

30/6/11

Dr. Kalam for his
Dr. Akshay Kumar talk of
exposure to

c For me, Hinduism or
Sanatana Dharma started right
from childhood, as I was
born and brought up in one
of the holiest places of the religion.

The imposing Gopuram was
a great object of admiration; as
also the temple elephant; and
so many festivals and temple
function which attracts people
from all over India.

Just seeing all of them
in the childhood and their
speaking different languages
within themselves, was a great
curiosity in the childhood days.

The bigness and greatness of India was clearly visible to us, much better than what can be taught in history and geography books.

I am from a good religious family. We live in Mosque Street. Whole family observes all the Islamic worship and other practices meticulously.

Even so my father was a great friend of the priest of the Rameswaram temple. They met daily and exchanged many ideas.

As I review the entire life in India, as I have visited almost all parts of India, I find ~~one~~ a few important elements of Hinduism. For those who are Hindus, the religion is a way of life.

Most important aspect is the great faith they have in God and they try to see ~~the~~ God everywhere and in everything. That unshakable faith which had been there for many centuries continues today

with full vigour.

As a result, they are also tolerant to various methods of ~~work~~ worship, giving lots of freedom to the individual to have their communion with God.

Of course temples play a role; the strict discipline of Pooj pooja timings and methodology, adds to their faith.

In addition the great epics associated with each temple - usually

called Sthala Parana (that
on Gov 4000000000
is the Great Story of the Place). They

fascinating and usually carry many important ethical and moral teachings useful for daily life.

The Great ^{Story} ~~epic~~ associated with Rameswaram is a part of the great Indian epic Ramayana.

Even though the great war fought by Rama to kill Ravana and ~~rescue~~ bring back Sita was based on high dharmic principle, even the great ⁴³⁶²⁹¹⁹⁹⁰¹ Purushottama (Highest amongst Men) Sri Rama was guilty

guilty of killing a great
Vedic Scholar & Ravana!

See the importance given
to such a scholarship.

To cleanse himself of the
sin, Sri Rama had to do
a special pooja to Shiva.

He therefore requested
Hanuman to get a siva linga.

He, with his characteristic
greatness, went to Kailash
and fetched two lingas from
Lord Shiva ~~him~~ Himself.

But there was a big hitch.

The pooja was to be
performed in a fixed time
(Muhurtam - (Goridgō))

Since it was getting

late Since it was getting
Sita ji made a linga
out of ~~sand~~ sand there and
the pooja was performed in time

See the importance of
time discipline!

When Hanuman came
late with two beautiful lingas,
he saw Sri Rama had
completed the pooja. He was
angry. He tried to remove
that sand linga to put the
ones from Kailasa. The linga
won't move even when the
mighty ~~to~~ Hanuman

coiled his tail and pulled it with all force.

Tired Hanuman was sad. Sri Rama then told Hanuman even though we finished the puja today, everybody in future shall worship the two lingas brought by Anganeya, (Hanuman) first and only come to do puja to Ramalingam, one installed by Sita & him.

What a magnanimity and nobility of a leader !!

Similarly I find in every Ashu Akshardham

I am thrilled by the ~~Great~~ ^{great} epic of Swaminarayan.
It is a story of Service and Love.

I am sure many such features are captured in these books being released today. Of course, Hinduism in practice evolves daily and evolves with every single individual who practices it. So there is much more to discover and enjoy.

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