

Neo-Hinduism, a missionary religion

Church Growth Research Centre - Hinduism Introduction

Hinduism to so-called Christians: west, then it was a counter attack to Christian Mission work in India. Moreover he endorsed validity of practice of Shuddhi (re-conversion) and gave tremendous inspiration to re-conversion. Thus the re-conversion was more forceful method used by fundamental Hinduism.⁴

The political consciousness that was started during Bengal renaissance became stronger under the leadership of Vivekananda. There was an idea of new political consciousness among the Hindu intellectuals. They started stirring the sentiments of the mass by combining national thoughts with religious symbols. The notable person in this direction was Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay (1839 - 1896). For his political regeneration and cultural and religious reconstruction were two sides of the same coin.⁵ Having learned by western political philosophy Bankimchandra started attacking both British rulers and Christian missionaries. He considered Vedas and Upanishads are invalid. Then he preferred Puranas and Epics (part of Hindu scriptures) in which heroes like Krishna, Rama provided a model to establish the nation. He aimed at national-cultural regeneration in which patriotism (Svadeshpriya) was considered as highest value. From here on we can see the clear development of fundamental ideologies.¹⁰

From the end of nineteenth century religious activism started shifting from Bengal into western and northern India. The next important movement was Arya Samaj (Society of Noble) in Punjab.

Arya Samaj

Dayananda Saraswati founded Arya Samaj in 1875 at Bombay. His main concern was to purify the religion and reform the society. He started preaching against blind beliefs, idolatry.

⁴ Ibid, p. 204
⁵ C. V. Mahesh, Neo-Hinduism: A Missionary Religion, Madras: Church Growth Research Centre, 1967, pp. 30-32.
¹⁰ Ibid, op. cit., p. 208
¹¹ Ibid, p. 209.

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-Neo-Hinduism, a missionary religion

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Is Hinduism a Pagan Religion?

This entails separation from nature through abstinence of various sorts.

Missionary

After raising a family, a couple is to retire to the forest and become forest dwellers vānaprastha, to facilitate their transition from a life focused on kāma and artha to a life geared towards liberation.

New Tribes Mission

He was educated by Christian missionaries, and wrote a master thesis on Vedānta and ethics.

Hinduism in America

Students meanwhile seemed to develop dual allegiances, one to their rational westernized education and the other to the beliefs of their ancestors, steeped in myths and traditions. Sanskrit was established as the holy language, functioning as the root and model for all the other languages in India, and moreover used in the Vedas, the scriptures binding for all Hindus. Traditional Hinduism's wise sages and noble warriors had fought bravely to stem this anti-Hindu holocaust to the best of their ability, more often than not paying for their bravery with their lives.

Swami Vivekananda.Reform Hinduism, Nationalism and Scientistic Yoga in: Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society Volume 5 Issue 1 (2019)

To carry out their tasks, missionaries have four requirements. An example is 's book, , in which are gathered quotes from the religions of the world that express, for him, the universality of religion by showing the same fundamental Truths are found in each of the world's religions. Additionally, Vedānta is the name for the Brahminic schools in which the Upaniṣads, as the consummation of the Vedic revelation, are accorded the highest rank.

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