



A Foreword

The connoisseur means a good judge, an expert. I take this term in a broader sense. The connoisseur just doesn't stop with writing the judgments; he executes them on his own. He doesn't need any higher authority in this world to approve his executions. He acts as per the will of God. Their actions directly affect the society. Their actions might look intolerable to those who are caught up in the 'trends'. Because, on most occasions, they break old trends and bring new ones, obviously the right ones. Some could influence a few; some could influence a big mass. But they all tried to bring their justice to the society in their own way. It is the intention that counts, the result may be big or small. Here I am going to tell about a few such connoisseurs from the history of India who are known to the society. Needless to say, there have been several trend makers who do their job silently, without getting caught in the eyes of the so called society. I am talking about a few who got down to the society. It's all happen as per the will of God. Indian history has been a subject of spiritual research; only those who work on it would find interesting personalities and the truths behind those personalities.

The word 'Indian culture' here refers to the culture that existed (and still existing) in India, some 5000 years back. I hope it is made clear what I am trying to mean. The culture which we are referring here is the culture of the natives. In





the past two millenniums, many intrusions occurred, many new ideals emerged. Still, the key of the Indian culture is still alive, due to the contributions of connoisseurs like the ones I am going to brief about. Naming all of them is quiet impossible. I had taken just a few of them and had tried to highlight their contributions in minimal words.



Sri Rama and Sri Krishna – the epic heroes

Sri Rama is the hero of the epic Ramayana. He is born as a Kshatriya (warrior or ruler) and lived as an ideal human being, though he expressed his extra ordinary astounding skills at times. He killed the demon king Ravana who maliciously captured his wife Sri Sita and brought her back to Ayodhya, Sri Rama's own kingdom.

Sri Krishna comes in another epic, Mahabaratha, which is the longest epic in the world. He was born in a prison and was taken to a village of cowherds. He was brought up there. He played lots of mischiefs there and those stories themselves are a huge collection for appreciation. He kills lots of evil beings and he himself declares that it is the very purpose for which he came down to the earth. He happens to be the maternal uncle for Pandavas and helps them win in the battle of KuruKshetra. The advice he rendered to Arjuna, one of the Pandavas, in the battlefield is praised as the Bhagawat Gita (Outpourings of the Divine). It is the most appreciated and respected scripture in the Hindu religion.

These stories are known to everyone in India.

These heroes are more than human personifications. They are revered as the descendants of the Divine. They continue to be the all-time heroes of India. Their personifications





have reached every nook and corner of the greater India. Greater India, here includes parts of Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Myanmar and Bangladesh. We can find the archeological proofs there even today. I use the term 'Greater India' only on cultural basis, not on any other grounds. Their impact on the Indian culture is inerasable.

The world may doubt the physical existence of these divine personalities - but not the Indians who live here for millenniums. So, if you ask an Indian native, 'Do you believe Rama or Krishna existed here?', he or she would just laugh at you. For them they are as real as you are!

Sri Rama and Sri Krishna have birth dates. They have their own astrological charts. Their birth places, the places they visited, friends and enemies they encountered - all these things are registered. Even the dates of their physical departure and the places where they left their physical bodies had been recorded. Their birthdays are celebrated even today with all glories, throughout the nation.

They had contributed so much to the Indian culture. The unconditional devotion to the Almighty, the respect to the parents, the loyalty with one's life partner, the disciplines to be practiced in the society that holds diversified personalities, the love for the mother earth and for her living beings, the oneness and eternity of the soul, the doctrine of karma, rebirth, renunciation, life after death, Mukthi or liberation and what not? All these things are still spoken widely in India due to the strong presence of these divine personalities.



The philosophies and the ethics are taught through stories so that even laymen come to understand the disciplines and principles to be followed in the path to perfection. Obviously, Sri Rama or Sri Krishna would be playing a role in most of such traditional stories.

Though they are worshipped as the personifications of the same Divinity, some differences still prevail between them, as they emerged in different eras. Sri Rama is said to be unaware of his divine acquaintances whereas Sri Krishna is known as an all knowing personality from the first day of his earthly existence. Both are playful and extra-ordinarily skillful in their childhood.

Another difference between them which is often quoted is, Sri Rama stucked to one wife whereas Sri Krishna married several wives. It is often explained in wrong sense. But the truth is, Sri Rama lived with one wife, as a single personality, whereas Sri Krishna lived in all the houses of his wives simultaneously. The wives are none other than his devotees. Srimad Bhagata says that Sri Krishna is found in all the houses of his devotees at the same time. We can say ironically that, Sri Krishna too followed one to one relationship in the family!

Those, who wonder how a person can be present in many places at the same time, are advised to refer to the chapter 'The saint with two bodies' in 'The autobiography of a yogi' written by Sri Paramahansa Yogananda. The Master explains it scientifically. If a saint can do that, why not an incarnation of the Divine?





The rule of cause and effect is so strongly and profoundly taught by these divine personalities. ‘What you sow, so you reap’ – this applies even to God if He comes down to earth. For the Indians, the stories of Sri Rama and Sri Krishna are the standing proofs for this. There are instances where they bore the consequences of their own actions to teach everyone, that, whoever it is, one has to face the consequences of one’s own action, let it be good or bad.

They also have taught the ways which can bring one out from the miseries and bondages of the world. By being devoted to God and by being disciplined – one can escape from the clutches of the cause and effect of one’s deeds. Even when the consequences hit back, the one who is centered in devotion and discipline, will not feel hurt.

The devotees who got enlightenment through the attunement with Sri Rama and Sri Krishna are limitless. Some known devotees among them:

Sri Rama’s devotees – Sri Hanuman, Baktha Rama Dass, Tulsidas, Namdev, Kabir.

Sri Krishna’s devotees – Meera bai, Vidyapathi, Baktha Kanakadas, Tukaram, Baktha Prabhu Padha.

The people of India are awe-struck with the life stories of these epic heroes and always admire their footprints in every walk of life.