

HINDUISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Gaura Krishna

(Mars 1999)

Wars of religions have never stopped poisoning the world and continue to poison it. Millions of human beings have been killed in the name of God and in the name of Allah. At the dawn of a new millennium, when objective knowledge, brought by science, has pulled down number of dogmas, but also when dazzling egoism has taken hold of the world, would it not be suitable to look into what could bring together all the human brothers of this little blue planet, tiny fragment of dust on looking at the universe?

First of all, we must precise that, here, we do not see Hinduism or Christianity in the sense of religion as a set of dogmas like we can see them today, but that we have to go back to the very emergence of these two thoughts, to take off all the clothes that have cover them since then, in order to try to come back to the very essence of each one and to their true foundation, therefore making

a clean sweep of all dogmas with which they have been dressed up in the course of time.

It is in this way that we must not mistake Christianity for the religions that are born from it. By Christianity, we mean Christ's teachings, Jesus' teachings, mainly known through the texts of the said canonical Gospels (and we have not to just stop at these gospels), and not the teachings of what is called the Church, which was born, apart Saul from Tarsus (who was not a direct disciple of Jesus), mainly from the Emperor Constantine after 300. Therefore, the question cannot be any religious quarrel, but, on the contrary, a more historical study, more scientific, more objective.

In the same way, we will not consider Hinduism as what presently appears externally, but by taking off the different clothes with which it has been covered. And, to begin with it, the first thing to do is to take off the first clothe that is his name. The name 'Hinduism' has harmed it a lot and continues to do so, because it has narrowed it, put it at the level of a particular religion among others, 'kitchen religion' as Swami Rama Tirtha would say, when such is not the case. This name of 'Hinduism' still makes people who don't know it be mistaken about it and they are brought to judgments that would not be uttered even by children primary stage children. The name of 'Hinduism' has even done and continues to do that Hindus themselves narrow 'their' religion, notably when they use the term 'Hindu dharma », what would tend to mean that there are

several dharmas, among which the Hindu one, what is in absolute contradiction with the very bases of Hinduism.

It is therefore more than necessary, to get a right, correct and upright understanding, to precise that the word 'Hindu' is not a Hindu word, but that it has become so only with time. Actually, 'Hindu' is a Persian word. Many Sanskrit words have been conveyed to Persian, and the similarities are numerous between Vedas and Zend Avesta. In many words, the Sanskrit 's' has become 'h' in Persian. For instance, the Sanskrit 'asura' became 'ahura' (as in Ahura Mazda). Let us cite again: Yajna become Yasna, Safta become Hafta, Dasyu become Dahyu, Sa become Ha, Kesri become Kehri, Sarasvati become Harhvati, etc... Thus, the term 'Hindu' comes from the word 'sindu', the 'sindhu' being the one who lived on the other side of the Sind (today Indus). Thus, Persians named those that we name Indians today with the name 'sindu': those who live beyond the Sind.. Therefore, the word 'hindu', historically, does not indicate any religious belonging. And in this, all people that live presently in Bharat, whatever their religion, could be qualified as Hindus. 'Amazing', will you say, however such is the case.

The true Sanskrit name of Hinduism is " sanatana dharma ", which means 'the eternal law'. But here also we have to take care. Of course, 'law' must not be understood as 'law created by men', but really in the sense of 'Cosmic Law', 'Scientific Law of the

Universe'. The law that makes the Universe to appear, to move and to disappear is, actually, an eternal law; this law that science tries to approach, tiny step by tiny step. And, in this sense, it could also be said that what science tries to understand is, nor more no less, than Hinduism. Amazing, will you say... however such is the case.

Of course, the question is not to discuss here about the religion that is called 'Hindu religion', but to understand rightly what has to be understood by Hinduism, in the same way it is necessary to understand rightly that what is meant by Christianity cannot be something else than 'Christ's teachings'. And then, one has to see in what both can differ. Before coming to this point, it must be clear, now, that Hinduism is not an actual religion, but that it is the Religion, if one wants to use this term. But, in the same way, it could also be called 'Science', what, actually and ontologically, comes to the same thing. For, for the word 'religion', it is advisable to define it again, so much this word is damaged now. The word 'religion' comes for the Latin 're-ligare', which means 'to connect, to tie together'. But to connect what with what? To connect again man with his Being. And if the question is to connect it again, therefore this means that it was connected in the beginning but that it has been disconnected. Semantics is very interesting, in that it has the advantage to understand. Actually, is it not the teaching of the Genesis, as well as the teachings of Sanatana Dharma? Such is the first, and so much important common point.

Another particular thing: What is meant by 'yoga'? What is the meaning of this word? It comes from the Sanskrit root 'yuj', meaning 'to attach, to bind, to connect' ! Thus, religion and yoga are terms that are totally synonyms!

Here we are in a time when West deserts churches and when more and more people turn towards Hinduism or Buddhism (which, let us remain, is not a particular religion, but a branch of Hinduism, Buddha having not (the same as Jesus) created any religion.) And a time when, in countries where most citizens are Hindus, people convert to Christianity! As the great Indian sage Yogi Ramsuratkumar says: "All of us will become Christians, and all of them will become Hindus! However, the reason of the first is at the opposite of the other. Westerners' attraction to eastern religions comes from a void that they meet in themselves and, therefore, from a real inner search, when, in the other direction, it is more a question of imitation of West and a question of absolute ignorance of their own religion. However, it could also be said that the desertion from the churches in West is due to the fact that they only know the Church and that they are ignoring Christianity.

Thus, in both cases, it can be put forward that conversion comes only from an ignorance of one's own religion. And it is there that it is interesting to go further.

First, people have an historical ignorance, in West because, very often, it has been hidden from them. And, presently, it is in good taste to do 'intellectual' by systematically denigrating the bases of Christianity. We see many theories rising about the non-existence of Jesus as a person. It is true that the quite contemporary historical relations are rather meagre. It is also true, for instance, that at Jesus time Nazareth was not existing and that it becomes difficult to understand that it is spoken of « Jesus from Nazareth » ! Il est vrai aussi par exemple qu'à l'époque de Jésus Nazareth n'existait pas et qu'il devient alors difficile de comprendre qu'on dise " Jésus de Nazareth ! " However, there too, it may be also a translating mistake and that one has to understand 'Jesus the Nazarene'? Scientists have even gone as far as refuting the Turin Shroud, qualifying it as a fraud after a Carbon 14 test.! Scientists from the British Museum! And this when all the international studies, particularly by scientists from NASA etc... all of them and without any doubt, resulted in the obviousness that the Shroud was really Jesus' shroud. Negating the Shroud was negating an historical proof of Jesus' existence. And, of course, media have sounded the bugle: it's a fake, it's a fake. Since, it has been proved that the test was fraudulent. However, to make this be known, no bugle has been put at the mouth again! The Shroud, sublime historical proof, not only proves the existence, but also the Passion of Jesus as it is narrated in the Gospels, what, therefore, would run in the sense of a proof of the latter.

But, when the Church itself has not fought to make the authenticity of the relic be recognised, it has, since a century, hidden another part of the story. And what a part! The most important! Christians don't worry at all when they see that, in the Gospel, one passes from Jesus at 12 to Jesus at 30 from a sentence to the following one! The sentence that makes the transition is the vaguest it is possible to write and it is given by Luke: "And he was growing in strength and wisdom". And lo, at the following sentence Jesus is 30. Nobody takes any care of knowing what he became between 12 and 30! Nobody! Is it not then, between 12 and 30, that a man becomes a man? However none seems to consider that this has any importance.

Assumptions, weird most of the time, have tried to come up with an answer, of course. Books have been written about "Jesus the Essene", etc. Now, it is known that Jesus was in India, known with the name of Isha (or Issa). We know that many people will kick. However it is not possible to say something against, and it is time to shout this truth, known since a century. The Church has done everything to prevent the spreading of Notovich's writings, as well as the Gospel of Levi, to speak of them only. Here and there, of course, one continues to shout it is false, like even ultras in India. The route of Jesus is known. Crossing Persia, then Sindh, then arriving at Jagannath Puri, then Varanasi, Bihar, Tibet, etc. Which Catholic would be able to imagine Jesus as a Yogi Hindu Master ?

Two of the main 'laws' of life that sanatana dharma expresses are, on one hand the law of karma, which, in scientific terms, is stated like this : 'very action brings about a reaction', and on the other hand the law of reincarnation, without which everything becomes absurd and which, everywhere, is proved by Nature. The different ecclesiastical councils have erased the statement of both these laws from Jesus' teachings. However, they are well and truly stated in the Gospel.

"Not an iota of the law will pass", "who kills by the sword will perish by the sword." As for reincarnation, one knows that the Old Testament ends with Malachi who announces the future reincarnation of Elijah. And one finds in Jesus' mouth: 'John, he is Elijah, who had to come back.'" Again, one finds this word to Nicodeme: « One must be born again from the water and from the spirit ... what? You are doctor of the law and you even don't know this?"

But for sure the most important teaching is the Vedantic teaching repeated by Jesus. Vedanta tells us that God, Brahman, is our very being and that, to reach that realisation, we have to kill our ego. Let us listen to Jesus: "The Kingdom of God is within yourself". Again: "You must be perfect as your Celestial Father is perfect". And again: 'Who wants to become like Me (who am like my Father), let him renounce himself.' So, Jesus clearly indicates the same teaching: that every human being is able to become as Him, one with the Father, one with God. He teaches the unity of all,

notably with the well-known sentence: "Love your neighbour as yourself". The translation is not totally correct. How would it have been possible for Jesus to say that man must love his neighbour as much as he loves himself?! It is however what is understood, when the true sense is «Love your neighbour as (being) yourself – love your neighbour because your neighbour is yourself.»

It is particular that Hinduism recognizes easily Jesus as a Divine incarnation, when Christian sects don't recognize neither Rama nor Krishna, not any other avatar! For the Hindu, the true Christianity is a family of Hinduism, as well as Buddhism is, the fundamental teaching is the same. Jesus himself expresses the Vedic sentence: "Truth is one, sages name it with diverse names", with the word: "There are several houses in my Father's place." Everything in the Gospel is purely Vedantic, and it is not possible to find one word that would not be purely 'Hindu', that is to say 'universal'.

It would be possible to quote many other examples, like the description of the Kali Yuga, to make the comparison between Puranas and Matthew's Gospel (chp. 24) for instance. But, moreover, Jesus adds some words about the proliferation of sects, typical of the Kali Yuga when man is lost and when he does not find his way any more : « Take care that nobody seduces you, for many will come in, my name saying : 'I'm the Christ', and they will seduce many. » We are in the middle of this schema. "You will hear about wars and

noises of war, take care of not been disturbed, for everything has to happen." This last sentence: "Everything has to happen » refers to the Cosmic Law: even these wars and these troubles are written in the evolution of the Earth. "Nation will make a stand against another one, kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in different locations. » And one finds: « You will be hated by everybody because of my name. ». In this time of Kali Yuga, all values are reversed, ugly is called beautiful, lie and corruption are kings. « Iniquity will prevail. » Puranas and Gospel fit with each other on all points in the description of the Kali Yuga.

Kali Yuga, in which we are, is an age of ignorance, and it is a pity to see Hindus ignoring their religion, as Christians ignoring their, and to see that both are stuck to blind creeds and dogmas that, since long, have given rise to a terrible division when it is about the same Law. At the time of Christ, this separation between Christians, Hindus and others did not exist. All of them respected each other, knowing that they expressed the same thing but that they just used different terms ("Truth is one, sages name it with different names"). Thus, Magi from Persia came at the time of avatar Jesus' birth. We must tell it, but it is churches and sects that, like in all times, have divided to rule, to reach power and wealth. The history of the Catholic Church is absolutely striking in this. Jesus' message is a message of Love: "Love each other", but the Church has gone as far as to the Inquisition, to torture, to the slaughter of civilisations in

all continents. And presently, one finds sects that are pullulating, taking profit of the ignorance of people to amass fortunes on Swiss accounts.

But it is certainly the Prologue of John's Gospel that, true Upanishad, shows the identity of both conceptions of creation, of the manifestation of the Word. There is there a total identity between Christianity and Veda. "In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... and the Word has made Itself flesh." The identity is absolute, even if, here, only initiates are able to understand these words, and even if Vedanta goes in details.

If Hindus and Christians were less ignorant, they would see the obviousness, that is to say that Hinduism and Christianity are one and the same religion.

Actually, what Jesus rejected was the vertical casteist notion and Brahmanism, he has always rejected this vertical division, in the same way that every true Hindu rejects it. The acceptance of castes in a vertical way is in a total opposition with Hinduism, and however how many so-called 'Hindus' are living with it! This, all his life long, all along his teachings, Jesus has vilified. In Israel, his words against priests, Pharisees, etc. are very hard. But the so-called Christians, the Catholics, have made use of these words without applying them to themselves, but in applying them to Jews (one saw the straw in the other's eye but not the beam in theirs). What would Jesus say now! Everything is summarized

in this word, which is found in Thomas' Gospel (logion 39) : "Jésus said: 'Pharisees and scribes have taken the keys of Knowledge and have hidden them. Not only they have not come in, but they let only enter those who wanted. But you, be prudent like snakes and pure like doves. » It is a résumé, done by Jesus, of what makers of churches and sects have done: not only they don't understand, but they prevent others to understand, for instance by doctoring the Gospel and by removing from it all the part that concerns Jesus' youth. Many would say that everything has been built on a lie. However sects cannot last long, when the Cosmic Law, who could go against?

Presently, one attend to two tendencies: the first is the desertion from 'official' churches in West and to the multiplication of sects. In order to try to preserve economically its market, the Church is trying to convert masses in East. Its attempts in North-Eastern India, often in the way of bandits, are well-known. Sects are pullulating and they milk naives and credulous. More and more Westerners who are true seekers of Truth turn to Hinduism.

Why? Because they have not correctly assimilated the teachings of Christianity, which have been truncated. For they would find exactly the same. True Hinduism and true Christianity are but one and the same thing. And this made St Augustine say: "What is called today 'Christian religion' also existed at the time of Elders and has never ceased to exist since the origin of the

human kind, until the time when, Christ having come, one begins to call 'Christian' the 'true religion' that existed before.", and to Swami Vivekananda: "A true Christian is a true Hindu and a true Hindu is a true Christian." What is called 'true' by Augustine is obviously the 'sanatana dharma'. Let us add that 'Christ' being a 'state of being' the state of the realised one, and not a title, Rama, Krishna and others can also be called Christ and therefore Hinduism as well can be named Christian religion ...

So, it is time, at the dawn of the third millennium when science will continue to sweep dogmas and superstitions away, for men to become aware of this fact: Hinduism and Christianity are but one and the same religion, both of them have been covered with different clothes and garments, most of the time with power and money in view. They have to become aware that Jesus' teaching has been totally truncated by the Church, councils after councils, and that, presently, Hindus have really little to see with true Hinduism. But, as Sri Ramakrishna said, a time will come when all religions will see their clothes taken away and when only SANATANA DHARMA will remain.