



A THEOLOGIST INFLUENCED BY HINDUISM

Read In Hindi

<http://www.vedpradip.com/articlecontent.php?aid=430&linkid=1&catid=&subcatid=0&vedid=5>

Eight years ago, when I was working in the field of herbal medicines as an advisor, I first met Dr. Fraule. He was in India as an adviser for some company in the US. He wanted some herbal medicines. In a discussion with him, I first realized his deep and thorough knowledge of Ayurveda. At that time, I asked him, "How did you get attracted to Ayurveda?" Then he told me, while studying Vedas he read Atharva Veda and thus got attracted towards Ayurveda. This answer of him puzzled me. Second discussion with him was in Pondichery and at that time Dr. Fraule's character slowly to open in front of me.

This person who was then less than 40 years of age was attracted to the Ayurveda through medium of Vedas. It means that he had studied the entire Vedic literature. While talking the topic came to yogi Arvindji. I realized that Dr. Fraule was more knowledgeable than me on the Vedic study of Yogi Arvindji, his literature on Geeta, and his life. In the evening, he presented me with two English books on spiritual knowledge of Rigveda. After reading those books, I thought this is extremely simple, native man who was free of pride. With natural friendliness towards each other, I invited him to my house in parle.

Ideal Hindu lifestyle: When Dr. Fraule came to my house, he made it clear that he was a pure vegetarian and that he did not require anything special. Next morning, he got up, had a bath with cold water, and started with his mediation and Yoga. After this, he was chanting hymns of Shankaracharya. While talking to him, I remembered complicated Sanskrit hymns. He said those are from, Taittiriya Upnishadhas and he took out those books and showed me the hymns I was talking about. As our thought processes came closer, he told me that Swami Vivekananda, Swami Ramteertha, Yogi Arvindji and Raman Maharishi are his gods. He started, "I am not only curious about Hindu spiritualism, but I have also accepted Hindu lifestyle and fidelity system and also am a Hindu by heart." Our relations got closer and we became friends. He came to India every year. The horizons of our conversations widened. I organized his speeches in Mumbai and Pune. His knowledge was appreciated everywhere. And he became a part of our family.

Temple in the house: In July 1989, I had gone to America in connection with the herbal medicine business. He invited me to a village called Salla in New Mexico. I was there for four days. At that time, I had a chance to see Hinduism. I stayed in his house and there were idols of Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesha, Laxmi etc.

He performed their Pooja daily, on a regular basis. He life was simplicity itself. He earned his living through Astrology, as described in the Vedas (it is one of the subordinate branches of the Vedas.) It was in his nature to earn only as much as was needed. He spent most of his time studying and researching the Patanjala Yoga and the Ayurveda, and writing about Vedic literature. Like ekalavya, he carried out all of this study and research completely on his own, wholly relying on his own natural gifts of talent and interlligence.

Abundant Creation of Literature: At a relatively young age of thirty two, his first original book "The Creative Vision in the Upanishads" was published. One of the main features of this book was that, in a separate chapter, he had expostulated in detail that the language form of hymns. The real core of the philosophical thoughts set forth in the Upanishadas cannot be really understood merely with a word-to-word translation. That was his understanding, and it is accurate. His second book is about the Rig-Veda. He has explained the very innermost, hidden meaning of the Ruchas of the Rig-Veda in this book. The talent and intelligence experience in this book have been compared with the insight of Yogi Arvinda by the critics. His two books "From The river of Heaven – Ayurvedic Healing" and "The Yoga of Herbs" were published in the America. He requested me to write the foreword. "Ayurvedic Healing." I consider this an honor, and I wrote the foreword.

This year, Voice of India, a New Delhi based publishing house published a collection of many of his articles about Hinduism, titled "Arjuna, Yuddhasathi Jaga Ho" (Arise, Arjuna, and Fight), two books on Hinduism, and a thesis titled "Aryanche Aakraman – An Aadal Asatya" (Invasion of the Aryans – A Total Myth). Within just 13 years, Dr. Fraule has written over a dozen books, a few thousand pages. He has also written many articles about Yoga, as well as about a number of other subjects, in a number of periodicals. All of these have been hailed in America and Europe. In India as well, a number of editions of some of his books ah e been published by the Motilal Banarasi Das publishers of New Delhi.

Into The Intellectual Fray About Hinduism: Communist intellectuals of the Jawaharlal Nehru University have attempted to established that, since the Aryans were aggressors who came from foreign lands and invaded India, India simply cannot have been a Hindu nation in the past. This propaganda has become especially sharper and venomous since the Ram Janmabhumi campaign.

Dr. Fraule has accepted this challenge. Through articles written in many Indian and American periodicals, as well as his lectures in India and America, he has proved the historical fact, that the Aryans were from India, and this has been the homeland of Hindus since ages. He has formed and organization of intellectual luminaries and scholars such as Prof. Subhash Kak and Dr. Navratna Rajaram, in America. His research and evaluation has been highly acclaimed and accepted at university levels. The centenary of Swami Vivekanand's world famous lecture in the conference of all religions was celebrated in American cities like Washington Chicago, etc. Commemorating his occasion, a conference on "Global Vision" was held, and Dr. Fraule was one of the Chief speakers. While this conference was in progress, a number Indian Communists criticized organizations supporting Hinduism as "Fundamentalists." Some demonstrations were also organized. Dr. Fraule gave a fitting reply to this propaganda through his article "Hindus Can Never Be Fundamentalists", published in American newspapers.

For his scholarly research, studies and original works, last year, Dr. Fraule was honored with the "Veda Vyas" and "Lokamanya Tilak" awards by the International Institute of Indian Studies of New Delhi. In 1981, Under the auspices of Shri Avadhoot Shastri, who is the editor of the monthly "Arya Bhaskar" published by the Masurashram in Goregaon, Mumbai, Dr. Fraule duly, formally accepted the Hindu religion. With his entry into the intellectual battlefield about Hinduism, doubtless a very able, highly intellectual, thinking crusader has arrived, whose avowed goal is to firmly defend and support the Hindu philosophy. It is his firm belief that some time in the future, Hindu philosophy will be accepted wholeheartedly by the whole world, as the universal religion.

Dr. Fraule is a scholar who studies the Vedas and leads a spiritual life. But at the same time, he is well aware of the present problems of the Hindu community, their social problems, the animosities present in various religious and ethnic groups in India, the anti Hindu forces at work, etc. In his collection of articles titled, "Arjuna, Yuddhasathi Jaga Ho", he has expressed deep regrets at the current trend of westernization of the Hindu mind. As far as Ram Janmabhumi is concerned, his beliefs and conclusions are quite similar to those expressed by Nirad Chaudhuri and V. S. Naipaul. There is no point in hiding or diluting the historical fact, that for hundred of years in the past, Muslims destroyed thousands of Hindu temples, forcibly converted countless Hindus to Islam, and carried out barbarian atrocities against Hindus.

Now, the Muslims themselves should understand the Hindu mindset and try to solve the dispute over the Ram Janmabhumi. After having sustained all kinds of injustice and atrocities, the Hindus are bound to explode. He thinks it is a good, encouraging sign that Hindu self-respect and self esteem is reasserting itself. Illustrious men like Swami Vivekananda and Yogi Arvinda have

praised and explained the inborn greatness of Hinduism. They say time and again, that rather than blindly following the Western culture, Hindus should think about and remember their own great culture. "Garva Se Kaho Hum Hindu Hain." (We are Hindus and proudly say so). This pronouncement does not exhibit you narrow-mindedness regarding your religion; on the contrary, this is the proclamation of the all-encompassing greatness of Hinduism, and this proclamation was made by Swami Vivekananda, although in another context. It is for the Hindus to understand this viewpoint in a better way. Dr. Fraule has expounded these views repeatedly in his articles and books.

I remember one incident. In 1981, Shiv Sena chief Mr. Balasaheb Thackeray was honored with the Brahmachari Vishwanathji Award. Speaking in that ceremony, I had said that Mr. Thackeray has originated the slogan "Garva Se Kaho Hum Hindu Hain" for Hindus. Mr. Thackeray had then interrupted my speech, and explained to me that this proclamation was originated by Swami Vivekananda. The origin of proactive, warlike Hinduism of Mr. Balasaheb Thackeray, thus, is in the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda. Dr. Fraule, through his collection of articles "Arjuna, Yuddhasathi Jaga Ho", has invoked this same warlike Hinduism. Lord Krishna has told that, to keep enduring all kinds of injustice and atrocities is no indication of manliness; one just fight for justice. It is highly appropriate that Vedacharya Vamdev Shastri, who has been reiterating this message of Lord Krishna, and who is completely at one with all the pleasures and pains of Hindus, is being awarded the Brahmachari Vishwanathji Memorial Award.

