

# India's Priceless Heritage

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Subject this morning: "India's Priceless Heritage," "India's Priceless Heritage."

What is it? Two words: Spiritual Treasure. So, to discuss this subject which you can settle in two words is rather difficult. But still, let us consider a few facts about India and that Priceless Heritage which She has.

It is India's devotion throughout the ages, to the One God of Bliss, through Her sages, saints, and best men that has laid up this Spiritual Treasure which India has, this Priceless Heritage. India's loyalty to God – and this is the important point to remember – is not in theoretically worshipping God, but it is worshipping God through realization of the One Eternal Spirit which is behind all things. And that One Eternal Spirit is felt by each and every one of God's children as the Bliss of His Presence.

Now in India, we hear of many people worshipping idols and all sorts of things. That's all right. Behind the worship of those various idols and Aspects of the One Eternal God is the *feeling*, which the people of India have. They feel the Presence of God as Bliss no matter how they worship. That's the Universality of Religion. And because India has made God a personal God, in the true sense of the word – not by just outward form of religion, but by merging in the One Eternal Father of all, the living Spirit of God – even though She has followed many, many forms of religion, still behind that they feel, no matter what the outward form is, they feel the One God as Bliss. That's why God loves India, because no matter how She worships, She feels in Her worship, the Presence of the One Great God.

You see the difference now? I remember when I was a boy I was told that the people of India were heathens, and they worshiped idols, and this, and that, and stones, and images. But later, when I found out and met the Master, who came from India and told me many things, and through my experience I realized certain things; then, I could see why India lives, and does live, and has lived, because She was true to the One Eternal Spirit, God.

And, as I have said, even though there are many, many forms of religion in India, still, behind every one of those forms, inculcated in the people of India, handed

down from generation to generation, from mother to the children, is that Spirit of Love and Divine Bliss. So you can see that's why India has laid up this wonderful Spiritual Treasure, because She was true to God, and worshiped, really worshiped, no matter what the form was. That's the mistake that people make thinking the religion of India is inculcated in the worship of the various forms. Those forms represent Aspects of the One God – the One Eternal Spirit. That's one reason why India has this Priceless Heritage.

And so, realizing this, let us remember this one thing; that India, India has escaped from the oblivion of Babylon, Egypt, and other great colossal's, empires, and nations who were Her contemporaries. She has escaped that oblivion, while the others are gone now – gone in time. India is still alive – vibrant with the Power of God within Her. Why? Because She loved God, not the form of worship. Do you understand? That's why India has that Priceless Heritage, because She was true to God. How can you fool God? Nations cannot fool God. They can have their, their basic form of worship, outward form of worship. That isn't what counts. It's how these Nations feel in their hearts toward God.

One interesting point the Master made to me one time, he said, that in India, no matter what the man's occupation is during the day time – it may not be so desirable – still at night, he's sings about the Love of the One Common Father. So that's what has been inculcated in India's children throughout the ages, and that's why God has kept India from escaping the oblivion of other great and powerful nations. That is one thing to remember, and I feel that America also has within Her breast, Love for the One Father of all, in spite of all our difficulties here. Master said that India and America would last. And if America lasts, She's gonna last because of that Spiritual Inheritance which has been handed down to us from our forefathers and from those who came to America, too.

India's Priceless Heritage, is simply that India put more stress on Spiritual things, on the Eternal Consciousness of God than She did on material things. And no matter if there are discrepancies in India's way of living – famine, many things, these are commonly known – still, underneath that is that feeling of Love and Bliss of the One Eternal Father. So let us realize that's why India has that great Spiritual Treasure and Heritage.

Now, the Eternal Verities of the Vedas are inculcated in the religion of India, and it is through them that India has formed. Now what are these Eternal Verities? I have just pointed them out: they are the things which the sages and saints of

India have kept alive. And the Eternal Verity is that God is Bliss; Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal Existence.

Now, it doesn't make any difference whether you are a worshiper of Vishnu, or Kali, or Shiva. If you feel the Bliss of God underneath the form of worship, aren't you worshipping the One God? That's what India has done. They have, I don't know how many religions, I don't care, but behind every form of religion is the realization of that the One Eternal Verity, the Bliss of God. And that's why, when the saints and sages come to America, those of you who have met them, you feel, you feel in their presence, that Eternal Verity, which India has kept alive, in spite of all Her troubles and all the discrepancies in outward living and outward things. She has kept alive that Eternal Verity: God is Love. Our Bible preaches that; the Vedas have preached it ages ago. They have preached the one underlying Eternal Verity of God as Bliss – One Supreme God.

And so, when people speak to you about the various gods of India, don't be alarmed. Realize that those are the different Aspects of the One God – the One, Eternal, Living Presence of God in each and every breast. That's what India has followed. And when people say to you, "India follows many gods," realize that those many gods are Aspects of the One Common Father, which is in each and every one of us, and which protects each and every one of us, and which has protected India throughout the ages. "...God is not mocked..."<sup>1</sup> God knows what's going on. No matter what form you worship, and if you feel in your breast His Presence, there He is.

So remember, in the Vedas, pointed out that the various gods are not separate gods. As our Bible says, Thou shall have no other God but me.<sup>2</sup> So, the Vedas taught the same thing – absolute monism – Absolute Spirit. So remember, these different religions of India should be considered, as it says in the Vedas, Aspects of the One, One Supreme God which India has worshiped. That's why India's alive today.

We read in the Rig Veda, 3:55, those of you who wish to look it up, pointing out this one thing. "In all gods," in all gods, "there is one divinity." Now doesn't that give you a different aspect of India? Doesn't that take away that aspect of worshipping idols and all sorts of things? Certainly! A nation which has lived throughout the ages, as India has, and kept its integrity; they're not fools. They

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

may not be developed as we are in material things, but they've got something far greater, I think; that Spiritual Treasure which She has laid up. And so in India, when the poor people worship images, in whatever form they worship, they have felt, throughout the ages this One Presence of God. And as it says in the Vedas, "In all gods, there is one divinity."

And so, God loves India why? Because She saw Him and feels Him in every manifestation, no matter what it is. There is a shrine in India...I think I'm pronouncing the name right – Tarakeswar<sup>3</sup> and there, there is a simply a round stone and people come there and receive healing. Now you know, and I know, it isn't the stone that does it, but that stone is a symbol of Infinity. That stone is a symbol of the absolute monism of God the Father. That the circumference of that stone is only beginningless and endless. That's what the real meaning of that stone is, not a graven image. Now the people feel that. They may not know the theory of it, but they feel the Presence of God. That's why it's real religion, even though it is a stone.

And that same stone, as I said in the prayer, is spoken of in Revelation, the White Stone of Revelation at this point [the Christ Center between the eyebrows]. That White Stone is round. The Cosmic Light which you see at this point, if you follow the techniques of Self-Realization, you will see it. That's round, the circumference is round, symbolic of the beginningless and endlessness of the Infinite God, the One Eternal Spirit, the One God of Bliss. So don't cha see, it's the same God in the Stone at that shrine and the Light which you see at this point. Some may not see the Light, and they feel that endlessness and that beginningless of God's Presence in an image, in a round stone at the shrine. There's no difference. It's what you feel in your heart towards God that God recognizes. That's why India has this Priceless Heritage, because in spite of the form of worship, she has taken God with Her, helped Her, kept Him alive.

God is not mocked. God knows your heart. God knows the heart of India. That's why God Loves India so much, because She has not forgotten Him. She has not forgotten Him by merging in outward form of religion She has kept alive the feeling of Love of the Giver of gifts. India has that wonderful Spiritual Heritage.

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<sup>3</sup> Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Release 1946 (May be downloaded Free from the Internet), Chapter 13, "I entered the sacred Tarakeswar shrine; the altar contains nothing but a round stone. Its circumference, beginningless and endless, makes it aptly significant of the Infinite. Cosmic abstractions are not alien even to the humblest Indian peasant; he has been accused by Westerners, in fact, of living on abstractions!"

Now, going on just a little bit; the devotion of the saints and sages of India, as I have said, have kept, kept this Spiritual Treasure in India's hands, have kept it alive. These sages and saints led the life. They didn't follow the outward form of religion, as we see sometimes 'round about us. But they led the life. They made God dynamic to their consciousness, as we are trying to do for you by promulgating Self-Realization Fellowship techniques of yoga. So, the saints and the sages have done that. They led the life; and by so le, leading the life, they knew the laws of nature and they received illumination.

Now, there are many saints and sages – I cannot go into them all. Perhaps the one that stands out greatest in the galaxy of India's saints and sa, sages is the great Buddha. He came – I say this because I believe that my statistics are right – there's more tha, more than half of the population of the world follow Buddhism, Hinduism. Buddha felt that One Love of God. He felt God so much that he could not bear to see misery and suffering. Don't cha think he worshiped the one God? And so what did he do? He left his royal home and all that went with it to help give God's Love to others and alleviate suffering.

So he lived, I think it was six years, performing various austerities. But that didn't do it. He felt the Love of God, but he had a, made it in a, know it in a practical way, that he could give it to others. So then, he sat down and meditated, continuously, for days until, by God-contact, he received illumination. That's what we do in Self-Realization. We give you the ways and the means whereby you can sit down – you may not be able to sit as Buddha did for days and days, but you can keep at it until you accumulate the days, can't ya? Then, then you receive illumination. So that's what Buddha did. Then, having received illumination, then he gave to the people the practical ways which to act to overcome their suffering and misery by understanding where the misery and suffering came from – from the Law of Karma. And that he pointed out, and admonished his followers that everyone who would understand that, and take measures to offset it, could be free from suffering permanently, and be free from birth and death.

So you see, taking this one saint, Buddha, that he gave something real, practical. That's why the followers were so many. He knew that, loved that One God so much, that he felt compassion for all those who were steeped in suffering and in misery. He could not have felt that, he could not have given it to the people, unless he had that God-contact put in there. That's why he is such a great saint of India.

Then in our present time, we have Gandhi. Gandhi also was a great saint, because he, too, felt the One Father. Because of the Love of the One Father, he realized that some of the tenets of the ancient Vedas – of which he was a great follower, great admirer of Buddha, and a follower of Hinduism – he realized that some of those tenets had been degenerated into obnoxious practices, and he speaks out as such. But he didn't forget that still, underneath, are those Eternal Verities. He spoke against untouchability. He said it was repugnant to reason, and love, and mercy. We know that. These things happen in all countries. But predominantly India has not forgotten, forgotten the Eternal Verities, the One Eternal God.

And he also spoke about the caste system. He said the caste system needs to die. But if you follow the real meaning of the caste system, Dharana, these are divisions of labor, that's all. I certainly couldn't, I couldn't do certain things, and you can't do certain things. So labor is divided according to the best interest of the country. That's what the real caste system is.

And then also the sacrificing of animals – Gandhi has spoke against that. But that doesn't mean that he did not have the Real Love of God underneath which the proof of which we find is his nonviolence. Think, think how much he realized the oneness of God to say, "Do not resist." Think of how much he was one with God, and represented India's true spirit, when he could put forth and promulgate nonviolence. And what happened? India got her freedom.

I remember the Master used to say "The freedom of India is coming, it's coming." Years ago he used to say this. I believe it is recorded in one of the magazines. "When it comes, how it's coming, I don't know, but it's coming," he said. And sure enough, while he was here even, he saw India attain freedom through nonviolence.

So that's why God Loves India so much, because She has kept alive those Eternal Verities and has felt God even in all conditions – religious, even in politics – as Gandhi promulgated. God Loves India, that's why India has a Spiritual brilliance.

Now going on just a bit to another point which I wanna bring out, which is very important and which perhaps sometimes we might overlook. It is this. India and the Priceless Heritage which She has, because She gave something practical – She gave a way to work to attain God-contact – She gave a practical method

whereby each and every one could contact God, and she put into operation that method. She didn't just talk about it. She put that method into operation. A practical way, whereby each and every one can contact God, and she did it through yoga.

Do you understand now? Isn't that being true to God, by thinking out a way whereby people can contact him? Not just following the outward form of religion, as Nations do, the religion of the State that's been handed down from the generations. That isn't doing something really for God. But India did something really for God by giving to the world yoga. It means union. She gave yoga which, by which, each and every one of God's children can attain God-contact and thereby really love God. It is very important.

That's why, one of the reasons why India has survived, because she was working practically, for God, in a practical way, in a pragmatic way. She gave something whereby people could contact God. Not just following hearsay, following the tenets of a religion that's handed down. No. She gave them a practical way whereby they could contact God. That's why God Loves India, because She gave something real, that people could use in the form of yoga.

From the Autobiography, I have read this passage, which I think would interest you. You know, people, you hear them say, "Well, yoga is for the Indians and the Hindus and all those people, but, but not for the Americans. No, no, you can't do this here." As much to say: "That there's lots of trouble in India, and they have, down on the lower level they need all that stuff. We are superior." But I think we have lots of trouble here, don't you?

Someone told me the other day, he said, – I hope I get it straight now – "A neurotic is one who builds castles in the air; a psychopath is one who lives in this castle; and the psychiatrist is the one who collects the rent." So, here we are in America. But isn't that so? There's a lot of you going to psychiatrists. That's all right, if you have to get the start that way; but end up, for heaven sakes, in God. He's behind the psychiatrist, and through yoga, we get God-contact. Do you see the difference? Psychiatry's all right, but its means are limited. But yoga takes you to God. Understand this. Yoga takes you to God, gives you union with God. Hold that. That's far superior to psychiatry, because psychiatry usually deals with the mind, and the mind is a ray of the Intuition of the Soul. Yoga gives you contact with the Soul. So let us remember that little story, and realize yoga, which is taught by Self-Realization Fellowship, is the greatest thing that we can have. Because, if we follow it, with devotion and loyalty, you will have

contact with the One Supreme Father, the Living Father, the Father of all, the Father of ancient India, ages ago. That's the same Father that you will feel, right now, if you sit down and contact Him. Isn't that wonderful? That's why India is alive, and has been kept alive, because She didn't forget the Giver, and besides that, and absorbed in the gifts.

And so, this is the part I was going to read you from the Autobiography. "In contradistinction to western philosophy..." this is very important, "all six systems of Hindu philosophy embody not only the theoretical, but practical teachings..." now remember that – practical teachings, "...aimed at the permanent removal of suffering and the attaining of timeless bliss."<sup>4</sup> (Sic) That's wherein the philosophy of India differs from Western philosophy. Do you understand? It gives you the practical method of contact, the end result of philosophy, which is Union with God. The Indian system gives you the ways and the means.

And so, that brings us to the ancient avatars of India, the categories in which they are classed, whereby they gave to the people the practical way, whereby they can contact God. Krishna, Krishna, Vyasa, Krishna of the Bhagavad Gita – 1500 B.C. Vyasa, who wrote the Bhagavad Gita,<sup>5</sup> who was Arjuna; and there as you read the Gita you will find there, you will find the practical way whereby you can contact this One God which has kept India alive and kept Her, Her survival before.

And then coming down through the different saints and sages which have kept this alive – remember now, and have given something practical to the people, through yoga – we find the Great Patanjali, Second Century B.C., the Father, the Father of the Yogis; Sutras, Yoga Sutras,<sup>6</sup> and Eight Steps of Yoga, which we

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, Chapter 24, "In contradistinction to Western philosophies, all six Hindu systems embody not only theoretical but practical teachings. In addition to every conceivable ontological inquiry, the six systems formulate six definite disciplines aimed at the permanent removal of suffering and the attainment of timeless bliss."

<sup>5</sup> "The **Bhagavad Gita** (Sanskrit भगवद् गीता, *Bhagavad Gītā*, "Song of God") is an important Sanskrit Hindu scripture. It is revered as a sacred scripture of Hinduism, and considered as one of the most important religious classics of the world. The Bhagavad Gita is a part of the *Mahabharata*, comprised of 700 verses. The teacher of the Bhagavad Gita is Krishna, who is regarded by the Hindus as the supreme manifestation of the Lord Himself, and is referred to within as Bhagavan—the divine one. The Bhagavad Gita is commonly referred to as **The Gita** for short."

<sup>6</sup> The **Yoga Sutras of Patanjali** is a foundational text of Yoga. It forms part of the corpus of Sutra literature dating to India's Mauryan period. In Indian philosophy, Yoga (also *Raja Yoga* to distinguish it from later schools) is the name of one of the six orthodox philosophical schools. Though brief, the Yoga Sutras are an enormously influential work on yoga philosophy and practice, held by principal proponents of yoga such as [Iyengar](#) (1993: p.xiii) as being of principal importance:

practice in Self-Realization Fellowship. There are a few, and Lord Shankara. Lord Shankara carried it to the extreme, because he not only said, "Thou and I never apart," as some of these, as Patanjali has said; but he said, "I am He, I am He, blessed Spirit I am He."

So you can see, throughout the ages the saints of India have kept this, this Eternal Verity alive, inculcated in the Spirit of India. Coming down to our own time, we find perhaps, the Great Krishna, now as Babaji, has given the practical way of God-contact to the world. And just one more reference, from the Master's Autobiography about that one thing; and this is why India, remember now, has kept alive this Spiritual Treasure. This is the method She has used, and that's why God Loves India, because She worked practically for Him, She didn't forget Him. Even though She forgot the outward things, the things of matter, and the advancement in material things; even though She forgot that – do you see the point – She didn't forget God. That's why India is alive and active today.

And so, the way She did it was to give the practical method of yoga to Her people. And now it is coming to us. And we read on 2, on page 244 of the Autobiography, about Kriya Yoga, an ancient science, which Lahiri Mahasaya received from his guru, Babaji, and who rediscovered, who rediscovered and clarified the technique after it had been lost in the Dark Ages. Even though the yoga was lost in the dark ages, still, India has kept it alive, and now it is revived in our time. And so we read: "The Kriya Yoga which I am giving to the world through you in the nineteenth century," said the great Krishna, as Babaji, to Lahiri Mahasaya, "is a revival of the same science which Krishna gave millenniums ago to Arjuna, and which was later known to Patanjali, and to Christ, St. John, St. Paul and other disciples." (Sic)

So that's why India is alive, She has done that, She has kept it alive. Jesus went to India. Why? Because there was something real in India, something practical, something which he had to have. He went there as you have read in Nicholas Notovich's work, "The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ." No doubt he went to India. Why? To contact that Spiritual Treasure of India. There are other reasons, which I will not go into. But for the purpose of this morning's discussion of "India's Priceless Heritage," Jesus went to India for one reason – to contact that Priceless Heritage that he might come and give it to others. And that is why his

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<sup>7</sup> Op. Cit. Autobiography, Chapter 26, "The *Kriya Yoga* which I am giving to the world through you in this nineteenth century," Babaji told Lahiri Mahasaya, "is a revival of the same science which Krishna gave, millenniums ago, to Arjuna, and which was later known to Patanjali, and to Christ, St. John, St. Paul, and other disciples."

disciples, without question of a doubt, had the knowledge of yoga, the practical ways of God-contact, which had been kept alive in India. So let us realize that.

Now in our present time – then we'll be through – considering “India's Priceless Heritage” and world conditions now, the Vice-President of India was here a couple of years ago, and he said this to Radakrishnan; he said that India receives everyone. India takes in everyone. There's room for all in India. In spite of all Her over-population She takes in all. And that great religion of India, that great feeling of the Oneness of God's Love, All-inclusive Love, All-pervading Love, which India's kept alive, that changes them, and they become one with India's religion. That's how India has worked and that's why India has kept alive. She has not kept people out; She has not reserved that for Herself. She's given to all. And what is the result? Their own religions drop off, and they feel the One Underlying Verity, that Bliss of God. Isn't that wonderful? That shows the real Spirit of India, in spite of all the other things which you hear.

And then, finally, politically, India can contribute mightily to the ideals of the world, peace and brotherhood in God. India can contribute mightily in a political way by inculcating in all Her political dealings, this wonderful Spiritual Heritage which She has; that Spiritual Heritage, which She has kept alive. If She inculcates that in Her political dealings with other nations of the world, then I'm sure the world will be a better place, and the Peace of God will come, and brotherhood, real brotherhood will come amongst us.

Now, as long as we have this outward consciousness, we will have trouble. We have paradoxes, injustices, and unexplainable conditions. But by following the ideal, which India has kept alive, Universal Brotherhood will come in a different way, because peace will not come in the duality of outward consciousness. It's contrary to its nature. It's like oil and water will not mix. So, we will not have peace and brotherhood in outward consciousness. How will you have it? You'll have it in the One Underlying Bliss of God within.

Now, those who feel that and contact that, then they are joined together in the One Universal Brotherhood of God's Presence as Bliss, in spite of outward consciousness of delusion. Remember that. You do not have to stay in it by being attached to it. But by following the tenets of Self-Realization, which India has given to us here, we can lift our consciousness, or rather, supersede it, by the One Great Love of God, which India has kept alive. That's where you'll find Universal Brotherhood. You won't find it in this worldly consciousness. Look about you, do you see it? But those who are clinging to God, the way India has

clung to God throughout the ages, by following the testimony of Her saints and sages, they will find within themselves that One Eternal, Ever-living Spirit of God.

And you will know Him by feeling within yourselves His Great Bliss and His Joy. That's why, that's why the Master is so wonderful, and why we love him so much. Because he gave us the way to follow God wherever you may be; whereby each and every one of us can get out of this duality of consciousness with all its troubles and delusion and we can join and commune, as we do in these services in the One Underlying Verity, which India has preserved, the Great Love of the One Eternal Father. And you will know it by the Bliss of your heart.