

Jayaguru
Nilachala Saraswata Sangha
Branch: America Saraswata Sangha
Program for Young Aspirants' Session

Date: July 25, 2010

Time: 11:15am-11:40am (**Eastern**)/10:15am-10:40am (**Central**)/08:15am-08:40am (**Pacific**)/
3:15pm - 3:40pm (**GMT**)

Phone Number - 1-218-936-1100 Access Code – 62719#,
Backup Number – 1-218-936-1200 Access Code: 52924878

	Topic		Time
1	Pranam and opening of the curtain (Bhaba Bandhana...)	All	11:15 – 11:16
2	Shri Guru Pranam - Short Stotra Bandana	All	11:16 – 11:18
3	Introduction	Bijoy Bhai	11:18 – 11:20
4	Reading – The division of caste or the Caste system in Hinduism	Gyan Bhai	11:20 – 11:30
5	Discussion and Q & A	Gyan Bhai	11:30 – 11:35
6	Song	Shreya	11:35 – 11:40
7	Bhaba Binimaya	Bhakti	11:40 – 11:41
8	Invitation for the next session – 07-04-10	Sanat	11:41 – 11:42
9	Beg for forgiveness for any mistakes	Bhakti	11:42 – 11:43
10	Last Song (Dayamaya Shricharane)	Bhakti	11:43 – 11:44
11	Pranam, Jayaguru Nama Kirtan and closing of Curtain	All	11:44 – 11:45

Beginning Prarthana:

Bhaba Bandhana Mochana Pujoyabaram
Gunahinamasesha Gunadhipatim
Bhaba-bhirujane Satatam Baradam
Pranamami Gurum Siva Kalpatarum

Shri Guru Pranam:

Om Brahmanandam parama sukhadam kevalam jnanamurtim
Dvandatitam gagana sadrisam tattvamasyadi laksyam
Ekam nityam vimalamachalam sarvadhi saksibhutam
Bhavatitam trigunarahitam sadgurum tam namami.

Invitation:

Jayaguru. I invite Shri Shri Thakura, all the young aspirants, their parents and other members of America Saraswat Sangha to our next session to be held on Sunday, August 1, 2010 at 11:15 eastern time.

Beg for forgiveness for any mistakes:

Jayaguru. On behalf of all the young aspirants of America Saraswat Sangha, I beg for forgiveness from Shri Shri Thakur for any mistakes that we might have made.

Division of Caste or the Caste System in Hinduism

People from other religions generally think of Hindus as ignorant and full of superstition as they observe the prevalence of caste system. There are also some in India who are trying to abolish the caste system in order to bring order to eating, living and merry-making. These short-sighted individuals are not able to understand the great intention behind the caste system in Hinduism. They think that Hindus have created many societal issues and difficulties by adopting a caste system based on falsehood. However, Hinduism says “In the beginning there was no division based on caste, everything was full of Brahman.” Then “difference in caste was created later based on the work people did. In the Gita, Shri Krishna has said, “ I have created the four castes based on the division of labor and predominance of quality in people.”¹

It is seen that through the caste of an individual one can recognize someone’s way of work and predominant quality. As written in the ninth Sukta of the tenth Mandala of Rig-Veda – “The Brahmins or priests are created from the mouth, the Kshetriya or warriors are created from the arms, the Vaishya or the business people are created from the thighs and the Sudras or the servicemen are created from the feet of the Virat Pususha or supreme God”.

The meaning of the above quote from Rig-Veda is that the Brahmins represent the mouth of the supreme God’s representation, the Universe by being very studious, acquiring knowledge and learning and teaching the humans in the universe. The warriors are strong and full of power or muscle representing the arms of the society. The business people on a day-to-day basis do a lot of work for the society; hence they represent the thighs of the society. The serviceman provides service or become servant of the society, thus representing the feet of the society. Another way; to teach or impart knowledge is oral work hence Brahmins represent mouth. Fighting and war need strength or muscle power hence warriors represent arms. Working in the fields and running businesses requires hard-work of the thighs of the legs hence the Vaishya represent the thighs. Finally, bending down to serve others at their feet is like the feet hence the Sudras or servicemen are the feet of the society. Thus it is clear that the Hindu society has accepted the system of caste based on the predominant work that someone does in the society.

¹ Since Sri Krishna the God incarnate said that He has created the division of castes, that system can’t be limited to Hinduism or India alone, other countries also have the division of labor or work. There are four types of people seen in this world based on the work they predominantly perform. One can get to this conclusion by thinking a little. The caste system in India is not seen to be present in the proper way as it is seen and is present in other countries.

The Sadhana or spiritual practices that are done to decay the karma or the results of the Karma are called Swadharma or own natural characteristic. The jeeva attains the true knowledge by decaying the effect of karma and the three inherent qualities. Hence, Hinduism accepts the division of karma based on the eligibility or fitness of a person to perform that Karma. The foundation of Caste system is based on this fitness or eligibility. In most other religion, only one set of religious and spiritual practices are prescribed to everyone following that religion irrespective of their fitness for that process. Thus they become one caste. However, Hinduism accepts and promotes differentiation of fitness of a person based on their profession and predominant quality; thus creating the caste system. In order to keep people's profession and predominant quality separate, Hinduism has created the caste system. Without the caste system, everyone profession and qualities would have been the same. One feels comfortable in discussing the work and his profession with others. If the other person is of different profession, the exchange of the ideas would be difficult. Also, the purity of a profession could be colluded with ideas from another profession. Hence the sages of Hinduism have implemented various rules, regulations and constraints including caste system to preserve the purity of profession and predominant quality. For example, if a soldier and a priest exchange ideas about their professions and start acting based on other persons experience, neither of them can perform their job very well. The only way to understand the reason for caste system is to understand the difference in eligibility of different people.

It is a matter of great regret that some of the weak-minded foolish people have accused the Brahmins of implementing the caste system for their selfish benefits. If selfishness was the root of creating caste system then why are the Brahmins prevented from doing puja and accepting remunerations from the Sudras which is the only way for some Brahmins to make a living? The Brahmins who could have become the emperor of the Universe, why did they spent their time in the jungle, living in small huts and eating fruits from the forest? Is this not the glaring truth and proof of their restrain from greed? They have not fought over any of the luxurious items like jackals and dogs. Is this not proof of their godliness? However, in this ever changing world, every thing changes like a Ferris wheel sooner or later. Thus the Brahmins of present day are consumed by greed. It is seen now that their scion of the Brahmins who led the world in their superior spiritual thinking, are now indulging themselves in telling lies, cheating and stealing. Observing carefully, one can find abject absence of humanity in some of these individuals. The priests and gurus are no better. The action of these self-centered individuals is not the justification against an age-old system.

You might have understood the reason for caste system in Hinduism and how that fulfills a great purpose in Hindu society for their spiritual progress. According to Hinduism, one should perform the spiritual endeavor based on his own ability and quality. Otherwise

it will cause detriment and sin. Even though the work of a Brahmin appears noble, other castes should not attempt to perform those tasks. Doing so does not decay the effect of one's predominant quality and effect of karma. Without the decay in qualities, the effect of the karma and the quality would come back sooner or later. Hence Hinduism keeps the division in karma (work or profession) separate. However, a Hindu knows that the creating of caste system is as much a mirage as the whole wide Universe. In the erroneous and illusory Universe, everything is full of falsehood. Whatever you see, be it the earth full of mountains, rivers and seas or the sky full of stars and galaxies, are all illusion and false. In this unitary universe where Brahman became many, it is false to imagine difference between a human and an animal. Hence the caste system is also only imaginary, is there any doubt about that?

The caste system has been promulgated for the convenience of creating spiritual and religious progress in people with lesser level of eligibility or fitness. People who have achieved the necessary decay in their predominant qualities and effect of Karma, they are not confined by the narrowness of the caste system.