honored to personally discuss with

USA; Tel (504) 454-6348; Fax (504)485-7928
email: bsharma@mail.xula.edu

The conference proceedings shall be in *English and Hindi*. Those who want to present a paper should submit the title and an abstract of about 200 to 250 words, to *Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma*. Those who wish to organize a symposium, or some other specific group activity, may send the proposal to one of the conference coordinators. Apart from Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma, the other two coordinators are: *Professor Ram Prakash Agarwal*: 8220 SW 133 Street, Miami, FL 33156, USA, Phone: (305) 238-0327; Fax: (305)243-3181; e-mail: ragarwal@mednet.med.miami.edu and *Shri Satya D. Gupta*: 10531 NW 43rd Court, Coral Springs, FL 33065, USA, Phone (954)752-1715, Fax (954)346-8684; e-mail: satyagupta@juno.com

'International Organizing Committee' for this Conference consists of *Dr. V Krishnamurthy*, Former Director, K. K. Biria Academy, New Delhi; *Dr. Vidya Niwas Misra*, Chief Editor - Encyclopedia of Hinduism & Former Vice Chancellor; *Acharya Sohan Lal Ramrang*, Poet, Wrote - Uttar-Saket, etc.; *Dr. Veda Pratap Vaidik*, Chairman, Council for Indian Foreign Policy; President, Bharatiya Bhasha Sammelan; and *Shri Lallan Prasad Vyas*, international Chairman, Vishva Sahitya Sanskriti Sansthan.

you how your participation can contribute to the continued and expanded growth of this institution, a pride of all with love for the Hindu thought.

Dr. Deendayal Khandelwal is the Chairman Board of Directors of Hindu University. A doctorate from University of Michigan, Dr Khandelwal took an early retirement at the peak of his career in aerospace industry to volunteer his full time to the cause of Hindu University. In addition to all his administrative responsibilities, he teaches a course on "Practice of Hinduism" for HU students.

**Tulsi
Conference in
Miami is going
to be a very
unique
event ...**

**HU will be
rising to great
heights
because its
teachings are
so pertinent in
the complexity
of
understanding
the actions in
today's
society...**

Origin of Music...

(Continued from page 3)

Shadj, Madhyam, and Panchau ('Sa', 'Ma' and 'p') have derived. According to another school of thought the seven notes developed from the sounds of birds and animals as follows:

1. From the howl of Peacock - 'Sa'
2. From the shriek of Bull - 'Ri'
3. From the cry of Goat - 'Ga'
4. From the howl of Bird - 'Ma'
5. From the howl of Cuckoo Bird - 'Pa'
6. From the neigh of Horse - 'Da'
7. From the roar of Elephant - 'Ni'

For the music families, key (Sruthi) and rhythm (Layah Pitaah) are like mother and father; *Sruthismaataa Layah Pitrah*.

Like the seven notes, the great Sages and Saints with their metrical calculations formed seven Taalas. They are:

*"Dhruvo mathya roopakaascha
Thampaa triputa evacha
Atataale kataalascha
Sapthahtaala prakeesthitaah"*

1. Dhruva Taala, 2. Mathya Taala, 3. Roopaka Taala, 4. Thampa Taala, 5. Triputa Taala, 6. Ata Taala, 7. Eka Taala

This kind of music has established its roots firmly during Vedic period Puranic period which was during 15th century B.C. to 5th century B.C. Indian music was popularly used to sing epic Raamayana. Bhagavad Geetha was narrated to Dhutaraashtra by his minister Sanjaya which is the song (Geetha) of Lord Krishna himself.

History of Indian music gives evidence that music and dance were very popular during Gautama Buddha's period also. The recent period Indian music had contributions from various poet singers like Jayadeva, Amanacharya, Kalidas, Surdas, Ramdas, Tulsi-das, Meerabai, Namdev, Tukaram, Narayan-teertha, Shyama Sastri, Tyagaraja, Mut-

tuswami Dekshitar, Narsi Mehtha, Swathi Tirunal, Subrahmanyam Bharathi and Rabin-dranath Tagore and many more dedicated poet singers.

The ultimate function of the music is to help the votary towards self realization which has become more prominent during medieval period. Most of the musicians or Vaggeya Kaaras chanted the name and deeds of Lord which has become very popular as *"Naam Sankeerthanam."* They also said, *"This era of Kali (Kali Yuga) is the best far Naam Samkeerthaan. Kalau naama Sankeertha nam."*

Ultimately the goal of Indian Music is Divine.

The author of this article Mrs. R. Chaya Devi is a professor in Divine Music with Hindu University of America. Earlier she has been the Principal of Sathya Jyoti Music and Dance Academy In Secunderabad (India) and the Producer with Armuthavani Communications Center Hyderabad (India). She has a Diploma in Karnatik Music, Teachers Training Certificate in Karnatik Music, and a M.S. degree in Sanskrit. She is a famous TV and radio artist, popularly known as Nightingale of Twin Cities. She has performed in about 1000 concerts, and is winner of several medals and awards (including the National Award from All India Radio in Light Music back in 1974). As music director-cum-singer she has recorded 30 audiocassettes. She is a scriptwriter in music with a scientific approach, and her script Naadopasana was adjudged as the National Best Entry. Chaya Devi has been performing in concerts all over the world, including TANA (Telugu Association of North America) Conferences in 1993, 1995, and 1997; and European Telugu Conference of 1997. Chaya Devi and her family has moved over from Hyderabad to Colorado last year.

... Seven notes of music have developed from the sounds of birds and animals.

The ultimate function of music is to help the votary towards self realization...

Divine Music Course with Professor R. Chaya Devi: Swara-1: Basic Voice Training. In Westminster, Colorado. Please call (303) 465-2823 for more information.

Ayurveda Courses with Dr. Alaknanda Devi: Two Ayurveda courses: Nadi Vigyan – Science of Pulse ; and Chikitsa II – Treatment II : Ayurvedic Methods of Cleansing, are planned for Fall '99 in Boulder, Colorado. For information, please call (303) 786-7437.

Multimedia CD-ROM Review

The Eternal Religion - Hinduism

Produced by Visionsoft Limited, #12 Canal Bank Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai – 600 028 India
US\$50.00, Distributed by Dr. Amwedhkar Jethu, Tel: +44-468-196326 or +31-3435-18903

“The Eternal Religion – Hinduism” is a CD-ROM product that provides an interesting exposition of Hinduism with the help of modern multimedia technology. The contents are organized under three broad headings: Inner Hinduism, Popular Hinduism, and Cultural Hinduism.

The major topics under Inner Hinduism are Hindu philosophy, Origin and Evolution of the Religion, Hindu Scriptures, and Yoga. Clicking on Inner Hinduism takes the reader to a screen where the four subtopics are represented pictorially. As one moves the mouse, one can listen to the name of the sub-topic. Clicking on the picture takes one to the selected topic. Various items presented under Hindu Philosophy include monistic nature of Hinduism, Idealism, Realism, Absolutism, Transcendentalism, and Pantheism. Philosophies are divided in two groups of Heterodox and Orthodox philosophies. The former includes Charvak Siddhanta, Jainism and Buddhism. Orthodox philosophies include six Darshanas: Nyaya, Yoga, Vaisesika, Mimamsa, Samkhya, and Vedanta. Origin and Evolution of Hinduism is discussed by separating the History in three periods; Ancient Period (2000BC- 300AD), the Later Ancient Period (300 to 1000AD), and the age of Indian Renaissance (modern age). Discussions of Hindu Scriptures start with Sruti and Smrti. Scriptures include Vedas, Upanishads, Itihasas, Puranas, Agamas, and Darasanas. Discussion of Yoga includes Patanjali’s Yoga Sutras, Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Jnana Yoga, Tantra Yoga, and Mantra Yoga.

The major topics under Popular Hinduism are Basic Principles and Hindu Pantheon, Worship and Rituals, Prayers and Hindu festivals. Basic principles include Moksha as the aim of the religion, who or what is God in Hinduism?, Idol worship, Karma, Hindu way of life, Dharma, Vairagya or Asanga, Ahimsa, moderation in practice, means of attaining Moksha, Hindu calendar, and concept of time. Hindu Pantheon includes description of Neti-Neti, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Brahma, Sarasvati, Shiva, Parvati or Shakti, Ganesha, Kartikeya, Venkatachalapati, Iyyappa, Hanuman, Soma, Surya, Kubera, Varuna, Agni, Vayu, Yama, Indra, Kamadeva, Visvakarma, and Navgraha Dieties. Worship and rituals include internal worship or Manasika, External Worship or Bahya, rites, sanskaras and special occasions. Prayers include Sri Ganesh Shloka, Svetasvatra, Narayana-Suktam, Srimad Bhagavad-Gita, Guru Stotram, Sri Durga Stotram, and concluding peace chants. The section on Hindu festivals includes Diwali, Dusshera, Krishna Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturti, Rama Navami, Mahasivararti, Holi, Pongal, Hindu new Year, Basant Panchmi, and Bhai Dooj.

The major topics under third segment of Cultural Hinduism are Hindu Wisdom, Music and Dance, Trivia and Sages, and Places of Hindu Interest. Section on Hindu Wisdom Contains topics like Arthasastra, Kama Sutra, Ayurveda, Astrology or Jyotish. Natyasastra is described in the section on Music and Dance. “Trivia” consists of Caste System, Tilak – Vermillion mark, Guru, Rudraksha, Cows, Yantras, Sacred Rivers, Sacred trees and plants, Lotus flower, Salagram, swastika, and Somapana. “Sages” section presents description of great men like Madhva, Tiruvalluva, Ramanuja, Adi Sankara, Swami Praphupad, Sri Aurobindo Ghose, Ramana Maharsi, Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. C. Gopalachari, Chandrasekara Sarasvati, Swami Brahmananda, and Sai Baba. “Places of Hindu interest” lists 55 places (including rivers) arranged alphabetically starting from Allahabad to Yamuna.

All put together the CD-ROM contains encyclopedic information on various aspects of Hinduism. The “Search” function allows the reader to look at an alphabetically arranged list of key words (from Adwaita to Yuga) that allows the reader to click and go to the item of immediate interest. The most interesting feature of this product is the audio narration associated with each item. You don’t have to read the screen, it is narrated to you as a story. And there is a pleasing background music that accompanies the commentaries. In all there are 300 minutes of audio. Also included are 32 video clips, a library of 60 pictures, a Sanskrit translator, and over 100 linkwords for convenient topic jumping. When the reader clicks on any of the words in red, one sees a picture or watches a video clip. Other tools in this multimedia product include: i) “Tracks” that lists last 50 topics the reader has been to, using link words; ii) “Sanskrit Words”; iii) a “print” feature; and iv) a “Help” feature that is an on-line guide that explains all the tools. On the flip side, The CD-ROM lacks a comprehensive table of contents that could provide the reader an overview of what all is contained in the product. Another major omission, that would have made the product much more useful, is the list of references on each topic that an interested reader can use for further exploration.

On the whole, this reviewer is of the opinion that this CD-ROM can be a useful learning aid for courses related to Hinduism as it can be used as a quick reference tool. Most significantly this CD-ROM is a product suitable for spreading Hinduism among especially younger people who would rather play with their computer than read books on Hinduism. Hinduism is a dynamic way of life that adopts to new developments without relaxation of its fundamental principles. Products like this CD-ROM that combine modern technology with the roots of Hinduism are excellent examples of this feature. This unique CD-ROM qualifies as a “must read” for all seekers of Hindu thought.

Reviewed by Professor K.C. Gupta
Colorado Center, Hindu University of America



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

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<http://www.hindu-university.edu>

I would like to be on your mailing list to receive HU Newsletter and other information.

I would like to participate in the planning and implementation activities of the University.

I am interested in being a volunteer for the University and would like to have more information about the plans.

I am interested in studying at the Hindu University. Please send me a copy of the Handbook and an application form. A fee of \$5.00 is enclosed.

I am proud to support this project on "Spirituality through Education" with a tax-deductible donation of \$____ (make your check payable to Hindu University of America).

Please return this form to:
CCHU,
4685 Pawnee Place,
Boulder, Colorado 80303-3918

Name: _____
StreetAddress: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
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The mission of the Hindu University of America is to provide for learning, research and training in a broad spectrum of topics related to Vedic/Hindu culture including religions, philosophies, practices etc. The University aims to promote the catholicity of Hinduism, and to establish harmony among Eastern religious thoughts and modern sciences, thereby contributing to better human understanding and global peace. The University is committed to a comprehensive and liberal education with a broad curriculum at baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels in various areas related to Hindu religions, philosophies and culture providing the students with a practical Vedic base for their spiritual growth. The University fulfills the growing need of modern western society to obtain authentic and unbiased understanding of the vast and rich heritage of Hindu culture traditions, philosophy, etc.