



# HINDU CONNECTIONS ~ VOLUME 4 – Num. 1 ~ January, 2006

## INTERFAITH AWARENESS WEEK

On Wednesday, December 7, 2005, the American Hindu Association along with other faiths were together in the Capital Rotunda to celebrate Interfaith Awareness Week. Several exhibits were set up. The AHA had its space for display and distribution of its publications. In the ceremony all faiths explained their way of providing spirituality to its members and other interested individuals.



The participants in this celebration were from Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian and other groups. The program included a proclamation from the Governor of Wisconsin, a Dane County Executive, and the Mayor of Madison. Aruna Rajagopal from Spandhan School of Dance presented a Bharathanatyam dance Shringaralahari on behalf of the American Hindu Association.

## HINDU PHILOSOPHIC THOUGHT

The first group of religious ideas that we see coming up -- I mean recognized religious ideas, and not the very low ideas, which do not deserve the name of religion -- all include the idea of inspiration and revealed books and so forth. The first group of religious ideas starts with the idea of God. Here is the universe, and this universe is created by a certain Being. Everything that is in this universe has been created by Him. Along with that, at a later stage, comes the idea of soul -- that there is this body, and something inside this body which is not the body. This is the most primitive idea of religion that we know. We can find a few followers of that in India, but it was given up very early. The Indian religions take a peculiar start. It is only by strict analysis, and much calculation and conjecture, that we can ever think that that stage existed in Indian religions. The tangible state in which we find them is the next step, not the first one. At the earliest step the idea of creation is very peculiar, and it is that the whole universe is created out of zero, at the will of God; that all this universe did not exist, and out of this nothingness all this has come. In the next stage we find this conclusion is questioned. How can existence be produced out of non - existence? At the first step in the Vedanta this question is asked. If this universe is existent

it must have come out of something, because it was very easy to see that nothing comes out of nothing, anywhere. All work that is done by human hands requires materials. If a house is built, the material was existing before; if a boat is made, the material existed before; if any implements are made, the materials were existing before. So the effect is produced. Naturally, therefore, the first idea that this world was created out of nothing was rejected, and some material out of which this world was created was wanted. The whole history of religion, in fact, is this search after that material.

**Swami Vivekananda**

**AHA- Youth Program** On December 26, 2005, AHA invited a group of kids from all ages to participate in a group discussion about their involvement with the youth program.



There were about 18 kids that attended this meeting. We received an enthusiastic response from them. Based on the kids' opinion and desire to work in certain areas, the program planned for



2006 are as follows: Help develop the youth web page, Artwork for 2D animation, Volunteer work at the Senior Center and Highway clean-up. The children were also encouraged to write up



short articles about their views on Hinduism or any articles that maybe of interest.

If there are any children who are interested in being part of this program, please contact Ragini at 845-6608 or e-mail at [sathaa@tds.net](mailto:sathaa@tds.net) . To view the rest of pictures...Please go to [www.americanhindu.net/youth.htm](http://www.americanhindu.net/youth.htm) .

**Kids Puzzles**

**Climbing the well ~** A frog starts at the bottom of a well and starts climbing the well every day. Each day it climbs 3 feet and falls down 2 feet. If the well is 30 feet deep, how many days will it take the frog to come out of the well?

**The Brainy Blind ~** In a game for blind people, the blind people were asked to pick at least one single pair of marble of the same color from a box containing several pairs of

marbles. Each pair of marble in the box is of a particular color. If the box contains 10 different pairs of marbles (10 distinct colors), what is the minimum number of marbles a blind person must pick, in order to have at least one pair of the same color?

Interesting Prime Numbers ~ A prime number is one that is completely divisible only by itself and by 1. How many odd and even prime numbers are there?

Dangerous trip ~ A man has a tiger, a goat and a bundle of grass. He has to cross a river using a boat that can carry only two of them. He cannot leave the tiger alone with the goat, as the tiger will eat the goat. He cannot leave the goat along with the grass, as the goat will eat the grass. (Of course, the tiger will not eat the grass). How will the man cross the river using the boat and bring all of them safe to the other side of the river?

### The Pencil Parable

In the beginning, the Pencil Maker spoke to the pencil saying, "There are five things you need to know before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and you will become the best pencil you can be." **First:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand. **Second:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but this is required if you are to become a better pencil. **Third:** You have the ability to correct any mistakes you might make. **Four:** The most important part of you will always be what's inside. **Five:** No matter what the condition, you must continue to write. You must always leave a clear, legible mark no matter how difficult the situation. ~~ The pencil understood, promising to remember, and went into the box fully understanding its Maker's purpose. Now replacing the place of the pencil with you; always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be. ~~ **1st:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess. **2nd:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person. **3rd:** You will be able to correct mistakes you might make or grow through them. **4th:** The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside. **5th:** On every surface you walk, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to serve God in everything. **Everyone is like a pencil...** created by the Maker for a unique and special purpose. By understanding and remembering, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart and a relationship with God daily. You were Made to do Great Things!

**Contributed By: Poonam Thote**

**AHA CONTRIBUTORS** - AHA would like to thank the contributors who have graciously made financial contribution for the following Funds.

### 2005 AHA-Building Fund

Bal & Stephanie Tara

J. Krazos

Jamuna Shrestha

### Fund raised by Group of AHA Members

Ashani Singh

Amit Mangar

Mayuran Chandra

Neelam Rajani

Priya Rajani

Rathinam Vembu  
Rita Singh  
Sayon Chandra  
Bahee Sathasivam

### AHA - Activities

Anonymous Donors

Al Bose

Kuldip & Sarbjit Mavi

MATA

### **Editorial Board: American Hindu Association**

*Disclaimer: Views of readers/column writers are that of their own and not of the AHA [www.americanhindu.net](http://www.americanhindu.net)*

## Pizza Hut of Walnut Grove

**4000 University Ave, Madison, WI 53705**

**Hrs: 11a.m. to 11p.m. Sunday - Thursday**

**11a.m. to 12a.m. Friday & Saturday**

**Dine In, Carryout, Delivery**

**\$2.00 off Large Pizza or 50Cents off buffet**

**(Present coupon to redeem discount)**

## Bombay Bazaar

**Fashions of India & Tibet**

**(Asian Spices, Groceries, Gifts & Movies)**

**Fast Food, Puja Items & Phone Cards**

**753 S. Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53719**

**Fresh Vegetables & Sweets Every Thursdays**

**Ph: 608-270-9822 Fax: 608-270-9833**

**(Next to Woodman's West & Associate Bank)**

**[www.BombayBazaarmadison.com](http://www.BombayBazaarmadison.com)**

**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

## Himal Chuli

**(Fine Indian, Nepal & Tibet Cuisine)**

**318 State St, Madison WI 53703**

**(608) 251 - 9225**

**Weekdays 11a.m. - 9p.m.**

**Saturdays 11a.m. - 10p.m.**

**Sundays 12 Noon - 9p.m.**

## India House

**(Spices, Groceries, Gifts & Movies)**

**805-B, S. Gammon Rd, Madison WI 53719**

**Visit The Lowest Priced Quality Grocery**

**Fresh Produce & Movie Store in Madison**

**Ph: 608-268-0240 Fax: 608-268-0241**

**(Near Pizza Hut & Woodman's West)**

**[www.indiahouse-madison.com](http://www.indiahouse-madison.com)**

**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**