



by

Prof. M. M. Ninan

Hinduism What Really Happened in India
Isavasya Upanishad
Riddles In Hinduism(Dr.Ambedkar)
Rig Veda Samhita
Vedas (Yajur. Saman, Atharvan)
Sri Purusha Suktham
The Development Of Hinduism
The Emergence Of Hinduism From Christianity

I am quoting the following write up from Hindu Dharma forums since it summarises most of my earlier works and those arguments still stands true.

Here comes Prof. Ninan



Christian Mischief by Misappropriation of Hindu Texts and Concepts

One of the resolutions passed by the **Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha**, the apex unifying body of Hindu Acharyas, in their third conference held in Sri Adichunchanagiri (near Bangalore) on February 9-11, 2008 states:

"5. More and more subtle attempts are underway outside the country to 'appropriate' Hindu philosophy and practices (such as Yoga, meditation, Sanskrit language and even sacred scriptures such as Bhagavad Gita), detaching them from their Hindu identity;"

(<http://www.acharyasabha.org/index.php...d=39&Itemid=41>)

Here is a glimpse at the scenario wherein some clever Christian scholars authoratively albeit dubiously seek the roots of Hinduism in Christianity.

Prof. Madathilparampil Mammen Ninan

Here comes Prof. Ninan, a staunch Syrian 'Thomas' Christian, one of the cleverest and most dogged Christian scholars who have published works **tracing Hinduism to Christian roots**. His Website <http://www.oration.com/~mm9n/> has many articles and voluminous books that attempt to translate Hindu scriptures in terms of Christian Theology.

Ninan's approach is dogged, although he hangs on the discredited myth of Saint Thomas having visited Kerala in 52 CE (which was denied by none other than the Pope himself) and established Christianity in South India, and the Aryan Invasion Theory. His main contention is that the modern day Hinduism was derived from the Christianity founded by St. Thomas and that the Vedic Religion that existed with the Aryans who invaded India was not Hinduism at all. In addition, he chooses to deny any hidden or deeper meanings in the Vedas that spawned the Upanishads.

Prominent works by Ninan include (some of them published recently in 2006-07):

- *Translation of Isavasya Upanishad*, where he considers Jesus to be the Isa.
- *The Development of Hinduism*, a voluminous book where he holds that the major forces in shaping the modern day Hinduism were the coming of Christianity and of Persian Gnostics which molded it into the present form.
- *The Emergence of Hinduism from Christianity*, a book which "establishes that Hinduism is really of very recent origin", and that modern Hinduism "is an outgrowth of Thomas Christianity under the influence of Syrian Gnosticism. The myths of Mahabali and Parasurama refers to the defeat of Christians at the hands of the Vaishnavite gnostics."

- *Hinduism*, where he shows that "The religion known today as Hinduism is the Thomas Churches of Inner India established by St.Thomas which was high jacked by the Gnostics and Theosophists."

- *Purusha Suktham*, a 70-page translation where he says that the text has three layers: "The first innermost layer was the Thomasian layer following the teachings of St.Thomas followed by the Judao-Christian mysticism of Kaballa. This is followed by Gnostic layer, and the Vaishnavite layer."

Ninan has also commented on the translation of Rig Veda by Ralph Griffith, and on the translations of other Vedas.

Ninan's articles are published in his Websitea:

<http://www.oracion.com/~mm9n/articles/index.htm>

Many of his books can be downloaded here:

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=ninan>

Ninan's 'arguments and findings'

Ninan's argument is wholly based on the Myth of St.Thomas. Even while he says that St.Thomas is 'said to have visited' Kerala in 52 CE, he spins the myth of his own findings of the supposed ministry of Thomas.

- **St.Thomas**, - Judas Thomas – one of the disciples of Jesus known commonly as the doubting Thomas came down to India and had a successful ministry all over India and China.

Hinduism did not exist before the second century, AD.

- There were no "Hindu Temples" before the second century AD. The Earliest Hindu Temple dates only to 350–650 AD.

- In the early period the Christian churches of Kerala had the same model as of Hindu temples.

- Parameshwara. [Iswara is God. Param means Most High.]

The prescript Param can be replaced with Maha meaning "The Great" to give Maheshwara – The Great God. These words Parameswara and Maheswara occur in Indian religious scenario only after the first century.

- The name Krishna did not even exist before the third century AD.
- Idols (Vigrahas) did not appear in India before the third century AD and in Kerala until the eighth century AD.
- There are documents indicating powerful Christian Kingdoms in Kerala, particularly in Ayr (referred to in Greek documents- Ayroor) and Ranni and Vel (Velnad). There must have been other major churches all over India other than in Kerala. However, the problem is "Where are they?"

Sanskrit did not exist before the second century AD

- Sanskrit was developed out of Prakrit and other existing languages during the interval of 100 AD to 150 AD. Sanskrit probably evolved as the liturgical language of Thomas Christians just as Latin evolved in the Greco-Roman world.

Vedic Religion is not Hinduism.

- There is an asymptotic discontinuity between Vedic and Upanishadic religions. Vedic religion is ritualistic with 33 nature gods. As opposed to the Vedic religion, Modern Hinduism is defined as a Theistic religion with Monotheistic Trinitarian content allowing for an infinite number of lesser gods.
- Vedic religion was not Hinduism, as we know today. There are four Vedas (Sacred Scriptures) in Hinduism today. If which only the Rig Veda was in existence at the time Thomas entered India in written form. Additionally, the Rig Veda was not written in Sanskrit but in Vedic or Avestan, which is a form of Persian.
- "Vedic Hinduism" is a contradiction in terminis since Vedic

religion is very different from what we generally call "Hindu religion", - at least as much Old Hebrew religion is from medieval and modern Christian religion." S.W.Jamison and M.Witzel Vedic Hinduism 1992 Sanskrit Department, Cambridge University

- Thomas must have established culturally relevant forms of worship and liturgy and structures. These were truly Indian, translated "Hindu." Similar to the Roman Catholic Church or the Antiochian Universal (Catholic) Church, Indian church would be Indian Universal (Catholic) Way, which in Indian language will be "Hindu Sanadhana Dharma.
- New forms of worship appeared all of a sudden soon er the Ministry of Thomas. These are still found in modern Hinduism.
- Vedic Religion underwent a drastic change during the period following 1st C which culminated into the various Vedantic teachings. None of the 33 gods of Vedas are gods in the modern Hinduism.
- Aryan Vedas came to be written down only in the Second Century BC (and this is not Hinduism according to Ninan). The rest of the Indian Scriptures – the Puranas and the Upanishads and Brahmanas came into existence only after Sanskrit became the language of Gods – the liturgical language and the language of theological studies. This took place after a century of Thomas' ministry.
- All the references to God in the Naamavalay sung in Tamil temples applies only to Jesus and extols him! For example, Ninan has this translation for the Hindu Namavali:

Om Sri Brahmaputra, Namaha
O God, Son of God, We worship you.

Om Sri Umathaya, Namaha
O God, the Holy Spirit, We worship you.

Om Sri Kannisuthaya, Namaha
O God, born of a virgin, We worship you.

Om Sri Vrishtaya, Namaha
O God, who is circumcised, We worship you.

Om Sri Panchakaya, Namaha
O God, who has five wounds, We worship you.

Om Shri Vritchsula Arul Daya, Namaha
O God, who was crucified to provide mercy, We worship you.

Om Sri Mritumjaya, Namaha
Oh God, who overcame death, We worship you.

Om Sri Dakshinamurthy, Namaha
O God, who sits on the right hand, We worship you.

OM:Sri Yesuvey Namaha

Purusha Prajapathy – The Person of the Lord of Hosts

Now let us take the Rig Vedic chapters II and X, which I have mentioned earlier, were written in Sanskrit after 150 AD. In these chapters, the Veda presents the Person (Purusha) of Prajapathy. Prajapathi literally means The Lord of Hosts. (Praja = subjects, host Pathi = Lord.) However, the striking thing about Prajapathi is his characteristics. I will quote the texts that describe Prajapathi with striking resemblance to the person of Jesus.

"Hiranyagarbha: samavartthaagre
Bhuuthasya jaatha: pathireka aaseeth
Sadaadhaara Prudhwivim dyaamuthemam
Kasmai devaaya havisha vidhemam"
(Rig Veda X: 121:1)

This translates as follows:

In the beginning, God and his supreme spirit alone existed.
From the supreme Spirit of God proceeded Hiranya Garbha,
alias
Prajapathy, the first born of God in the form of light.
As soon as he was born, he became the savior of all the

worlds.

"Thasmaad virraada jaayatha
viraajo adhi purusha:
Sajaatho athyarichyatha
Paschaad bhoomim adho pura:"
(Rig Veda X:90:5)

This translates as follows:

From that first being, the universe came into being. From that body of the universe came the omnipresent Person. That Person thus became manifest, adopted various forms and character, and created the earth and other planets along with the creatures to live in them.

This is the same idea that Paul Preached.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him, all things hold together." Col 1:15-17

The **Adi Purusha** idea is very similar to the concept of the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament. Here he is definitely identified with Jesus.

"Purusha evedam sarvam
Yadbhutham yacha bhavyam
Uthaamruthathwasya esaana
Ya daannenathirohathi"
(Rig Veda X:90:2)

This man, the first-born of God is all that was, all that is, and all that will be. And he comes to this world to give recompense to everybody as per his deeds.

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.

"Tham yajnam barhishi proukshan
Purusham jaathamagratha
Thena deva ayajantha
Sadhya rushayaschaye"
'Purushasookta'
(Rig Veda X:90:7)

This man, the first born of the God, was tied to a wooden sacrificial post and the gods and the Kings along the Seers performed the sacrifice.

"Thamevam Vidwanamruthaiha bhavathy
Nanya pandha ayanaya vidyathe"
(Rig Veda X:90:16. Repeated Yajur Veda XXXI:18)

This (sacrifice) is the only way for redemption and liberation of mankind. Those who meditate and attain this man, believe in heart and chant with the lips, get liberated in this world itself and there is no other way for salvation.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

And Ninan goes on to quote famous passages from the Upanishads to prove that they were not only similar but created after Thomas' ministry came into existence.

Ninan also 'establishes' that **Bhaviahya Purana** was written by a scholar in Old Testament.

Conceptual Evidences

• **AUM** is not found in the ancient Rig-Veda. Or in any of the Vedas.

Even the early Upanishads written in Sanskrit, there are references to udgîtha ("up sound") and as pranava ("pronouncing"). This may be thought of as referring to the Sound Om. But it is a stretching the imagination.

The first direct reference to AUM found in Prashna-Upanishad, where the threefold constituents of AUM is mentioned and explained. It is also found in Mândûkya- Upanishad. Brihad-Âranyaka, Chândogya, and Taittirîya, Aum is mentioned many times both as Aum and as Om-kâr. In the Yoga- Sûtra (1.27), it is called the Word (vâcaka) of God (îshvara).

- The concept of AUM is identical with the Greco-Roman concept of Logos.

If one looks even deeper, the whole of Kabala and the threefold tree reaching into the unknown darkness encased in the ineffable name of YHVH can be seen in the Upanishadic teachings.

The symbol and mantra AUM emerged in Indian scene soon after the mission of St.Thomas the Apostle and were seen only after that time. All early churches in Kerala had used this as the Christian symbol and they appear at the entrance of the seven original churches established by Thomas.

You can see them even today over the main entrance of many of the churches.

AUM was clearly part of the Malankara (Malabar – Kerala) Christian tradition from the first century. They however associate it with the Christian Trinity and to Christ – the word who became flesh. An objective conclusion would be that Aum was indeed the original Christian concept as introduced by Thomas.

Concept of God

- This **figure of Jagnath**, which is celebrated as the Lord of the Universe, is really an epitome of the theology, which is essentially the theology of Eastern Churches and that of the Hebrew Kabala. It developed in India soon after the advent of Thomas.
- Notice again the usual three lines representing the Trinity with the middle line marked with a red spot (in the **Shiva**

Lingam). Father, Son and the Holy Spirit with the Son with as the sacrifice before the creation of the world.

- The concept of **Parameshwara** originally comes from the concept of El Elyon which is translated as The Most High God as in Gen 14:18 where Melchiz'edek king of Salem was called the priest of God Most High, maker of heaven and earth. He blessed Abraham in the name of the God Most High and then onwards Abraham himself swore in that name in Gen 14:22.

It is therefore reasonable to assume that the Dravidians who can at least partially claim to be the children of Abraham through Keturah received the teachings of Thomas and assimilated it easily. Thus the roots of the Saivism are deeply rooted in the Thomas traditions.

- The Hebrew name of the person whom we refer as **Jesus was Yehoshua** which is rendered in English as Joshua. A shortened form of the name is Yeshua from which we get the Dravidian translation through St.Thomas as Yesu, Easow, Isa, Iswara.

- The name given in Greco-Roman culture is derived from their context as follows:

When the good news of the gospel was translated into to the Greco- Roman culture by Paul and his group it was rendered in Greek as Iesus Pronounced as Yesous.

Y in some languages is pronounced as J (ya as ja) rendering it as JESUS.

Fish was the early Christian symbol. Jesus said, "I shall make you fishers of men" The Greek word for fish is ichthus, spelled: Iota Chi Theta Upsilon Sigma.

This is used as an acronym for Iesus (Jesus) CHristos (Christ) THEou (God) Uiou (Son) Soter (Savior). = Jesus Christ, God, Son, Savior.

- The elephant faced **Ganapathy** (The Lord of Host), the son of Siva came out of the symbolism of Word becoming Flesh – the Incarnation.

Ganapathy is the most important deity in the life of every Hindu. This is because no one can enter the presence of Shiva unless it is through the Son. (Seen the implication here?)

- **Vishnu** means Lord of the Heaven, The Omnipresent. Vishnu is seated on the Cherubims.

• The modern **Hindu Trinity** is Siva, Vishnu and Brahma. While Siva is till the father figure and Brahma the creator the emanated son figure, Vishnu the Energy and Power is now a male. Incidentally Vishnu often played the female to achieve things in the Purana stories. We should expect this to be a much later development. The Thomas tradition was Hebrew Kabalistic tradition, where Wisdom and Power was female.

The creator is given here with four heads. These developments must have come under Gnostic influence, where creation of cosmos was done by a fallen god. – Brahma. Brahma is seldom worshipped in any of the temples even though He is one of the Trinity in the Vaishnavite tradition..

Doctrines

• Five Basic Doctrines of Christianity

Doctrine of Trinity
Doctrine of Incarnation
Doctrine of Fulfillment of Sacrifice
Doctrine of Forgiveness of Sin
Doctrine of Salvation through Faith.

Five Basic Doctrines of both Saivism and Vaishnavism

Doctrine of Trinity
Doctrine of Incarnation (Avtar)
Doctrine of Fulfillment of Sacrifice

Doctrine of Forgiveness of Sin
Doctrine of Salvation through Faith (Bhakthi Marga)

All these five doctrines which are common to both Saivite and Vaishnavites were never known in pre-Christian era and are definite indications of the form of Early Christianity in India. Hindu Sanadhana Dharma of first century AD was indeed the form of Christianity that St. Thomas established and central doctrines were indeed Christian.

Ninan concludes his work cryptically thus:

1. It means that Hinduism as an Indian Christian Church.
2. Hindu Sanatana Dharma evolved out of Indian Catholic Church through the Kerala Nasranees into the South Indian Saivites and Vaishnavites.

There are other Christian scholars in Tamil Nadu who are identified in the Website <http://www.hamsa.org>, which also explodes the myth of St. Thomas:

- Dr. K. Sadasivan in the Journal of Indian History and Culture follows in Archbishop Arulappa's footsteps with his unsubstantiated claim for a Christian Tirukkural and a St. Thomas in India sojourn.
- The book titled *Viviliyam, Tirukkural, Shaiva Siddhantam Oppu Ayvu*, written by one Deivanayakam, 2 was published in 1985-86. It attempted to compare Bible, Tirukkural and Shaiva philosophy and concluded that Tiruvalluvar was a disciple of St. Thomas and that his sayings were only sayings from Bible. The writer had attempted to distort and misinterpret the Shaiva Siddhanta to suit his conclusions that all these works emanated from the preachings of St. Thomas who is said to have visited India in the first century A.D.

It was given to the Dharmapuram Math to issue a refutation. In spite of refutations from scholars through personal letters, Deivanayakam was unrelenting. Hence the Dharmapuram Shaiva Math had a book of refutation prepared by its very able Tamil and Shaiva scholar, Arunai Vadivel Mudaliar, and

released it at a function.

My take on a cursory glance at the works of Prof. Ninan is this:

It is said of Oliver Goldsmith, the famous English literary all-rounder, that "he did not touch anything that he did not adorn." We may perhaps say of Ninan that "he did not touch anything in Hinduism that he did not desecrate."

The big question that looms large before us is:

How do we deal with the pseudo scholars such as Prof.Ninan?

If the myth of Jesus Christ was "cobbled together by scholars", "simply scouring the ancient texts" as stated by the learned Sarabhanga, Ninan has cobbled a myth out of St.Thomas who never visited South India in 52 CE or martyred at Mylapore at the hands of Hindu brahmins, and made St.Thomas the 'sole' and Jesus the 'soul' of Hinduism!

Unless we effectively and actively refute scholars like Ninan whose tribe is increasing by the numbers today, Hindus would be losing their grass roots. Works by scholars like Ninan are published and promoted by the money-power of the Christian missionary and percolate down to our grass roots, whereas whatever we Hindus refute to establish the Reality only in the academic discussions on the Internet. A sad state of affairs indeed!

<http://www.hindudharmaforums.com/showthread.php?p=21987>
[saidevo](#) 

Here is another blog that discusses it.
You can see the varying attitudes and approaches of those who promote Hinduism. It must be emphasized that all my data are from either eminent Hindu sites and of Archeology data are wholly from Survey of India publications.
The initiators and others have presented my view point with surprising clarity.
The responses are for everyone to weigh in to see the truth of my thesis.



<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread897537/pg3>

ATS Members have flagged this thread **3** times

Topic started on **7-11-2012 @ 06:30 PM** by **NihilistSanta**

The Emergence of Hinduism from Christianity is an idea I encountered while browsing on YouTube recently. The following videos are a presentation someone has uploaded based on the ideas of Professor M.M. Ninan's book [Hinduism: What Really Happened in India](#) .

I could not find much on Ninan online other than books being sold and a wiki article about one of his brothers and some association to the World Council of Churches. There are photos of him and I believe he is an Indian Christian who lived in India and May or may not have taught at an Indian university.

He suggest that before the time of Thomas in India there were 3

religions native to India.

Vedic – Aryan Nature religion

Buddhist - Anti-theistic

Jainism – non-theistic

Ninan's ideas are based around the idea that the apostle Thomas ministry in India was successful but later influenced by gnosticism through the Mandaean's.

He cites as evidence

a lack of Sanskrit before Thomas arrival,

no Hindu idols before 2nd century A.D. ,

No Hindu temples before Thomas time,

correlations between the Gospel story and mythologies in Hinduism and the Isavasya Upanishad,

and some other interesting ideas such as that of the Om being a representation of God/Christ/The word that was later mythologized into the elephant head on Ganesha.

The presentation did seem to have some Catholic biases but I must admit I have never heard of this idea before. It would seem to answer some of the questions I have had regarding Hinduism and Christianity but also seems really controversial and I have to admit that I do not know the history or Archeology of India well enough to believe these claims.

I urge others here to investigate these claims and offer their opinions. The videos seem to scroll through the presented info kind of quickly so be warned you may need to pause from time to time. Some grammatical errors as well probably not created by a native English speaker.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 06:57 PM by **solomons path**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

I don't know that I agree with his findings. Hinduism is said to have originated with the Upanishads, which date back to ninth century BCE.

Also, his timelines are suspect. Sanskrit dates back to the 4th century BCE, not 100 CE.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 07:17 PM by **domasio**

Reply to [post by solomons path](#)

I was going to say, **Hinduism is the oldest known religion**, bar a small few, but still older than all three Abrahamic faiths, even Judaism.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 07:40 PM by **AdamsMurmur**

It's far more likely that he's got it backwards if he's not completely delusional. There's a reason why his book is hardly known and toilet paper worthy. **Conjecture and propaganda** abound.

edit on 7/11/12 by AdamsMurmur because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 08:05 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Well while his claims defy convention I am currently investigating some of the key points and will post back.

- Oldest Idols
- Oldest Sanskrit Samples
- Oldest Hindu Temples etc

We seem to scrutinize the oral traditions of other faiths but have

not applied the same to Hinduism. Again I am not an expert but feel that the question was compelling enough to warrant further study. Feel free to add your findings and or refutations.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 08:08 PM by **MonkeyFishFrog**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

Um, it is kind of hard to be a successor of a religion that you're actually a predecessor for.

All religions borrow from each other or have similar stories. This is to help assimilate the masses or convert them.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 08:17 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by MonkeyFishFrog](#)

Ok so you support the current model. Why?

This is kind of what I am trying to discover. I am currently having trouble finding what is considered the oldest samples of those mentioned before. Did you watch the videos or are you basing this on a preconceived notion?

I would like to keep the post informative and not a bunch of "everyone knows Hinduism preceded Christianity" post. I would love to see the evidence for either case. I have not drawn any conclusions as of yet but will continue to post with any findings.

Thanks to the participants so far.

edit on 7-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 08:21 PM by **MonkeyFishFrog**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

I base this from 2 years of studying Anthropology/Archaeology with a focus on religion. Its my degree as well.

reply posted on 7-11-2012 @ 08:51 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Ok this is very nice then. You should be able to show me the evidence supporting the current model. Not just the belief that Hindus think their religion is old. Every religion believes itself the oldest. I am researching Vigrha currently and there is mention of the Kalpa **Vigrha being 28,000 yrs old**. Not sure what to believe of that since it is supposedly lost. Other than that I have not found any Vigrha from the BC era but the search is young so still no conclusions made yet.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 03:57 AM by **rnaa**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

He suggest that before the time of Thomas in India there were 3 religions native to India.

Vedic – Aryan Nature religion

Buddhist - Anti-theistic

Jainism – non-theistic

OK, lets analyze that suggestion in reverse order:

Jainism: Founded in the 6th Century B.C. (600 years before Christ) by Nataputta Vardhamana called "Mahavira" (The Great Warrior). He was a warrior for internal enlightenment, Jains promote vegetarianism, opposition to war, and non-violence even in self-defense. Jains will not eat root vegetables or drink water after dark in case they inadvertently kill an insect. Jainism is a 6th century modification of Hinduism. If Jainism existed before St. Thomas, so did Hinduism.

Buddhism: Founded in the 6th Century B.C. (600 years before Christ) by Siddhartha Gautama called "The Buddha". Gautama was a member of a **Hindu** clan called the 'Sakyas'. This is important - Buddhism is another 6th Century modification to Hinduism. So if Buddhism existed before St. Thomas, so did Hinduism.

Vedic: Vedic Hinduism is the PREHISTORIC predecessor of modern Hinduism. "**Vedic**" **IS Hinduism**. If Vedic existed before St. Thomas then so did Hinduism, because "Vedic" IS Hinduism.

The real questions then are:

- 1) what is the motivation for your correspondents to relate this ridiculous claim?
- 2) what is your point in promoting silly claims that are so trivially simple to refute?

edit on 8/11/2012 by rnaa because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 12:34 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Did you watch the videos at all or are you just posting what you have been told all your life?

I have not drawn any conclusions but found the hypothesis interesting enough to warrant further investigation.

Ninan's belief was that the prehistoric vedic religion was nothing more than a nature religion like many other prehistoric religions and has very little in common with modern Hinduism.

He cites as his evidence that there are no Hindu temples before the 2nd century. There are no Hindu idol statues/murtis/vigraha before that time period either. He goes into detail about the Christians in Kerala's history and claims that before the Mandeian Gnostic influence after the 2nd century there was

nothing like modern Hinduism. There are plenty of temples and statues that show us the presence of Jain and Buddhist presence at that time so where is the evidence for Hindu temples before the CE?

He goes further to state that some Hindu mythology like the incarnations of Krishna are actually a symbolic retelling of Christian events that was culturally adapted by Thomas and the indigenous peoples there. He claims also that the Isavasya Upanishad is a retelling of genesis and the bible.

I have asked for help from others in this thread because I would like to be able to substantiate or deny his claims. So far no poster has added anything other than to repeat dates that we are told with no evidence. I understand the Hindus believe that their oral tradition is ANCIENT however where is the proof? When are our oldest Hindu Sanskrit writings dated from?

Ninan believed that westerners are partly to blame for this as well as the gnostic influences from the middle east. For this thread to go anywhere people have to actually analyze the videos and book that were presented. I am working on a point by point analysis which I will post at a later date.

edit on 8-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 12:51 PM by **MonkeyFishFrog**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

What evidence do you want? The fact that Christianity has borrowed the entire First Testament from the Hebrew book the Torah which was written around 1700 BCE in what is today Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. The New Testament began to be written at the very earliest 50 CE (20 years after) the supposed life of

Jesus Christ and it was taken from Greek writings being produced at that time. Further writings of New Testament take places over the next couple of centuries.

Hinduism developed from the Harappan civilization that was founded in the Indus Valley region of India at around 2800 BCE. The first writings of the Vedas which are the Sanskrit Hindu scriptures were written at 1500 BCE.

Linguistic Anthropologists and Glottochronologists can determine by language use how old documents are. They monitor how language changes over time through changes in word use, spelling or even style of sentence construction. The style of Greek used for writing most of the New Testament are written in a style seen only in the 400-500 CE era not to mention the parchment that it was written on also dates to 400 CE.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 01:01 PM by **luciddream**

The modern "Hinduism" is recent, it was originally Sanatana Dharma or the Eternal Religion, it was more than a religion, it was philosophy(much like most eastern religion).

I heard stories that go beyond 3500BC relating to Hinduism, some even said its over 7000BCE, but most of the temple and books were destroyed over time and also by occupying forces that invaded India, such as Muslims and much later British.

Abrahamic Faith are children compared to most Eastern religion.

edit on 11/8/2012 by luciddream because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 01:21 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by MonkeyFishFrog](#)

Well this is from Wikipedia :

The earliest attested Sanskrit texts are Brahmanical texts of the Rigveda, which date to the mid-to-late second millennium BCE. No written records from such an early period survive, if ever existed. However, scholars are confident that the oral transmission of the texts is reliable: they were ceremonial literature whose correct pronunciation was considered crucial to its religious efficacy.[11]

From [Sanskrit](#)

How do we go from saying they are from the 2nd millennium BCE yet in the same paragraph mention that no records survive if they even existed? Seems to me the history of Hindu ideas and faiths has been muddled with by invaders and western historians.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 01:31 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Originally posted by luciddream

The modern "Hinduism" is recent, it was originally Sanatana Dharma or the Eternal Religion, it was more than a religion, it was philosophy(much like most eastern religion).

I heard stories that go beyond 3500BC relating to Hinduism, some even said its over 7000BCE, but most of the temple and books were destroyed over time and also by occupying forces that invaded India, such as Muslims and much later British.

Abrahamic Faith are children compared to most Eastern religion.

edit on 11/8/2012 by luciddream because: (no reason given)

Well I have heard the stories as well but the evidence seems

lacking. We have the supposed city of krishna found off the coast of india but that could be any civilization that was later applied to krishna or something along those lines personally I believe it part of the antediluvian world. There is also the Kalpa Vighra which is claimed to be 28,000 years old but it "mysteriously" disappeared.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 02:56 PM by **windword**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

The theory presented in the OP is tired and has been debunked.

www.archaeologyonline.net...

However, the German Philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer stated that the Sanskrit understanding of these Indologists was like that of young schoolboys.

These early Indologists:

- Devised the Aryan Invasion theory, denying India's Vedic past
- They taught that the English educational system is superior
- They intentionally misinterpreted sanskrit texts to make the Vedas look primitive.
- And they systematically tried to make Indians ashamed of their own culture
- Thus the actions of these indologists seems to indicate that they were motivated by a racial bias.

Innumerable archaeological findings and their analysis have recently brought the Aryan Invasion Theory into serious question. This theory is still taught as fact in many educational systems despite much contrary evidence.

The recent discovery of the dried riverbed of the Sarasvati River has more than proven the hypothesis of the OP.

- There are more than 2,500 Archaeological sites, two-thirds of which are along the recently discovered dried up Sarasvati River bed. These sites show a cultural continuity with the Vedic literature from the early Harrapan civilization up to the present day India.
- The significance of establishing this date for the drying up of the Sarasvati River is, that it pushes the date for the composition of the Rig Veda back to approximately 3,000 B.C.E., as enunciated by the Vedic tradition itself.

"Pure in her course from the mountains to the ocean, alone of streams Sarasvati hath listened."

The mighty Sarasvati River and it's civilization are referred to in the Rig Veda more than fifty times, proving that the drying up of the Sarasvati River was subsequent to the origin of the Rig Veda

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 03:20 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by windword](#)

Thank you for your participation windword, this is the kind of info I am going for. Like I have stated before I don't hold that the view of M.M. Ninan is the correct one merely that he raised some interesting questions in regards to the historical accuracy given to vedic and post vedic hindu writings.

This link is from Ninan and he claims that sanskrit did not exist until the 2nd century ad. He is an Indian so I did not think he was having any racial bias against Indians

[Prof M.M. Ninan - Isovasya Upanishad](#)

The Samhitâ of the White Yajur-veda is generally acknowledged to be of later origin than the Rig Veda and is written in Sanskrit. Since Sanskrit as a language came into existence only in the second century AD, the Upanishad itself must be placed after that period. It is important to note also that all scholars agree that Isa is one of the earliest Upanishads. Upanishads came into existence only after the ministry of Apostle Thomas in India. Thomas, the disciple of Jesus, came to India in A.D. 52 and had a twenty year old ministry all through India until his martyrdom in Mylapore, Madras, Tamil Nadu, India in A.D.72. His ministry extended from Taxila in the North to the Malabar Coast in the southern tip of India covering the entire subcontinent of India. Considering the impact of the ministry of other Apostles in Africa, Middle East and Europe, we cannot doubt the tremendous impact that the Ministry of Apostle Thomas Dydymus had in the Indian continent. The basic impact of Thomas in India was the radical change in the concept of God. The Three major religions of India at that time were Vedic (who were nature worshippers), Buddhist and Jain (who were atheists). However with the coming of Thomas, the concept of God changed radically – the concept of a Supreme God. This Upanishad expresses the concept of Isa as Paran (Lord; Yesu Paran = Jesus is Lord = Iswaran). The impact of this mission was that the name Isa and Iswaran came to be equivalent to God all through later Indian scriptures. From then on, the entire history of Indian Religions changed radically. Gnosticism which lost its ground in the rest of the west followed Christianity into India and eventually supplanted it to give rise to what we today call Hinduism through syncretism and myths and legends typical of Gnostic religions.

edit on 8-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 05:38 PM by **Byrd**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

His points really don't have a leg to stand on. The written Hindu scriptures predate the earliest written copies of the books of the Old Testament.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 05:40 PM by **Byrd**

Originally posted by NihilistSanta

This link is from Ninan and he claims that sanskrit did not exist until the 2nd century ad. He is an Indian so I did not think he was having any racial bias against Indians

His bias, however, is for Christianity. He is a missionary and the approach he's taking to the Hindu community is "see? it's the same thing, really -- so you should convert to the original." This approach is one commonly used by missionaries. This doesn't mean the information is correct but it's the wedge they want to use to drive the person away from their original religion to the missionary's religion.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 06:01 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by Byrd](#)

I agree this could be the case. There is not much information on the guy I could find. However I just wanted to put his argument out there and see how it stacks up with what is accepted knowledge. Examples to refute his claims etc. have not been easy to find.

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 06:05 PM by **NihilistSanta**

There are 30 manuscripts of Rigveda at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, collected in the nineteenth century by Georg Bühler, Franz Kielhorn and others, originating from different

parts of India, including Kashmir, Gujarat, the then Rajaputana, Central Provinces etc. They were transferred to Deccan College, Pune, in the late nineteenth century. They are in the Sharada and Devanagari scripts, written on birch bark and paper. The oldest of them is dated to 1464. The 30 manuscripts were added to UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Register in 2007.[28] Of these 30 manuscripts, nine contain the samhita text, five have the padapatha in addition. Thirteen contain Sayana's commentary. At least five manuscripts (MS. no. 1/A1879-80, 1/A1881-82, 331/1883-84 and 5/Viś I) have preserved the complete text of the Rigveda. MS no. 5/1875-76, written on birch bark in bold Sharada, was used by Max Müller for his edition of the Rigveda with Sayana's commentary. Max Müller used 24 manuscripts, while the Pune Edition used over five dozen manuscripts, but the editors of Pune Edition could not procure many manuscripts used by Max Müller and by Bombay Edition, as well as from some other sources; hence the total number of extant manuscripts must surpass perhaps 80 at least.[29]

So these are the oldest known copies and they are not in sanskrit?

[Source](#)

edit on 8-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: added source

reply posted on 8-11-2012 @ 10:18 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Some more information about M.M. Ninan from Amazon. He has quite a body of published work. [M.M. Ninan - Amazon](#)

Prof. Madathilparampil Mammen Ninan B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc.,
M.Ed., Ph.D.,

Web Site: [www.oration.com...](#)

Phone: (408) 448-3385

Email: mm9n@hotmail.com

Prof. Ninan was born in Kozhencheri, Kerala, India on 08/04/1934 in a Syrian Christian Family which claims descent from one of the four families to whom St.Thomas the apostle of Jesus entrusted the gospel. His father Late.M.M.Mammen, was a publisher Freedom fighter and Christian Reformer. His eldest Brother is the well known theologian Late Dr.M.M.Thomas, who was the Chairman of the World Council of Churches, the Governor of Nagaland, India and the Chairman of the Christian Institute of Study of Society and Religion. He belongs to the Malankara Mar Thoma Church, a reformed church holding the theology of the Eastern Churches which claims a 2000 year old heritage.

He is by profession a Professor of Theoretical Physics and had been a teacher in various universities around world including Ethiopia, Ghana, Jamaica, Sudan, Yemen, India and United States of America. He retired as the President of the Hindustan Academy of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Affiliated to University of Bangalore, India

He was the first Moderator of the International Christian Fellowship, Sanaa, Yemen and the Co-founder, Sudan Pentecostal Church. He has published several studies on the influence of Christianity in the formation of Hindu religion and religious scriptures.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 08:02 AM by **luciddream**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

I always see that during discussion of Ancient India, the Tamil Language is overlooked, it is said that Tamil was the original Native language of India(south), but it has been argued by and forth between Sanskrit and Tamil scholars, but we do know both are Ancient language and Tamil being the only one alive right now.

Tamil is Dravidian group of language(south India primarily), unlike the Aryan's Sanskrit. However Earliest undestroyed document available in Tamil is 150 BC, The Sangam Literature. They also had their own gods which was integrated into Modern Hinduism.

I think Hinduism composed of multiple ancient Indian religions or philosophies, that why the religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and few others share 90% of the concept of Hinduism.

edit on 11/9/2012 by luciddream because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 10:56 AM by **godlover25**

reply to [post by MonkeyFishFrog](#)
Deceptions abound.

The NT was written between 40 A.D. and finished by 100 A.D. the Revelation being the last Book, written around 96 A.D. while John was in exile on the Greek isle of Patmos.

The manuscript evidence cannot be denied, and your ideas are just simply wrong.

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 02:15 PM by **NihilistSanta**

An excerpt from an article by Ninan.

Vedic Religion (13C BC)

Vedic Religion is what the Aryans brought into India from their original homelands.

Who were the Aryans? Despite the recent attempt by the Indian Hindu extremists to establish that Aryans originated from India, there is no evidence to indicate any such fact historically, linguistically or archeologically. The Aryans were nature worshippers. Zoroastrians –the sun and fire worshippers - claim themselves as Aryans. Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes, and other Persian Kings claimed that they were Aryans. (The Parsees of India are the descendants of these Kings who migrated to India under Islamic persecution). According to Zoroastrian Sacred book, “Zend Avesta,” the original abode of these people was the Polar Regions of Siberia. They moved to the Middle East because of increasing coldness of the region. Another group arrived in the region over the sea from Camphtor. Still another group arrived from Sub Saharan desert according to some scholars. This mixed race was known as Hittites. The Indian Aryans are the descendants of Hittites. They were warriors and had no written language. They were good at storytelling and worshipped the forces of nature. They retained there stories and ideals through songs and ballads. During the invasion of Canaan by Israel under Commander Joshua, these Hittites were forced to move out of their land. This is exactly the time (around 1300 BC) when Aryan migration to India took place. Just as Israelites massacred the Canaanites, Aryans massacred Dravidian Indians. The conquest of India must have taken several centuries. By the 7th C BC (or by 2nd C BC at least), they were even in Sri Lanka, conquering the Giant King Ravana. However, they were not able to control south India and only had a weak presence in those areas. Today the Brahmin families in Kerala can claim their descent only after sixth C. AD. Something happened to the Brahmins in Kerala between the second Century BC and sixth Century AD. The reason for their disappearance will be clear when the Thomas story unfolds.

Vedic religion was not Hinduism, as we know today. There are four Vedas (Sacred Scriptures) in Hinduism today. If which only the Rig Veda was in existence at the time Thomas entered India

in written form. Additionally, the Rig Veda was not written in Sanskrit but in Vedic or Avestan, which is a form of Persian. These portions of Rig Veda were written down only by the 2nd C BC.

Chapters II and X and other three Vedas are written in Sanskrit and are of later Post Christian Period. We will deal with this later, as they are very important in our study.

The hymns of Rig Veda were simply psalms to their nature gods – 33 gods can be counted including the later Vedic gods. However, none of these gods are found among the gods of Hinduism today. It is thus evident that though in order to push the date of heritage, Hinduism claim that Vedism was the start of Hinduism, the fact remains that there is very little relation between them. This is a critical issue and the fact will emerge as we deal other areas of study. The Pre-Christian Vedic religion had absolutely no concept of a God of gods or of a supreme God.

[Source](#)

There might have been other forms of local religions in various parts of India in addition to the three major religions as well. There are evidences that indicate the Dravids who were the creators of ancient Mohen Jodero civilizations and who today occupy the Southern part of India are the descendants of Abraham through his third wife Keturah. Bible indicates that these children were send to the East when Isaac was given his inheritance. DNA evidences do concur in this regard.

Parameshwara. [Iswara is God. Param means Most High.]

The prescript Param can be replaced with Maha meaning “The Great” to give Maheshwara – The Great God.

These words Parameswara and Maheswara occur in Indian religious scenario only after the first century.

This was very new to the Indian continent. It transformed all the religions of India – Vedism, Buddhism, and even Jainism to some extent. The idea that there is a Personal God who is Omnipotent and loving changed the whole theology of Indian continent as the later religious scenario shows. The extent of this impact indicates that Thomas established churches with Jesus as center of worship as the Parameshwara throughout India.

In the first except something caught my eye. The mention of Siberia is interesting due to findings coming from that region of late.

edit on 9-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

He also mentions Mahayana Buddhism being influenced by Thomas ministry. It would sound like he is just making everything try to fit into a neat little package but If you continue reading his article he goes into some interesting detail.

I don't know much about Ninan or the Thomas Churches in India but he does appear to give logical reasoning for his beliefs in his articles.

edit on 9-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)
reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 02:35 PM by **windword**

*Originally posted by godlover25
reply to [post by MonkeyFishFrog](#)*

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The manuscript evidence cannot be denied, and your ideas are just simply wrong.

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

Yep!

Our latest findings regarding the early version of Mark show that this was written at about the time of Claudius Caesar, by the grandfather of Arrius Piso. That version was apparently only a bare sketch and most likely did not give a name to the 'messiah'. That appears to have been done later by the person who actually played 'Jesus' in the Gospels - Arrius Piso. The version that we are familiar with was written about the year 73 CE by Arrius Calpurnius Piso.

Arrius Piso was a Roman on his father's side, but a descendant of King Herod on his mother's side and therefore he knew well about the Jewish religion. He was also a close relative to the Flavians and even though secretly he could inherit and use the Flavian name by his mother's descent from them, he gave a story about receiving it from the emperor Vespasian (in his other identity as Flavius Josephus).

www.angelfire.com...

www.abovetopsecret.com...

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 02:44 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by windword](#)

Your source is sketchy at best on that one Windword. Here is a Refutation www.tektonics.org...

edit on 9-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 03:06 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Originally posted by luciddream

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

I always see that during discussion of Ancient India, the Tamil Language is overlooked, it is said that Tamil was the original Native language of India(south), but it has been argued by and forth between Sanskrit and Tamil scholars, but we do know both are Ancient language and Tamil being the only one alive right now.

Tamil is Dravidian group of language(south India primarily), unlike the Aryan's Sanskrit. However Earliest undestroyed document available in Tamil is 150 BC, The Sangam Literature. They also had their own gods which was integrated into Modern Hinduism.

I think Hinduism composed of multiple ancient Indian religions or philosophies, that why the religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and few others share 90% of the concept of Hinduism.

edit on 11/9/2012 by luciddream because: (no reason given)

Ninan does not overlook Tamil in his section about Sanskrit taken from the previous link articles

The main language of North India during the ministry of Thomas was Pali and Prakrit - the languages used by Buddhism and Jainism. Dravidian language of Tamil already existed in the south. Evidently, Sanskrit language was made by refining all these common languages.

One of the early exhaustive collections of languages can be found in the Buddhist edicts of Emperor Asoka. (268 -233 BC). His aim

was to declare the gospel of Buddha to all his subjects and therefore, he presented this gospel in all languages spoken in the empire. It included Greek and even Aramaic (because there was a small group of Jews in the country). However, there was no Sanskrit in the group, indicating that the language Sanskrit did not exist at that time. We know that Buddhism and Jainism used only Pali and Prakrit languages. In fact, the earliest Sanskrit document ever found dates AD 150. It is evident therefore that Sanskrit came into existence during the period of AD 100 – 150 by refining the existing languages.

[Linguistic Evidence](#)

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 03:32 PM by **windword**

reply to [post by NihilistSanta](#)

Yeah. It's not really a pet theory or project of mine. I just wanted to interject that the sources of the gospels of the New Testament are iffy, at best.

There is, though, a lot of scholarly research on the topic of the influence of the Piso family on the New Testament, even the theory that the entire story of Jesus was a satire of the struggles of Hebrew people during the Jewish wars.

Then there's the idea that Plutarch wrote the book of Luke and Acts. www.gottnotes.com...

The point is, we don't know who wrote the gospels.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 05:32 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by windword](#)

I think the main point Ninan is making is that there are no signs of "Hindu" culture before the 2nd century AD. The evidence that

says contrary is based on linguistics and oral tradition but how accurate can that really be in determining a definite time table? It is his claim that Hindus have latched on to the vedic and pre-vedic material grafting it into their own thus extending their claims to authenticity among other things.

Some examples to show the complete contrast between Vedic and modern Hindu thought would be animal sacrifices which goes against ideas like Ahimsa which the jains introduced. Also you have things like bestiality and rape,incest being condoned and many other shocking details that the oh so wise Hindu tradition glosses over.

edit on 9-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: removed OT comments

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 06:09 PM by **halfoldman**

Proving the claims of any religion can be very difficult, especially with archeology.

This site claims to present scientific verification of Vedic knowledge:

There are more than 2,500 Archaeological sites, two-thirds of which are along the recently discovered dried up Sarasvati River bed. These sites show a cultural continuity with the Vedic literature from the early Harrapan civilization up to the present day India.

www.archaeologyonline.net...

They also claim increasing proof of the ancient submerged city of Dvaraka.

Well, pretty ancient "phallic" Shiva-Lingams have been found, and despite the phallic focus on circumcision in the Bible, I doubt these were symbols brought by Thomas or Christianity, and they remain symbols of devotion by many Hindus to this day.
en.wikipedia.org...

edit on 9-11-2012 by halfoldman because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 06:30 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by halfoldman](#)

Interesting post. The Aryan Invasion theory though whether is true or not is not what Ninan's idea is based on. He is talking about a much later period than the Vedic period when Christianity was introduced to India in 52.AD by Thomas. He then says that the peoples (doesn't matter if Aryan or Dravidian) of India were converting to Christianity and that the Christ story was being taught to people in a native way. That is when he gets into the Isavasya Upanishad and the Idea of a supreme redemptive God was introduced. He goes into some cultural details like hymns and chants today that are from that time that are similar to Christian ideas/liturgy/hymns etc. He makes correlations to Thomas ministry through India and Mahayana Buddhism suggesting this was an influence from Christianity. He goes further to claim that it wasn't until gnostics from syria came in to India and were mixing these ideas with the Vedic/Buddhist/Jain schools of thought creating the very different forms of Hinduism we have today which is really not the same religion from the Vedas.

*Edited to add that he suggest this new Hinduism is a Gnostic twist on the Christian story as told in a native way. He says that the Christian stories became mythologized and elements remained which is why we see similarities with Krishna/Christ etc.

edit on 9-11-2012 by NihilistSanta because: (no reason given)

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 06:41 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by halfoldman](#)

Thanks for the links/food for thought halfoldman. Will go through them and let you know what I find. I am just introducing Ninan's Ideas but still am withholding judgement til I learn more.

Anyone else who has links or information to contribute dont be shy. I hold no judgements towards hindu people or any people I just thought this was an interesting idea I had never encountered before.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 06:51 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Yes, Ninan does appear to be a supporter of the Aryan Invasion theory, so that may not lend to his credibility depending on your views there. Dont want to leave anything out. Still I dont think his idea is dependent on that one issue alone.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 07:02 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Originally posted by halfoldman

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en.wikipedia.org...

edit on 9-11-2012 by halfoldman because: (no reason given)

From the first site mentioned by halfoldman above.

The mighty Sarasvati River and it's civilization are referred to in the Rig Veda more than fifty times, proving that the drying up of the Sarasvati River was subsequent to the origin of the Rig Veda, pushing this date of origin back into antiquity, casting further doubt on the imaginary date for the so-called Aryan Invasion. Just curious as to why this makes the composition of the Rig Veda older? Is it possible that the indigenous people just happened to remember times when the riverbed was not dry?

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 07:07 PM by **Byrd**

You did an excellent job in tracking down Ninan (he's quite an interesting fellow, isn't he?) As we see, he self-publishes books and I gather he made this sort of presentation at a conference on Christianity and it was not greeted with overwhelming support

and approval.

Originally posted by NihilistSanta

Prof. Ninan was born in Kozhencheri, Kerala, India on 08/04/1934 **in a Syrian Christian Family which claims descent from one of the four families to whom St.Thomas the apostle of Jesus entrusted the gospel.**

I see bias here -- he is positioning his family as important figures who impact major religions in India.

His father Late.M.M.Mammen, was a publisher Freedom fighter and Christian Reformer. His eldest Brother is the well known theologian Late Dr.M.M.Thomas, who was the Chairman of the World Council of Churches, the Governor of Nagaland, India and the Chairman of the Christian Institute of Study of Society and Religion. He belongs to the Malankara Mar Thoma Church, a reformed church holding the theology of the Eastern Churches which claims a 2000 year old heritage.

His church is involved in the World Council of Churches (which is a group of 350 churches of various denominations (including Catholic) founded in 1948 ([see Wikipedia for a quick overview](#)) - - however, his claim about his father and brother being well-known theologians and reformers may mean "well known to the home church." I don't see much evidence that they served as president of WCC or secretary (at least, not according to Wikipedia.)

He is by profession a Professor of Theoretical Physics

The PhD is real (and he writes like a PhD. (see this section on [semiotics](#) which is well-written and shows excellent (if slightly biased) scholarship -- Forti is interesting but really not accurate.)

He was the first Moderator of the International Christian Fellowship, and the Co-founder, Sudan Pentecostal Church. He has published several studies on the influence of Christianity in the formation of Hindu religion and religious scriptures.

So he's a Pentecostal, and does have a stated bias.

No one can know everything about everything. When a PhD wanders off into a field far away from their PhD, *UNLESS* they take classes in that topic, they may not be able to distinguish good information from nonsense. We see this with Einstein recommending a very bad book on geology (Einstein knew math, but not geology.) I've seen it with a lot of other PhDs.

So the problems I see here are:

- * he has an important family history to uphold
- * he does not question his family history and tradition (his church says it's 2,000 years old.)
- * he accepts things that he likes as hard evidence (let's be honest - there is [no real evidence of St. Thomas](#).)
- * he cherry picks research.

and I'm almost out of space, so I'll continue in a second message.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 07:23 PM by **NihilistSanta**

Thanks for the info Byrd. It would seem he has an interest in the view he is presenting but does that make it less truthful? The presentation I think someone else made from written material he has available from his website which I have to say is a rather strange site to navigate.

Did you have a chance to look at any of his archeological evidence presented? [Ninans Archeology](#)

I know next to nothing about archaeology other than some classes

I took in an exploratory program at Western Caroline University. You are the resident expert so your opinion would bear much weight.

Great points you have made, thanks for the info.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 08:08 PM by **Byrd**

And so, down to his arguments:

Summarizing from his book that I see on Google:

* Hinduism did not exist before the 2nd century AD

-- this is a "weasel words" argument. The major books of Hinduism date back to 500 BC and more, and there certainly was a religion that looked like modern Hinduism from that time. However, it did go through some major changes (as an example -
- Christianity went from "small churches" to "The Church" to "The Catholic Church" to "the Protestant Church." Ninan's doing the equivalent of looking at the Protestants and saying "Christianity didn't exist before Martin Luther."

* Sanskrit did not exist before 200 AD

- Another "weasel words" argument. [There are very old versions of Sanskrit](#), including a set of grammar rules written around 500 BC. Now... if he means "dates of surviving documents or "post-Vedic" Sanskrit, this may be correct. But there's plenty of evidence of it being an older language -- and in either case, Sanskrit was not essential for Hinduism. That's like saying "Christianity didn't exist because English didn't exist until the Middle Ages."

* There were no Hindu Temples before 200 AD

- "weasel words" The oldest, continually used Hindu temple dates

to about 200 AD. But this argument is like saying "there aren't any Christian churches before 600 AD." ([You can see his argument here](#)) Notice he brings in his St. Thomas Church as being constructed on the ruins of an older temple and says that the tomb of St. Thomas is located in the Kapaleeshwarar Temple [even though the temple was constructed in 600 AD](#). There are temples to [Murugan and other deities that date to well before 1 AD](#)

* The name Krishna did not exist before 300 AD

-- Not supported, as far as I can tell. Krishna the cowherd is a character that dates to 1500 BC or earlier. However, I did not read the texts, so the *exact* name may not have existed. In a sense, "Jesus" as a name did not exist in 0 AD... "Jesus" is an English version of "Yeshua" which is the name of the Christian deity but there is no spelling "Jesus" before 500 AD or so (the Latin version, "[Iesu](#)" does appear in the Vulgate Bible... but not Jesus.)

* Idols did not exist in India before 300 AD

-- Not supported. For example, in the ruins of Pompeii was an ivory statue of Lakshmi (the Hindu goddess) -- yes, it's real. Rome was trading with India back then. ([it was one of several carved table legs](#)). The oldest stone idols I see are about 300-400 AD, but this does not mean there were NO idols or that I know the age of all of them.

* St. Thomas came to India and had a successful ministry all over India and China

-- Not supported on several levels -- no direct historical evidence of there being an apostle Thomas in India and China. [Christianity in China is attested in the 700's -- brought in by a Persian missionary](#) but doesn't seem to have made any huge inroads. It comes in, stays for a bit, and then declines (so ... "successful" would hardly be a way of describing a ministry if it existed.)

His conclusions are that Christianity from St. Thomas came to Syria (remember, his family is from Syria and he claims to be descended from one of the families that received the gospel from St. Thomas) and that Gnosticism created Hinduism.

That only works if you don't know much about gnosticism and Hinduism.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 08:09 PM by **halfoldman**

Thanks Byrd for some of the great insights.

Perhaps just to add further:

From video 1 in the OP one can say the claims about Sanskrit coming about after AD (or after Christ) are totally ridiculous.

The Rigveda was transmitted orally and in writing in Sanskrit, and it can be traced back at least to 1 500 BC, although some scholars say its origins are indeed from central Asia, rather than modern India.

There's an interesting clip on Youtube tracing the Rigveda back to at least 1 500 BC (by linguists and archeologists), and linking Sanskrit to other Indo-European languages (unfortunately I can't embed it here because it briefly refers to something against the T&C).

This Wikipedia reference should however also suffice:

It is one of the oldest extant texts in any Indo-European language. Philological and linguistic evidence indicate that the Rigveda was composed in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent, roughly between 1700–1100 BC[5] (the early Vedic period).
en.wikipedia.org...

Some might call this the "Aryan invasion" of India, but others might say this is how far what we would today call a major

aspect of Hinduism once stretched (as far as Afghanistan), before it was replaced by other religions.

Of course "Hinduism" is an imposed term, and it was never as "monolithic" as some other faiths.

For some of the more general claims the Haindava Keralam site might be of interest.

This is a Hindu site that debunks many of the myths invented by Muslim and Christian missionaries regarding Hinduism.

Similar to the way that Christians might debunk *Zeitgeist* material, it compares fake verses to actual verses from the Vedas and other Hindu writings.

Here, for example, we can see how verses were falsified to claim a "Jesus" figure in Hindu scripture, when they mentioned no such deity:

www.haindavakeralam.com...

In one of many discussions on the topic, here they write that St Thomas (in India) was a myth, a view even at first substantiated by the Pope:

www.haindavakeralam.com...

For more on the St. Thomas saga:

apostlethomasindia.wordpress.com...

Some of these points are quite strong from an inter-faith perspective, but they show some anger about a long history of misrepresentation.

edit on 9-11-2012 by halfoldman because: (no reason given)
reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 08:17 PM by **IIBII**

Buddha was born in a brahmanist family.... so he was born a Hindu.... Buddha was well before Jesus, and therefore OP's logic is fail. There is also theory that Jesus was buddhist monk, so thread should really be titled "Christianity from Hinduism?"

To add, search Vedic Period (1700 and 1100 BCE)

The Vedic period (or Vedic age) was a period in history during which the Vedas, the oldest scriptures of Hinduism, were composed.

The religion of the Vedic period (1500 BC to 500 BC) (also known as Vedism, Vedic Brahmanism, ancient Hinduism or, in a context of Indian antiquity, simply Brahmanism) is a historical predecessor of modern Hinduism.

en.wikipedia.org... en.wikipedia.org...

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 08:21 PM by **Byrd**

Originally posted by NihilistSanta

Did you have a chance to look at any of his archeological evidence presented? [Ninans Archeology](#)

I did, indeed. He shows the Buddhist temples but says there aren't any Hindu temples.

It is true there aren't any stone temples. I do, however, see archaeological references to mud brick temples and wooden temples. Other references are... apparently his own ideas: Tatpurusha-Mahadeva, (Self Existent Great God) Vamadeva-Uma (feminine - right side), (The Right Hand Lady God) and Aghora-Bhairava (Masculine Fierce - left side). This is heavily reminiscent of Hebrew Kabala. If you know the Kabala, his last statement is a "huh?" head-

scratcher. The Three-forms of god in one god is a Christian concept (trinity) but not a Judaic one.

The rest of the text has similar problems.

Now, I think I could probably find temples and statues that would contradict him, but I suspect he is not open to being questioned about this. His other books and papers on Christianity are interesting but again a very biased telling of the story.

It's hard to be objective (even if you are a scientist) with something you dearly believe in.

...this is why you have your papers reviewed. Or, rather, it's why I have MY papers reviewed by people who aren't emotionally attached to an issue.

edit on 9-11-2012 by Byrd because: (no reason given)
reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 09:39 PM by **luciddream**

OP it seems like you are adamant on proving Hinduism is young and esp after Christianity. Your source seems to be a biased Christian from India, who wants his religion to be superior.

Krishna is the last avatar of Vishnu, the 9th from his 10 avatars. i think its possible that a religion from India spread to middle east and created abrahamic, which is possible but i highly doubt the vice versa like your title suggests.

reply posted on 9-11-2012 @ 10:17 PM by **NihilistSanta**

reply to [post by luciddream](#)

OK the ideas presented in my OP are not mine. I brought them up for scrutiny. I found it new and interesting but drew no conclusions. Obviously since Ninan is not here and he is new to most of us I felt it necessary to flesh out his view to be compared

to what we know. I am not defending him or his views I was merely playing devil's advocate to encourage further conversation while learning more about his ideas.

I understand the idea is controversial and I did not bring it up to offend anyone. We often have no problem hearing ideas that Christianity was influenced by other religions but it seems taboo to question any of the others. I used to have a book written by a Hare Krishna Called Christ and Krishna where the idea was discussed as well

Some people here question theosophy, the new age etc and understand the influence Hinduism/Vedic religion has had on those systems. This was a new aspect for us to examine that I doubt many are familiar with. I had never heard of any Thomasine churches in India before this so felt we could all learn something by dissecting this view.

Thanks to the participants so far.
reply posted on 11-11-2012 @ 01:48 PM by **svmpua**

Hinduism is the oldest religion as far as science knows.
Also it is much more peaceful compared to other
"Fundamentalist" religions



<http://agniveer.com/>

• *Themo* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 7:07 am](#)

Hello,

I came across a website of Indian Christian scholar Professor M. M. Ninan:

<http://www.oracion.com/~mm9n/articles/index.htm>

He has thousands of pages long free e-books on the subject he claims:

- 1) All of the Upanishads (even the earliest ones) Veda Samhitas and Bhagavad Gita were composed/written after 2nd century AD based on Thomas sect of Christianity (after Christianity)
- 1) Hinduism did not exist before second century AD
- 2) Sanskrit did not exist before second century AD
- 3) There were no Hindu temples before second century AD
- 4) Any Hindu philosophy and mysticism is derived from Christian Gnosticism. (From Thomas sect)
- 5) Vaishnavism or any Krishna sect did not exist before 2nd century AD

6) He refutes any claims like any “columns” that supposedly prove Vaishnavism pre dated christianity.....

7) Concept of Krishna did not even exists before 3rd Century AD

He wrote a lot of books (that 600+ pages) that shows his “proofs” above web site, you can find his books in the link above.

So what can we say about this? I have questions:

1) Why don`t we have any manuscripts of the any Vedic scripture before 5th century AD?

2) Why don`t we find any Hindu temple that dated before second century Ad?

3) Why don`t we find any upanishadic doctrine in the Buddhist Pali Canon? Buddha never refutes or never mentions them he looks like he is not aware of any Upanishad doctrines?

- *Jason R Prasad* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 7:32 am](#)

He is a Christian, no one cares what he says.

That is why his books are free, just like the bible, only the gullible would believe this stuff.

OM TATH SATH

- *Vik* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 8:18 am](#)

@Thermo

1) Why don't we have any manuscripts of the any Vedic scripture before 5th century AD? _____

Because Vedas were never written down on paper. Vedas were orally passed down from a guru to his disciples and this pattern continued for millions of years. After the Puranic era came into existence, only then Vedas were written down.

2) Why don't we find any Hindu temple that dated before second century Ad?

Temples and murthis were never part of hinduism to begin with. Temples and murthis are much recent compared to Vedic ideology. As Vedas tells us to worship ONE FORMLESS Ishwar, in the Vedic era, there was no such thing as idols or mandirs of Ishwar, we all followed the Vedic way of worship. Now, speaking of **mandirs and murthis, this is all copied by Puranic hindus from Jains.** Jains initially came up with the idea of idols and murthis, please read Satyarth Prakash as Swami Dayanand makes reference to this. Just like how Jains made idols of their dieties, hindus who started to follow Puranas over Vedas also made murthis of Puranic deities and made their temples in order to worship them.

____ 3) Why don't we find any upanishadic doctrine in the Buddhist Pali Canon? Buddha never refutes or never mentions them he looks like he is not aware of any Upanishad doctrines? _____

yes, Upanishads are connected with Vedas. Now, remember Bhuddism begun when Buddha was annoyed of people doing fake hindu practices. For example, Sati and the caste system, which **Buddha THOUGHT was sanctioned in the Vedas, so this is why he decided to reject the Vedas. Buddha never read the Vedas,** had he read them, he would have found out that

hindus themselves have deviated from their path. In the time of buddhism, the caste system which is anti Vedic, was quite prevalent back then, so buddha condemned and decided to start his own religion. Please read the article "Buddhism and Vedas" also found on this site.

- *SDC* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 11:39 am](#)

Mr. Ninan also needs to be reminded that the Magi came from the east following a star, and that Christ himself traveled east and returned a transformed human being.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_years_of_Jesus

[Reply](#)

- *KalBhairav* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 9:03 am](#)

@Themo:

I came across a website of Indian Christian scholar Professor M. M. Ninan:

Does he literally believe Cain and Abel screwed Adam to produce future offspring? If yes, does he claim incest is immoral now? If he does so claim, he is not a scholar of any kind. Xity believes in one objective morality. If it was ok for Adam/Eve but not ok for us, he is not even a Xian. 😏

- *KalBhairav* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 9:07 am](#)

@Themo:

OOPS. I said:

Does he literally believe Cain and Abel screwed Adam

Oh no... YHWH had the strictest of punishments if the above had happened 😞

Leviticus 20:13:

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

I meant Eve in lieu of Adam above. 😊

- *Vinay Arya* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 10:14 am](#)

The western people and their followers are kids. They have never heard any pravachan from true Indian Gurus. That's why they are writing so.

- [Akhila Padhi](#) says:

[December 19, 2011 at 12:20 pm](#)

@Thomas – Hem... Interesting.....

1. You mean to say the palaces lying beneath the ocean on the bank of City Dwarka of Gujarat is of 2nd century old ? Oh my lord... Are people around the world so fool that they can't see the reality ?

- *Bagyaraj* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 1:33 pm](#)

@ Themo,

- 1) Did anybody make a research on the presented proofs by Mr. Ninan?
- 2) Why they need to claim Hinduism originated from Christianity? What is the motto behind it? Did Hindus do conversion or Christians?
- 3) If Hinduism is derived from Christianity why these are entirely different? Even if you believe that his claims are correct when you compare the beliefs of both religions which you will choose by logic and rational thinking?
- 4) Why they need to say Jesus is mentioned in Vedas (no where in Veda even a single letter said about Jesus or Mohammed)? What is their profit by claiming so?
- 5) Is it not possible for us to say Vivekananda's word and claim it is Issac Newton's or vice versa. Who is going to check all these?
- 6) As religion had to be spread through the pathway of satya and dharma why they are spreading such lie? Converted people after all once come to know their claims are wrong then what will be the situation of that religion?
- 7) It is the nature's rule that only truth will triumph then how long did this lie exist?

- *Krishna* says:

[December 22, 2011 at 11:31 pm](#)

I've heard claims like that before. The problem with such claims is there is zero archeological evidence to prove it. A good question to someone like him would be **why does science and archeological dating clearly state some copies of the Vedas to**

be well over the dates he claims. I think he is doing this for one reason. It isn't to prove to Hindus anything, but to his own followers so he can try and keep them as Christians. It is basically a cult like mentality.

- *hinduagnostic* says:

[July 25, 2012 at 7:40 pm](#)

there are so many reasons why this is incorrect

- *Bagyaraj* says:

[December 19, 2011 at 2:07 pm](#)

@ Themo,

As per Bible Adam was born in BC 4012. But 69,000 yr old human body has been excavated from Ural mountains in Italy and 2 million year old human skull obtained from Magnolia and so on. So no way the Bible is older than Vedas since the first man mentioned in Bible itself is only 6000 years old. Bible and Vedas cannot be compared in any means. If you read Bible you will understand this.

Some Muslim scholars also claim that there is Mohammed in various scriptures of Hindus which is false and is proved by Agniveer. My question is if Mohammed or Jesus is mentioned in these scriptures why not to follow these books?

In Bavisha Purana you can see the name of Jesus, Mohammed which does not mean they are to be worshiped. Bavisha Purana wrote about many Mughal kings also which does not mean they are to be worshiped. It is written as a part of history and these parts are added to the original Bavisha Purana by a person who knows both Arabic and Sanskrit during Mughal rule.

As Adam is born on BC 4012 westerners never allow the Vedas to be older than that.

1) The oldest artifact of copper discovered from India was made during 7786 +/- 120 BC.

2)A copper metal obtained from Mehargarh was made during 4745 +/- 90 BC.

3)The Ambamata copper mines in Gujarat were functioning 2200 years ago.

You can see the technology for preparing this metals in Vedas.

4)Great ancient Indian mines were Rajpura, Dariba and Udaipur mines in Rajasthan for Zinc (1260 BC)

5)South Lode mines fully active during 1130 BC for gold, silver and copper minerals.

Hatti in Karnataka was an important source of gold from 750 BC;

6)Lead and Zinc were produced in 99% purity from Rampura and Agucha mines during 350 BC.

7)Zawarmala in Rajasthan was the most active Zinc and lead producing mines during 440 BC;

8)Ambamata mines in Gujarat was very active copper, lead and zinc mines in Gujarat.

Ganeswar – Rajar mines were perhaps the oldest copper mines in the world active during 2800 – 2500 BC.

9)The Kallur copper mines were active during 1200 BC.

10)Komaranahalli and Tadanahalli are the two very important iron mines producing the metals during 1300 BC .

11)Attranjikhera mines were active during 1200 BC for iron metal.

12)Pandur, Rajar and Dhibi in Bengal were active during 1300 BC and Alamghir mines in Rajasthan during 1000 BC & Varnasi mines during 1000 BC all for iron mining.

If you go through this site you can get more scientific evidences regarding the archeological heritage of India .

<http://www.archaeologyonline.net/>

• *dogra* says:

[January 9, 2012 at 6:50 pm](#)

Great stuff Agniveer.#

With these your humbel foot soldiers can fire of 'bullets' of knowledsge at the anti hindu individuals

- *Themo* says:

[January 15, 2012 at 8:14 am](#)

Apollo Reach,

I know the easiest solution for beating wife verses is to reject them outright. However the problem is if anyone was able to tamper with the scriptures like that in the past, how can we know the other parts of the scriptures that we trust are not tampered with also?

- *KalBhairav* says:

[January 15, 2012 at 12:14 pm](#)

@Themo:

However the problem is if anyone was able to tamper with the scriptures like that in the past, how can we know the other parts of the scriptures that we trust are not tampered with also?

One way out is it see what is the overall drift of the rest of the verses. The Upanishads are focussed more on philosophy – so, prima facie, there seems to be evidence that things like wife beating would not feature there.

Yet another way out is that Upanishads are “divinely inspired”. They are not “words of God” like the Quran. So, the Vedic seers cast their thought and impressions in forms that were based off how the society was organized at that point in time.

In any case, Hinduism is not too big on objective morality. Hinduism has room to accept that certain practices and sense of right and wrong will change with society, geography and time.

If there was objective morality, the Abrahamics should burn witches, stone to death adulterers, and actively seek and kill homosexuals. So, it is GOOD that Xians/Mohammedans talk a lot of objective unchanging morality, but thankfully do not practise that in reality.

.....

- [*Agniveer Agni*](#) says:

[May 7, 2013 at 8:53 am](#)

Ishopanishad is 40th Chapter of Yajurveda primarily. Some renditions have minor modifications. All other Upanishads are human creations and not as preserved as Vedas, so are subject to their compliance with Vedas.