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GODS AND GODDESSES IN HINDU MYTHOLOGY

Not a Haphazard Jumble but a Well-Developed Scheme

BASED ON METAPHYSICAL DOCTRINES

By Sampurnanand

(Minister of Education, U. P. India)

Before one can claim the right to express an opinion on the Hindu conception of gods and goddesses one must clearly understand what that conception is. It may be that some of these illustrious members of the Hindu pantheon are really embodiments of abstract concepts like Truth or Justice or Beauty, others, the products of a process of sublimation, as it were, of the humble nature-spirits and totems of the non-Aryan races which inhabited and still inhabit large areas in the country.

We can also trace a process of evolution by which a god or goddess has gradually worked his or her way up to a position of great importance from comparatively humbler origins.

The greatest example of this is Ganesha who starting as Vinayak in the Vedas, a member of a family more or less of malignant spirits, is now the god who presides at all functions of a beneficent character. As a matter of fact, his international career is even more interesting, the mystic significance attached to him in countries where the Mahayana form of Buddhism flourishes—in Siam, China and Japan—is a tribute to the wonderful potentialities of his personality which could not but have felt camped in its old physical and spiritual environment.

Reverse Process

We have examples of the reverse process as well: the goddess Tara and Nila Tara, for instance, though they are manifestations of Shakti who as Uma Haimavati, for example, meets us in the Vedas, they have, in their present forms

found their places in orthodox Hinduism through Mahayan Buddhism.

But every one of these individual cases fits in the general conception or hypothesis. In so far as any particular deity fails to do so, we may be sure that he is in a state of what might be called unstable equilibrium in the religious hierarchy.

There is another theory, very ancient in its origin and thoroughly orthodox which says that gods and goddesses are really of natural objects, phenomena and forces, like the Sun, the Moon, rain, thunder and water. European scholars would like to take credit for this method of interpretation, but really it is as old as the science of Vedic exegesis whose great Indian exponent was the great Yaska. This theory is still held in reverence but it has not many adherents.

No Independent Entities

Of the two theories which command general adherence, the one which is exclusively acceptable to followers of puritanical movements like the Arya Samaj in the sense that they are not prepared to accept the other theory at all lays down that gods and goddesses are not really independent entities at all but really names of God, in his various aspects and functions. God is the Creator, the Sustainer and the Destroyer of the Universe. He dispenses justice. He sends down the welcome rain. He gives knowledge and wealth and power. He brings death. He heals the sick. Therefore, Brahma, Vishnu and Rudra, Dharmaraja, Indra, Saraswati, Lakshmi, Durga, Yama, Ash-

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ANCIENT INDIA

I. Its Originality

By S. R. Muttukumar

THE ancient Hindus had a world-wide reputation for many of their handicrafts, but their greatest achievement was their superior knowledge of the Textile Industry known among the Tamils as கருகவினை (Karukavinai). The weavers were known as கருகர் (Karukar.) (1)

Dr. Slater and a few other scholars are of opinion that the Indians learnt the art of Spinning and Weaving from the Egyptians, but the weight of evidence seems to support the contrary. That unbiased American translator of the *Periplus*, W. H. Schoff, says that "cotton is a native of India, and woven into cloth by the natives of the country before the dawn of history, and the facts concerning it have been admirably stated by Mr. R. B. Handy in *The Cotton Plant*, a report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued in 1896." (2) He also states that "while cotton may possibly have been spun first in Turkestan, it seems more likely that it has always been native in the Indian peninsula, and that the Aryan invaders found the cultivation and industry both well established." (3)

Moreover, Professor A. H. Sayee in his Hibbert lectures shows ground for the belief that cotton was exported from South India by sea to the head of the Persian Gulf in the 4th millennium B. C. and it found its way very early to Egypt. (4) Lassen has also pointed out that the Egyptians wrapped their mummies in Indian muslin. (5)

The names for cotton in several of the ancient languages

of the world are as follows:—
Thamil — கரும்பு (க) ப (ஞ) சு,
meaning tree-cotton. பஞ்சு
has the same root as பசுமை
meaning softness.

Sanscrit—karpasa

Hebrew—carpas

Greek—karpasos

Latin—carbasus.

What we may infer from this is that cotton, which is a native of India, was introduced into the other parts of the world by the ancient Dravidians. This is confirmed by the fact that the word sindhu or muslin is mentioned in an ancient Babylonian list of clothing. The occurrence of "S" in the word shows that this muslin did not go to Mesopotamia via Persia, for then "s" would have become "h" as the name of India became Hind. It may, therefore, be concluded that muslin went direct by sea from the Tamil coast to the Persian Gulf, as stated by Professor Sayee. The word sindu for muslin is not derived from the name of the river Indus, as has been supposed by some, but from the old Dravidian word "sindi" which is still found in Tulu and Canarese, and means a piece of cloth, and is still represented by the Tamil word சிந்து (sindu) meaning a flag. We may perhaps trace to this source the Greek *sindon*, the Arabic *satin* (a covering) and the Hebrew *sadin*. (6)

It may also be noted here that Sennacheril (704-681 B. C.) enlarged the city of Nineveh, built therein a palace for himself, and planted a great park where among other trees he introduced "trees bearing wool," an expression used by Herodotus to describe the cotton plant of India (7)

We also find that an Indian introduced cotton into Japan

(Continued on page 7)

- (1) a. பருத்திதூல் பட்டுதூல் அமைத் தாடை யாக்கலும்.
"சுமத்தலும் பிறவுங் கருகவினைத் தொழில்"..... *Divakaram* xii
b. "பட்டினும் மயிரினும் பருத்தி தூலினும், கட்டுதூண்வினைக் கருக ரிருக்கையும்"
Silappadikaram v. 16. 17.
- (2) *Periplus* p. 72.
- (3) *Ibid*, p. 257.
- (4) *Ibid*, p. 71.
- (5) Mookerji's *Indian Shipping* p. 91.

- (6) a. Sirinivas Iyengar's *History of the Tamils*, p. 39.
(b) Rawlinson's *Intercourse Between India, the Western World* p. p. 2. 3.
- (c) Schoff's *Periplus* p. 165.
- (d) Isaiah iii. 23.
- (7) Srinivas Iyengar's *History of the Tamils*, p. 132.

HEALTHIER MOTHERS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

Essential Factors Making for Safety of Mother and Child

By Dr. G. A. W. Wickremasuriya,
(In a radio Talk)

NO health problem can be of greater consequence to a nation than maternal and infant welfare. It is of supreme importance, therefore, to ensure to the expectant mother safe conduct through pregnancy and childbirth as far as is humanly possible. Childbirth is a natural function; yet it is not altogether devoid of danger. The majority of perfectly healthy women of normal physique go through pregnancy unscathed and even derive permanent benefit in health from it. An appreciable number, however, react unfavourably and may even suffer permanent damage to health in consequence. Moreover, it is not always easy to predict what may be the effect of pregnancy of any particular individual. It is not always the least robust who are most affected; not infrequently the healthiest and the strongest are most disturbed. Ill-health and disharmonies arise as a result of pregnancy so frequently and often so unexpectedly that most authorities today look upon every pregnant woman as a potentially 'sick' person. In fact, a very distinguished French physician of old had described pregnancy as a disease of 9 months duration. Another point to remember is that many pregnant women feel perfectly well and appear well and yet they are ill. There is also a danger that because of the relative frequency of normal, abnormal cases are likely to be overlooked. It would therefore be folly to ignore the potentialities for danger which exist in childbirth, particularly in the over-civilized woman of the present day.

Factors for Safety

The essential factors which make for the safety of mother and child in every birth are the normal round pelvis, mobile pelvic joints and the use of the natural posture for delivery. These are characteristic of the healthy woman. The factors which favour the development of the normal round pelvis and mobile pelvic joints are correct nutrition during the period of growth through childhood to adolescence, open air life with healthy physical exercise and muscular activity. The activities which particularly help in moulding the normal shape and form of the pelvis are those which exercise the pelvic joints. They are comprised in the squatting attitude, the natural posture for defaecation. For a pelvis to be in a healthy condition, the joints must be exercised daily from birth. Exercises involving the squatting attitude are the most efficacious in this connection. Faulty development of the future mother's pelvis can thus be prevented by general hygienic measures during the early period of growth. The pelvis attains its final form at puberty or thereabout. The future mother has been made for better or for worse at that age. Difficult

childbirth is therefore not a matter of chance, but follows the violation of the fundamental laws of health. That is why the indoor and pampered life of the rich often gives rise to more difficulties than even extreme poverty.

The result of childbirth depends also to a great extent on the state of health of the mother. Pregnancy intensifies existing illnesses, and brings to the surface latent constitutional defects. Indeed one may justifiably say that pregnancy is a real test of bodily soundness. Thus it has been computed that it is five times more dangerous for a woman afflicted with a medical disease to bear children than it is for a healthy woman and that a child born to a woman suffering from a medical disease is twice as apt to be still born as a child born to a healthy mother.

For these various reasons, it is today accepted as cardinal principle that every expectant mother, healthy or otherwise, should be medically supervised right through pregnancy, childbirth and the lying-in period.

In countries where this medical supervision is complete and thorough, many of the major risks of childbirth have been eliminated. In England and Wales, for instance, the recovery rate after childbirth is 997 per thousand mothers delivered, a fact to be regarded as a triumph of the obstetrical art. In Ceylon, on the other hand, the recovery rate after childbirth is infinitely worse, being 980 out of 1000 delivered. That is to say 20 mothers die out of every 1000 delivered. This heavy toll of maternal life in Ceylon is due to a large extent to the general ill-health of the prospective mothers and also to the inadequacy of medical supervision. Over 50% of the deaths in childbirth among the poorer classes in Ceylon are due to incidental diseases such as Hookworm disease, malaria, and other diseases, and to general debility resulting from malnutrition. All these deaths can be prevented, if the women place themselves under medical supervision early in the pregnancy. It is to be regretted that the full co-operation of the patient is seldom obtained. 'The patient herself is her own worst enemy, whether from ignorance, apathy, ill-health or prejudice.'

To ensure the greatest possible safety to mother and child and to maintain them in good health, attention must be paid to the following principles.

1. Ante-natal Care:

This implies complete and thorough medical supervision of the expectant mother throughout the pregnancy. Ante-natal care has come to be recognised everywhere as a most important branch of preventive medicine. What passes under the guise of ante-natal care today in most places is too perfunctory, inadequate and inefficient to be worthy of the name.

A visit or two to a clinic and

an occasional examination of urine does not constitute ante-natal care.

It is watchful care throughout that is essential. Patients should be seen often. Frequent examinations of urine and estimations of blood pressure are most essential and help in the early detection of the onset of serious diseases. The fact that a patient feels well is no criterion that she is in good health. The slightest discomfort should be reported to the medical adviser. The onset of oedema, scanty urine, or headache should be notified forthwith. Even an occasional headache, particularly when it occurs in the later months, should be considered as a serious symptom. It should never be ignored, as it is very often a warning of impending fits or convulsions, a disease to which pregnant women are prone. The question of diet, work and exercise, attention to bowels and other details must all receive careful consideration. No patient should ever be allowed to drift on to labour without the position of the child and other important details having been previously determined. It is most important that every woman, high or low, rich or poor, should receive the benefits of ante-natal care, for there cannot be any question that by its aid most of the disasters of childbirth can be avoided.

2. Intra-natal Care or the medical supervision of the confinement

This is as important as ante-natal care. The most efficient ante-natal care can be rendered valueless by careless or faulty methods in the management of the confinement. It should be the rule for a doctor as well as a fully trained midwife to be associated with every case of childbirth. In all cases where any difficulty is anticipated, arrangements should be made for the confinement to be conducted in a well equipped hospital. Intelligent anticipation of complications and the timely transfer of patients to hospital would avert trouble and distress to mother and child. The delivery of the child must be effected with least injury to its person. Every care must be taken to guard against infection during the confinement and the lying-in period. The intelligent use of antiseptics, the wearing of gloves and masks by the medical attendant and the nurse are imperative to minimise the risk of infection. It must also be realised that the mother can be infected from various extraneous sources: for example a discharging ear or other septic condition of any member of the mother's household, husband's or patient's own septic throat. Every endeavour must be made to protect the mother from infection through these well recognised channels. The possibility that the mother can be infected by contacts other than the medical attendant or nurse is often overlooked. Prevention of exhaustion of the mother and of any bleeding after the baby is born also demand special attention. A most important point in the management of the confinement is the intelligent anticipation of complications and the readiness to deal with them without loss of time should they arise.

3. Post Natal Care.

The value of postnatal care is not fully appreciated by the majority of patients in this country. Every patient should be examined

SAMOOGA SEVAI SANGAM VANNARPONNAI

A free library, named "Arumuga Navalar Free Library", was opened at the fourth monthly meeting of the Samooga Sevai Sangam, Vannarponnai held on the 2nd April 1939 at 8.30 p.m. Mr. A. Vairamuttu Vaidiya Easan, presided. After the confirmation of the minutes of the past meeting, and the adoption of the accounts of the Sangam the opening ceremony of a Free Library called "Arumuga Navalar Free Library" was conducted by the President with Pooja Ceremony in the Sanga Office. Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam (Law student) spoke about "Libraries and their usefulness to the public" and thanked the Sangam for establishing the Library as a free library. Mr. V. Ponnudurai spoke on the subject "The Benefits of a Library and the manner of conducting same." He requested the Sangam to open a Free Night School also. The meeting ended, with a singing of Thevaram and the president's concluding address. (Cor)

as a matter of routine about the fourth or fifth week after confinement. By such an examination one can determine with certainty whether the mother has gone through the ordeal without damage to her health. Appropriate advice can also be given with regard to the future. Matters concerning the baby, its feeding and progress, and other details may also be discussed and advice given.

Little has been said so far regarding the infant. It is necessary to emphasise that the infant receives equal benefit with the mother from ante-natal, intra-natal and post natal supervision. Although the child in the womb normally thrives at the expense of the mother, there cannot be any question that conditions adversely affecting her health must also react unfavourably on the child. For instance, in conditions of maternal malnutrition and poverty of blood, the baby may even be stillborn; or if born alive, its vitality may be so low that its chances of survival are poor. More often it is born with deficient store of essential mineral elements such as iron and calcium with resultant predisposition to diseases such as infantile anaemia and rickets. Proper nutrition of the expectant mother is therefore of paramount importance both from the point of view of her own health and that of her unborn child. For the future well-being of the baby it is essential that it should be breast fed. There is not the least doubt that both the mortality and morbidity rates are immeasurably lower among breast-fed than in bottle-fed infants. The proper training of the infant is also of the highest importance for maintenance of good health. Good habits must be inculcated from birth. A great deal has already been done to reduce the mortality and morbidity among infants by organised work associated with welfare clinics.

It will thus be obvious that for the well being and happiness of both mother and child, the "care right through" principle should be universally adopted.

FACILITIES FOR HIGHER COMMERCIAL EDUCATION

Education Department Taking Steps

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE OFFERED

It is understood that the Education Department is taking steps to provide facilities for higher commercial education in Ceylon in order to encourage Ceylonese young men to take to commercial careers.

With this end in view, it is proposed to improve the facilities for commercial education at the Government Technical College to enable candidates from that institution to attain a professional standard in Commerce.

Steps are also being taken to offer Government scholarships in commerce to Ceylonese candidates who show special aptitude for education of this type.

The question of providing adequate facilities for higher commercial education was, it is understood, recently raised by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, who drew the attention of the Ministry of Education to the need for improving the standard of commercial instruction at the Technical College.

Excellent Opportunity

It was pointed out to the Ministry of Education that at present educated young men were looking for other careers besides law, medicine and the clerical services, and that therefore the present time provided an excellent opportunity for interesting them in a commercial career by placing all possible facilities at their disposal.

The Ministry of Education went into the question and has now directed the Education Department to take the necessary steps to remedy the existing defects by improving the standard at the Technical College.

At present the standard of commercial education imparted at the Technical College does not extend beyond the requirements for the Senior Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce.

It is now suggested that pending the establishment of the University, they provide instruction in to commercial subjects to meet the requirements for the Intermediate examination in Commerce of London University.

The University College does not provide that type of education at present.

A further proposal is that the standard of instruction in book-keeping and Accountancy at the Technical College should be raised

ASHAMED TO USE HIS HANDS

LAMENTABLE FACT ABOUT CEYLON SCHOOL BOYS

HANDWORK EXHIBITION AT KALMUNAI

The one thing that struck him forcibly about the Ceylon School boy was the lamentable fact that he was ashamed to use his hands, remarked Mr. Van Langenburg, the Assistant Government Agent, Batticaloa, in declaring open the Handwork Exhibition of the Kalmunai Schools, held at the Kalmunai Girls' Boarding School on Monday, 27th March, 1939.

In England and other European countries he had visited, Mr. Van Langenburg continued, the school boys and even varsity students made the fullest use of their hands. Hence it gave him great pleasure indeed to associate himself with that exhibition which was the result of the pupils using their hands and heads. He thanked the Inspector of Schools, Mr. K. Sivapatham, for giving him that opportunity.

Exhibits

Exhibits were displayed under five sections: Health, Handwork, Art, Agriculture and Teaching apparatus. Exhibits of over 35 schools were displayed. In the Handwork section were articles made of coir, clay, wood, cement, leaf and paper. This was the most attractive section. There was the art section in which were displayed the Drawings of pupils and Teachers. Mr. Sam T. Solomons' sketches of prominent personalities of Ceylon attracted great interest and attention.

The Acting Director of Education, Mr. R. Patrick, who went round and saw the Exhibit, observed that the Exhibits reflected great credit on the schools in the area. The Exhibition lasted 3 days.

so as to enable students of that institution to sit for examinations, success at which would give them the status of professional accountants.

It has also been suggested that immediate steps should be taken to make commercial education in secondary schools sufficiently attractive to boys of intelligence.

Glass Industry in Ceylon

Successful Tests with Ceylon Sand

Scheme for Establishing Factory

Colombo, April 7.

ACCORDING to information placed before the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce, the possibility of establishing a glass industry in Ceylon has been definitely proved.

Tests have been carried out in an Indian glass factory with samples of sand forwarded from Ceylon.

These tests have proved successful, and samples of glass articles, like tumblers, jars and flasks, made from sand sent from Ceylon are now in the hands of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

The chief requirements of sand for glass making, on a commercial scale, are high silica content and very low iron oxide.

Plentiful Raw Material

The Department of Commerce and Industries, it is learned, has reported that it has found large areas where sand of such a nature is available in apparently inexhaustible quantities.

It is reported that there are certain areas near Colombo where sand suitable for the industry is found.

The fact that cheap electric power is available in and around Colombo, it is pointed out, renders the prospect of the establishment of the new industry brighter.

When the Hydro-Electric Scheme is in operation, it is pointed out that cheap power will be available in more areas where sand suitable for glass making is found in abundance.

Ministry's Scheme

It is understood that at the present moment the Department of Commerce and Industries is preparing a scheme for the establishment of a glass factory which, while turning out glass on a commercial scale, will demonstrate the possibilities of the industry to those who might be prepared to invest capital in it.

The scheme will be placed before the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce and when approved, the State Council will be asked to provide the necessary expenditure to establish a factory on the lines of some of those which are working in India.

It is maintained that if the factory can at its inception produce the cheaper quality of glass utensils, commonly found in domestic use and ordinary glass plate all of which are now imported, the factory would be a commercial success.

An examination of working costs, it is stated, points to the possibility of producing glass articles at a cost which would enable competition with the imported variety.

Indian Development

It is also pointed out that in certain parts of India, the production of the ordinary quality of glass is being developed as a cottage industry, commonly called "glass blowing."

T. N. AND Q. BANK CASE

ALLEGED BREACH OF TRUST

ACCUSED HANDED OVER TO POLICE

Trivandrum, April 6.

MESSRS. K. C. Mammen Mapillai, K. V. Verghese, K. M. Eapen and C. P. Mathen of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank, were brought here last night by the Trivandrum Express by the Madras Police and surrendered to the D. S. P. of Trivandrum, Mr. S. Baghavathi Subramania Aiyer.

A large crowd had assembled on the platform as well as outside, long before the train steamed in, and were awaiting the arrival of these four people. On arrival of the train, the four accused were quickly conducted to a transport bus, which was waiting outside the station, and taken straight to the District Magistrate's Court. A strong escort, including the D. S. P. of Trivandrum and the British Police Sergeant, conducted them to the District Magistrate's Court, from where the British Sergeant left later.

The crowd that gathered on the platform and outside the station and the Court premises were perfectly peaceful. The four Directors looked quite cheerful.

It may be recalled that these four gentlemen had been arrested on a warrant issued by the District Magistrate of Trivandrum in consequence of a complaint made by Mr. Wishart, Official Liquidator of the Bank, under Sections 409, 421, etc., of T. P. C. for criminal breach of trust, falsification of accounts, presenting an incorrect balance sheet, etc., in connection with the transactions of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank.

The four Directors, except Ramanujam and K. C. Eapen, General Manager and Deputy President of the Bank respectively were produced by the D. S. P. of Trivandrum before Mr. K. Parameswara Panicker, District Magistrate, at about 7 p.m.

The complaint was read out to the accused. As two more accused, namely Ramanujam and K. C. Eapen, against whom there were arrest warrants, had not been apprehended, the arrested persons were remanded to custody in Central Jail till April 24.

Personal

Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, B. A., (Hons), Dip. Ed., District Inspector of Schools, Galle, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society.



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1939

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION has admittedly worsened with the invasion of Albania by Italy. The latest news is that Italy has invaded Albania with little resistance at the hands of the Albanian army and that King Log has been forced to flee from his Capital. No wonder that helpless Albania could not effectively resist the invaders who were helped by a number of their notorious planes. It is well known that the Duce has been smarting under the feeling that he has been left in the lurch by his partner's dramatic conquests in Central Europe. That the Fascist coup has been greatly engineered and encouraged by the Nazi leader is now clear. There can be no doubt that the rape of Albania is of a piece with that of Abyssinia demonstrating to doubting Thomases that the Rome-Berlin axis is very much alive. Those who have been hoping against hope that the Rome-Berlin axis could be unhinged have been bitterly disappointed by Mussolini's latest move. It is one more proof that the Dictators intoxicated with pride and power have pinned their faith on their armed might, throwing to the winds all canons of international justice and morality.

Intelligent students of current history will be disposed to attribute the acute tension in Europe to the now famous Munich surrender. That Pact may be defined as the consummation of the vacillating and weak-kneed foreign policies of the two great Western Democracies. It must be admitted that the Nazi victory at Munich gave a rude shaking to the confidence of smaller and weaker States that they could count upon the support of the big Powers if ever the Dictators attempted to devour them. The fact is the Munich Pact gave a fillip to the vaulting ambitions of the axis partners. It is a matter of gratification that at long last Britain and France are now wide awake to the grim realities of the situation and have therefore guaranteed Poland their active help in preserving Polish integrity and independence. MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S statement in the Commons makes it perfectly clear that Britain will no longer mark time but will actively help the smaller States if they are subject to unprovoked aggression. The only hope of Europe today

lies in the *peace bloc* which is now being organised under the leadership of Britain and France.

One cannot foresee clearly what would be the attitude of Britain and France towards the Albanian question. MR. CHAMBERLAIN is reported to have said that Britain has no special interest in the Albanian sphere but that she is certainly interested in the peace of Europe. From this ambiguous statement one cannot deduce any definite conclusion. If the two great Western Democracies mean business and are really bent upon the preservation of peace in Europe, they cannot afford to treat the Italian coup with indifference. For every conquest of the axis partners is a consolidation of their strength and a corresponding disadvantage to those Powers ranged on the side of peace. It remains to be seen whether they will resort to their well-known prevarication or act sternly in the interest of the peace of Europe.

STATE FARM FOR UNEMPLOYED

Three Hundred Men to be settled at Puttalam

One of the unemployment relief schemes of the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce is a model State farm to be opened in Kottukachchy in the Puttalam District.

More than three hundred unemployed people will shortly be settled in this farm.

Unlike colonisation scheme the proposed farm station will be entirely financed, controlled and managed by Government.

If the proposed farm proves successful in cultivating in the unemployed a love for the land it is hoped to establish a chain of such farms in districts where irrigable land is available.

The Agricultural Department, it is understood, has been instructed to prepare the final details of the scheme.

Kottukachchy has been selected for establishing the farm as a large acreage of irrigable land is available there.

The farm according to the preliminary details will consist of three separate sections for residential pasture and cultivation purposes.

It is proposed to provide the farm workers with proper housing accommodation.

Gen Franco Joins the Axis

Berlin, Friday.

Messages from Burgos state that General Franco's Government has officially announced its adherence to the Anti-Comintern Pact.

The Burgos Government has emphatically denied the rumours of the arrival of fresh Italian troops at Cadiz. It is stated that the departure of present Italian forces is expected to take place very soon after the official entry of General Franco into Madrid.

THE END OF BALI'S HAPPINESS AND TRADITION

An Interesting Lecture On Bali Island

The intrusion recently of the Christian Mission into that little island of Bali which had remained to this day unaffected by modern "civilisation" meant the beginning of the end of its simple, traditional and beautiful culture, remarked Mr. S. Mahadeva, Engineering Assistant to the Director of Public Works, in the course of a lantern lecture on "Life in Bali" at the Kala Nilayam, Jaffna, on Friday.

The lecture was illustrated by slides illustrating the various phases of life in Bali. The religion, art, sculpture of the people of Bali were much akin to those of the Hindus, especially of South India. The island, Mr. Mahadeva said, was self-contained in that she produced for all her wants which were simple and not many. The Dutch, who ruled the colony, he said did not attempt to "civilize" the people of Bali and it was one of the few countries in the world that had little communication with outside world. The island is one-seventh the size of Ceylon and had a population of one million people. Ceylon had much to learn, he said, from this Island.

JAFFNA YOUTH CONGRESS

Annual Sessions on 14th and 15th April

The Annual Sessions of the Jaffna Youth Congress will be held on April 14th and 15th at the Town Hall, Jaffna. Mr. S. H. Perinbanayagam was unanimously elected President of this year's Sessions by the Executive Committee.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, Premier of Madras, Mr. Francis de Soysa K.C., Dr. R. Saravanamuthu, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe and Dr. E. V. Ratnam have been invited to speak.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA

104th Birthday Celebration in Jaffna

The one-hundred and fourth birthday of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was celebrated yesterday at the Vaideshvara Vidyalayam, Vannarponnai. The celebration began with pooja in the morning followed by a bhajana.

In the afternoon, there was a bhajana. A largely attended public meeting followed at 7 p.m. at which Srimat Swami Vipulananda presided. Messrs. S. Natesan, M. S. C., and V. Veerasingham, Principal, Manipal Hindu College, spoke on the life, teachings and masage of the Paramahansa.

AUTOMATIC 'PHONE EXCHANGE

Innovation in Colombo

Colombo, April 9.

Another step in the advancement of communications was taken on Friday morning when the Colombo Telephone Exchange switched on from the old manual working system to automatic equipment, the most modern in the East.

For almost eight and a half minutes on Friday morning the four thousand subscribers in Colombo were cut off, while during that brief period the entire engineering staff of the Post Office, under the personal supervision of Mr. John Shillitoe, Chief Telecommunication Engineer, and Mr. David Lusk, his principal assistant, were engaged in making the change over.

At 10.15 a.m.—and that was the zero hour—about 100 girls who were on duty at the old magneto switch boards left their positions, some for good, and others to take up duties elsewhere.

ANGLO-AMERICAN PACT

Joint Use of Pacific Islands

Washington, Thursday.

A fifty-year Anglo-American agreement for joint occupation and administration of the Pacific islands of Canton and Enderbury and for joint use as trans-oceanic air-stations has been signed. It provides that an American company or companies may construct an airport on Canton island which will provide facilities for both British and American aircraft in return for agreed fees.

Law against Insults to Religion

Infanticide Law to be Amended

Widening of the law to punish acts that would insult or wound the religious feelings of any persons is proposed.

The draft of the proposed addition to the Penal Code has been gazetted. The punishment is fine or imprisonment of either description (maximum one year) or both.

It is also proposed to incorporate appropriate provisions designed to bring the Ceylon law relating to infanticide into line with the English law.

At present the mother of a "newly born child" is not charged with murder if she causes its death while the balance of her mind is disturbed by reason of her not having fully recovered from the effect of giving birth.

It is no longer necessary in England that the child whose death has been caused should have been "newly born" in order to reduce the offence from murder to infanticide.

The new provision is that the child should be "under twelve months old."

SUDDEN INVASION OF ALBANIA

Italy's Good Friday Gift

ALBANIAN CAPITAL FALLS BEFORE ITALIAN ATTACK

A SUDDEN invasion of Albania by Italy took place at noon on Good Friday, 35,000 Italian troops, naval units and 400 aircraft forming the spear-head of the thrust. Albania, with a standing army of about 12,000, was hardly in a position to resist and Tirana fell yesterday.

The Italians, under cover of a heavy naval bombardment, are reported to have made landings on the Albanian coast at Valona, Durazzo, Santi Quaranta and San Giovanni di Medua. The Albanians, says Reuter, assert that they pushed back the invaders twice into the sea at Durazzo. The Italians, however, declare that their troops are now proceeding into the interior and that they are meeting with only slight opposition from irregular bands, the Albanian army itself offering no resistance in any sector.

The Albanians, on the other hand, declaring that they will resist to the last man, state that "no Italian soldier has been able to remain on our soil owing to the ferocious resistance of the troops and the Albanian people whose morale remains excellent in spite of the inequality of the opposing forces." A later message, issued by the Albanian Legation in London, admits that, after resistance, Shengfin, Durazzo, Valona and Santi Quaranta have fallen to the aggressors.

Warning to albanians

While the Italians were making landings on the coast, relays of aeroplanes flew over Tirana, the Albanian capital, dropping pamphlets warning the populace not to resist under the threat of "atrocious military measures", and calling on them to surrender to the Italian King-Emperor.

A Belgrade (capital of Yugoslavia) message states that Albania has demanded the assistance of Yugoslavia in resisting the Italians, but that Yugoslavia has refused because of the Yugoslav Treaty of Friendship with Italy.

Germany's Attitude

Germany's attitude towards the latest peril to the peace of Europe is best seen by a Berlin message which states that official circles in Berlin state that "Germany would not be able to understand, or would not be able to approve, if the Democratic Western Powers, which have no interests in the Albanian sphere, should want to intervene in the juridically-irreproachable position of our Axis partner." Britain's attitude is that, while she has no direct interest in helping to preserve the peace of the world, she also wants the Mediterranean status quo to be unaltered.

Albanian's Denial

Italy recently declared that Albania had agreed to become an Italian sub-protectorate. This has been stoutly denied by the Albanians. The Italian Press is

accusing Britain and France of trying to put "three thorns in Italy's side." The first two "thorns" are Greece and Albania, and France, it is said, has tried to turn both these countries against Italy. The third "thorn" is Yugoslavia.

Increasing concern is felt in Belgrade in connexion with the developments in Albania. In responsible political circles it is stated that the occupation by the Italian troops of the ports of Valona, Durazzo and Scutari would constitute a danger to Yugoslavia.

BRITAIN WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS

London, Saturday.

The British Government are closely watching all developments regarding Albania. The Prime Minister stated this in the House of Commons today after imparting the latest information in his possession. He replied, to another question, that the British Government had no direct interest in the peace of the world.

He also expressed the opinion that the Italian Government were well aware of the terms of the Anglo-Italian Agreement. When the British Ambassador saw Count Ciano the latter said that on March 8th, the King of Albania had himself suggested that the existing treaty of alliance between Italy and Albania should be strengthened. Discussions on that point had since been taken place between the two Governments.

It appeared, however, that in the course of negotiations certain difficulties had arisen, the nature of which was not quite plain and according to the Italian Foreign Minister Italian interests have been treated badly.

According to Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister, Italian interests have been threatened, declared Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons on Thursday referring to Albania. He added: "I have just learnt that a cruiser and two smaller warships arrived at Durazzo early this (Thursday) morning. The Government is closely watching developments. Britain has no direct interest in Albania, but has a general interest in the peace of the world"

Mr. Chamberlain said he could not say what the presence of the warships denoted. He was not aware that any information had been received of the concentration of Italian troops at Bari and Brindisi.

Mr. Chamberlain added that he had not received a detailed account of the Albanian viewpoint in the present negotiations with Italy, but received a denial that Albania had accepted conditions incompatible with her sovereignty and national integrity.

Separate Currency for Ceylon

Mr. Langford James Opposes it

Speaking at the National Bank Meeting, Mr. Langford James said:—

"So far as Ceylon is concerned prices of coconut products have continued at an extremely low level, a factor largely affecting the income and consequently the spending power of the population. The prosperity of the country is still dependent on its three principal agricultural products, tea, rubber and coconuts, and with no certainty as to the future trend of the price of these commodities the question is being asked whether the growth of expenditure on schemes introduced by the State Council is not beyond the capacity of the Island to bear.

"Another matter which has been forced into public prominence in Ceylon is the proposal recently made to alter the currency system of the Island. The present system is interwoven with the Indian currency system as the Metallic backing for the notes issued by the Ceylon Government is the Indian silver rupee, and the link, with sterling through India has served to maintain stability of exchange which has been of the utmost importance in conducting the island's overseas trade.

"Not Justified"

"The proposal to part with the Government holding of Indian rupees and substitute a currency based on a Ceylon rupee is one that does not appear to be justified by any experience tending to prove that a change is called for. One of the reasons brought forward in favour of an alteration is that, in the event of a devaluation of the Indian rupee, Ceylon would decide whether to adopt the new ratio or not. The recent emphatic pronouncement that no alteration will be made in the Indian rupee ratio deprives this consideration of its force and, even if such a change took place, it would not be in the interests of Ceylon to possess a currency of a different exchange value from that of India with which her trade is so closely allied."

Broadcasting

AKASH-VANI, MYSORE

This Week's Programme

Wavelength: 70.2 Meters. Frequency: 4265 Kc/S.

CALL SIGN: V. U. 7. M. C.

Monday, the 10th April, 1939

6 p.m. Karnatic Light Music; 6-15 p.m. News Announcements; 7 to 7-20 p.m. Readings from Mahabagavatham by K. Sripadachar, Esq., M. A.; IQBAL'S DAY (By the courtesy of Pandit Moulvi Assn.); 7-40 p.m. Hindusthani Music; 8 p.m. Recitation of Shikva and Jawab-E-Shikva; 8-30 p.m. Urdu Talk: "Life and Teachings of Iqbal" by Mir Noor Husaine, Esq., B. A.

Tuesday, the 11th April 1939:

6 p.m. Orchestral Music; 6-15 p.m. News and Announcements; 7 to 8 p.m. Vocal Music Performance by Kumari K. Vasantha, accompanied by Asthana Vidwan Venkataramaniah (Violin)

DOWRY SYSTEM IN SIND

Amount not to Exceed Rs. 500

Penalty for Breach of Law

Karachi, April 5.

THAT dowries in Sind be limited to a maximum amount of Rs. 500, which should cover presents of all kinds, is the unanimous recommendation of the Select Committee on Dr. Wadhvani's Anti-Dowry Bill, which has concluded its work.

The Bill, whose aim has been approved by the Sind Legislature, has been recast by the Select Committee so as to make it applicable to all domiciled Hindus and Sikhs of Sind.

The Committee recommended the inclusion of a provision prohibiting any settlement being made during the period of one year before betrothal and one year after marriage, save bequests made in a will or inheritance under the law.

The bill will call upon Hindu Panchayats to draw up schedules of marriage gifts for use of their members to be registered with the Government. The names of the adult male members of such Panchayats are also to be registered. If any Panchayat fails to draw up such a schedule, the Government will do so on its behalf.

The Select Committee emphasises the need for the retention of the penalty clause in the original Bill seeking to punish the offenders with imprisonment of one month or with a fine Rs. 1,000 or both.

Obituary

Mr. P. K. CHELLIAHPILLAI

We regret to record the death which occurred yesterday of Mr. P. K. Chelliahpillai, Chairman, V. C., Chavakachcheri.

Vidwan Y. N. Srinivasa Murthy, (Harmonium) and Master Ananthaswami (Mridangam)

Wednesday, the 12th April 1939

6 p.m. Film Hits; 6-15 p.m. News and Announcements; 7 to 8 p.m. Bul-bul-tharang Performance by Mr. T. S. Nagappah and Party,

Thursday, the 13th April 1939

6 p.m. Nagaswaram; 6-15 p.m. News and Announcements; 7 to 7-20 p.m. Popular Science: "Half Tone Pictures" by B. M. Sivaramiah, Esq.; 8 p.m. Light and Serious, "Why Mot?" by T. C. Karunakaran, Esq., B.A., B.L., Calicut.

Friday, the 14th April 1939

6 p.m. Karnatic Instrumental Music; 6-15 p.m. News and Announcements; 7 p.m. Hindusthani Music; 7-30 p.m. "Qir at"; 8 p.m. Mock Trial: "in the High Court of Public Health" Script by T. C. Karunakaran, Esq., B.A., B.L., Calicut.

Saturday, the 15th April 1939

6 p.m. Veena; 6-15 p.m. News and Announcements; 7 to 8-30 p.m. Vocal Music Performance by Mr. M. Annamalai Iyengar of Mysore and Party.

Sunday, the 16th April 1939

No Broadcast.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tree-tax System

Sir,—The Rev E. M. Weaver, Chairman of the Temperance Workers' Conference which some-time ago made representations to Government with regard to the need to amend certain rules relating to the Tree Tax System has received this week a reply from the Hon. the Minister of Home Affairs that the Excise Department has already taken action "to disallow sheds for the sale of today in places which are likely to be considered objectionable by the public."

I think, it is now a matter for the public of Jaffna to have an eye on and watch carefully the numerous sheds in Jaffna where toddy is sold, and ask the Excise Department for their removal wherever they are found to be objectionable.

In my opinion, the entire tree tax system is wholly rotten and is ruining the country. While we are thankful for small mercies, I think, the position will continue to be wholly unsatisfactory, until and unless the whole system is improved upon as submitted by our Conference and the State takes a definite stand against drink.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES S. MATHER,
Hony. Secretary,

Temperance Workers' Conference.
Jaffna,
April 6th, 1939.

AN APPEAL

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge further receipt of the following sums of money in connection with the Appeal made by Mr. V. Veerasingham, to supply a pair of spring hands to the girl who recently lost both her hands.

A further sum of nearly Rs. 100/- is required and those in sympathy with our appeal are kindly requested to forward their subscriptions to me, addressed as follows:—C. E. A. Selvaratnam, Commercial Instructor, Manipay Hindu College.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. E. A. SELVARATNAM

	Rs.	Cts.
Amount Acknowledged	130	50
Mr. C. Kumaraswamy	5	00
" E. V. R. Samarawickreme	10	00
" Simon Rodrigo	10	00
" K. S. Subramaniam	10	00
(F. M. S.)	10	00
Dr. J. P. Subramaniam	10	00
" S. Subramaniam	5	00
" C. Sivasithamparam	2	50
" V. S. Ramanathan	1	00
" G. S. Mather	1	00
Mr. W. D. Niles	1	00
" A. W. Rajasekaram	1	00
" F. A. Sandrasegara	1	00
Mrs. Richards	3	00
Mr. E. M. Pennudurai	2	00
St. James' Parish	5	00
Mr. C. Stickney	1	00
" A. Canagaratnam	1	00
" M. Suppiah	1	00
" Julius F. Phillips	2	00
A Friend	1	50
Mr. Sam Ponniah Eajah	2	00
A Friend		50
Jaffna College—Matric		
"A" Class	1	00
Muhandiram Nagalingam	1	00
Mr. Nadarajah	2	00
" R. Rajakariar	1	00
Christ's Church Parish	2	75

ANTI-BRITISH
BOYCOTT by CHINESEBlow to British
Shipping

Shanghai, April 5

The boycott of British goods by the Chinese women in Nanking is the latest development against the British.

The campaign is proceeding in Japanese occupied areas in Central China.

Propaganda has been organised by the so-called General Affairs Department of the Anti-British Movement Committee, and it is stated that anti-British associations have been formed in 52 districts.

It is learned that the Chinese military authorities have closed to shipping the important Treaty Port of Ningpo on the Chekiang coast south of Shanghai. The closure is a bad blow to British shipping particularly as it affects the busy trade between Shanghai and Ningpo.

SALE

Under Partition
Ordinance

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
JAFFNA No. 11929.

All that piece of land situated at Vannarponnai east called Amari-valavu in extent 5 lms V. C. 5²/₃ Kls with its appurtenances including house, share of well and right of using way and water course and hoorvai ground and bounded on the east by Kulankarai Maruthady Mee-nadchi Anman temple, north by Rasamany wife of Ponniah, west by Vairamuttu Sivasambu and on the South by lane.

on 19th May 1939

Commencing by 10-30 a. m.

at the spot by

V. Sanmugalingam

Licensed Surveyor & Leveller.
(Mis. 8 10-4-39)

SALE

Under Partition
Ordinance

IN JAFFNA D. C. CASE No 11952.

All that piece of land situated at 3rd Division Jaffna Town in extent 2 lms. V. C. 15 kls. according to Survey with stone built house, and other buildings, well and other appurtenances bounded on the east by heirs of Saverimuttu Sethupathy and Anna wife of Gnanapragasalam, north by the property of the Church Mission, west by road and south by Alfonsus

on 24th May 1939

Commencing by 10-30 a. m.

at the spot by

V. Sanmugalingam

Licensed Surveyor & Leveller.
(Mis 9 10-4-39)

Mr. W. B. Kanagathungam	1	00
" C. S. Arumuga Chettiar	2	00
" Alfred Mather	2	00
" Philip Moses	1	00
" C. L. Selvaratnam	2	00
Rev. Kanagasingham	2	00
Mrs. Venayagam	1	00
A Friend		25
	226	00
Jaffna College—Promised	25	00
Other Promised		
Subscriptions	17	50
Total	268	50

Kalmunai Teachers'
Vacation CourseImportance of Rural
Scheme Emphasised

For the first time in the annals of the Eastern Province a Vacation Course for Tamil Teachers was held from the 27th to the 31st March 1939 at Kalmunai. The course was declared open by the Acting Director of Education at 2-30 p.m. Over 200 teachers from all parts of Batticaloa South regularly attended the course.

The Acting Director was met at the gate by the Divisional Inspectors, Messrs. A. J. R. Vethavanam and V. K. Nathan, and the Inspector of Schools, Mr. K. Sivapatham. He was then garlanded by Mr. D. E. Kanapathipillai, the Head Teacher of Pandiruppu School, and was taken in procession to the girls, boarding school hall. Welcome songs were sung by the little girls and an address was presented to the Acting Director on behalf of the Teachers and the Vacation Course by Mr. J. K. Seenithamby, the head teacher of Samthamanth Rural Scheme School.

In asking the Acting Director to declare the Vacation Course open, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. K. Sivapatham said that the teachers of Batticaloa South were very thankful to the Acting Director, Mr. R. Patrick, for coming down to Kalmunai all the way from Colombo to encourage them by his presence and inspire them with his words of advice on the occasion of the opening of the Vacation Course. The Eastern Province was almost entirely an agricultural land, and therefore the gradual introduction of the Rural Scheme in the Schools would be quite necessary, and the Director's address on this subject was eagerly awaited by the Teachers and Managers. He also referred to the fact that the Teachers were very grateful to the Director for creating an Eastern Division, thus making it easier for them to transact their business and to get the necessary advice from the inspectors without having to travel all the way to Kandy.

The Acting Director in declaring the Vacation Course open said that it gave him great pleasure to be among the teachers of Kalmunai as he had not visited Batticaloa South before this. He was glad to find Teachers in that hall in such large numbers coming from all parts of Batticaloa South. He hoped that by coming together and attending the Vacation Course the Teachers would be benefited and that when they go back to their Schools they would show greater interest in their work. He congratulated the Inspector of Schools, Mr. K. Sivapatham, on his organising so splendidly the Vacation Course. He had great pleasure in declaring the Vacation Course open.

The Acting Director next addressed the Teachers on the Rural Scheme. He gave a brief outline of the Scheme as worked at present in Ceylon Schools under the headings: Health, Occupation, Study of the Locality and Art, Literature and Music. He also stressed the importance of correlating the school subjects with the practical work done under these headings. He next gave

SUMMER SCHOOL
OF MUSICGrowing Popularity of
the School

The Summer School of Music held in Jaffna once a year under the direction of the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society was declared open on Tuesday at St. John's College, by Mr. W. R. Watson, Assistant Director of Education.

Mr. C. T. Lorage, Divisional Inspector of Schools, who presided appealed to the members of the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society to subscribe liberally towards the establishment of a fund to secure the services of a full-time Professor of Oriental Music from India.

Mr. Watson said that that was the fifth year since the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society had organised that school. The institution had been fortunate in securing the services of well-known Professors of Oriental Music from India. He was glad to note that the summer School was growing in popularity and that the students were becoming more appreciative of the charms of their own system of music.

The gathering was then treated to an entertainment of Oriental Music, the chief contributors being Brahma Sri M. G. Gopalakrishna Iyer, Marungapiri Samasthana Vidvan, S. Samenatha Iyer Vidvan and Sangeetha Bushanam V. Sunthareswan Aiyer, who had been engaged from India as special tutors.

More than a hundred teachers and girl students have joined the classes.

a brief account of the progress so far made in Ceylon Schools working under the Rural Scheme. Such schools were becoming more and more self-contained and self-dependant, and the pupils were becoming more practical, with greater aptitude for the use of their hands and heads. He said that statistics in the Education Department showed that the Rural Scheme schools produced better results in the J. S. C. and S. S. C. Examinations on the whole than other schools. He next stressed the importance of forming adult classes in the Rural Scheme schools. Illiteracy could be greatly reduced, and even the character and tone of village life could be improved if adult classes functioned successfully. In conclusion he appealed to the Teachers to take a lively interest in the progress of not only their pupils but also of the people of the villages in which they worked.

A garden party at which the Acting Director of Education, Mr. R. Patrick, was the chief guest was held by the Teachers of the Vacation Course in the afternoon at 4-30 p.m. More than 400 people were present. During the Garden Party the guests were entertained by school children with folk dancing and singing, which were highly appreciated. The function terminated with a group photograph with the Acting Director as the central figure. (Cor.)

GODS AND GODDESSES IN HINDU MYTHOLOGY

(Continued from page 1)

mini Kumar—all these are His names. Poets and artists, devotees in their moments of ecstatic elation, may have clothed these concepts of the godhead in forms considered appropriate to each—artists do so today when they set about portraying Beauty or Expectation or motherhood or other abstract concepts—partly from a purely aesthetic urge, partly with a view to making these things more comprehensible to the spiritually backward. This has, after all, had to be done in every monotheistic religion, howsoever austere. Islam and Christianity are no strangers to this process of anthropomorphism. But the basic idea must not be lost sight of it is the one God who is being worshipped in all these various forms, under all these various names and, in so far as any method of worship, any external trappings, eclipse the underlying truth, they have to be deprecated. As the Vedas say: "The true one or rather the Truth is One: the wise call it (or Him) by many names."

Subtler Regions

But this is not the only hypothesis or basis of belief about gods and goddesses. There is another which, while entirely endorsing the view outlined above, posits another interpretation also. It believes that gods and goddesses are independent entities in the same and to the same extent as other beings, human beings for example. This theory also takes for granted the existence of religions, subtler than the terrestrial regions which would to some extent be covered by the word Paradise or Heaven. These regions are arranged, if one may use the imperfect terminology suited to three dimensional space, in a sort of vertical gradation, every higher region being subtler than the next lower one, composed of matter in a finer form, where mind can function more freely, where life is lived more on the intellectual—spiritual and less on the physical plane. As a matter of fact, it would perhaps be better to say that each higher region entirely envelopes and permeates all lower regions. Every individual ego is identical in substance with God—I leave aside for the present the Absolute Brahma of which both are manifestations and therefore, possesses, in embryo all the powers of God.

Law of Karma

Through the functioning of the eternal law of Karma, the Ego is so wrapped up in its gross physical and mental sheaths, that it cannot make use of these powers but through its deeds of self-sacrifice, its performance of duty for the pure love of all that lives, its practice of non-attachment to the pleasures of the flesh and the senses and above all its practise of *samadhi*, it is able to shake itself free from its trammels, it

rises higher and higher, ascends to the subtler regions, in proportion to the degree of its advancement, it can use more and more of its inherent powers.

The gods then are individuals who, through their austerities have raised themselves to planes of existence higher than the earthly and are using powers associated with the godhead and functioning if one may say so, as officers in charge of the various departments that go to make the life of a Brahmanda, that is, a complete world-system, in this vast Universe.

Ex-Human Beings

Thus the gods are persons who have been human beings in a previous existence and have raised themselves to their present positions through meritorious lives extending, in some cases, over thousands of years.

The question arises, what will happen to them? Will they continue to be what they are and where they are?

The answer is, 'No.' After having enjoyed the pleasures and powers of the regions where they are, for a length of time proportionate to the merit earned by them, they will have to be re-born and this will continue, till they have attained final liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

But there are exceptions. Some great saints and yogis take up godhood, the position of Brahma Vishnu or Rudra, as a self-imposed task, for the good of 'Jivas' that are suffering and enter into 'nirvana' when the period for which they had taken on the burden, generally the life of a Brahmanda, expires. This doctrine is similar to the Buddhist theory about the Bodhisattvas, the great souls, who take on one more incarnation, though they might have entered into 'nirvana' for the sake of suffering humanity. A few gods pass to some higher region and these qualify themselves for salvation.

Long Apprenticeship

It is clear, then, that a god or goddess, Brahma, Indra or Agni is the presiding deity of a region and has raised himself or herself to that position through a period of long-sustained apprenticeship.

The god-names are sometimes used as generic terms to cover these souls also.

All this may seem complicated but it is part of a beautiful, self-consistent, hypothesis. Any god-name may stand indifferently for that particular aspect of the godhead and the individual soul who is exercising the powers corresponding to that aspect of the god-head. What about the forms of the various gods? Partially, of course, the poetry and idealistic symbolization of God's aspects to which I referred earlier hold the field. In the second place, seers, yogis, claim to have an actual experience of these planes of existence and the descriptions they give are stated to be the nearest approach possible,

in our necessarily defective language.

I would earnestly ask you to study some of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon from this angle of vision. I assure you it will be a most interesting study. Some of their names, their bodily forms, the colours of their clothing and the things they carry in their hands, their 'vahans' or means of personal transport—all these will repay application.

Mahadeva

To give but one example, is any concept in the whole world of religious thought so beautiful, so full, so thought-provoking as the conception of Mahadeva, Shiva, who is both Shankar, the dispenser of all that is good, and Rudra, the destroyer? The colour of his body is white, emblem of all that is pure, that in which all colours, as representing the infinite variety of motion, find their harmony and rest. He is described as Digambar which means sky-clad, signifying that the infinitude of space covers but a portion of his body. Again, he is described as wearing round the middle the skin of the Demon Gajasur, of the colour of the elephant. Incidentally, the aesthetic sense inherent in the contrast between the colour of the body and that of the vestment, whether it is the sky or the demon's skin, may be noted. He destroys the universe. But the universe is born of 'avidya,' nescience. In destroying nescience, he automatically unveils 'vidya' knowledge, the source of all that is good.

Is not Rudra, therefore, Shankar in the truest sense of the word? And one of his principal names is 'Ardhnarishwar,' the Lord who is half-man, half-woman. This name signifies the inseparability of Purusha and Prakriti, of the Ego and Primal Energy, of matter and energy, of the self and 'maya' in its dual aspect of knowledge and nescience, each of these pairs of opposites supplementing the other and forming with it the substratum of this Universe.

Prince of Yogis

I purposely refrain from discussing his 'vahan,' the bull, the snakes that twine round his body,

his garland of skulls, his 'trishul' or trident and his begging bowl.

Shiva's symbol, the lingam, deserves more than a lecture by itself and the form of the temples in which he is worshipped with its inverted bell-like top is itself an absorbing theme but these would take us too far afield in the realms of Yoga, art and theology. This prince of Yogis is the reputed founder not only of the science of Yoga but of Grammar and Music as well.

I hope I have been able to show that in spite of some ideas which have been picked up from other sources and assimilated in the course of the centuries which have elapsed since Aryan and non-Aryan first came face to face with each other, the Hindu conception of gods and goddesses is not a haphazard jumble, but a well-developed scheme based on those metaphysical doctrines by which alone Hinduism, as a cultural unit, must stand or fall.

Textile Industry in Ancient India

(Continued from page 1)

in the East. R. Mookerji writes:—"The official records of Japan record how eleven centuries ago cotton was introduced into Japan by an Indian. The eighth volume of the Nihon-Ko-Ki records how in July 799, a foreigner was washed ashore in a little boat somewhere on the southern coast of Mikwa Province in Japan. He confessed himself to be a man from "Ten-jiku", as India was then called in Japan. Among his effects was found something like grass-seeds, which proved to be no other than some seeds of the cotton-plant". (8)

(8) Indian Shipping, p. 174.

APOTHECARIES GREAT SALE

Begins 16th. March.
Ends 5th. April.

ALL DEPARTMENTS PRICED
REGARDLESS OF COST

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(Y. 60. 20-3-39 to 19-3-40)

(M)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 720

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of the late Kathirasipillai wife of Mylvaganam Periathamby of Vaddukodai East, Jaffna. Deceased.

Mylvaganam Periathamby of Vaddukodai East, Jaffna Petitioner

Vs.

1. Ampalavanar Veluppillai and
2. wife Ponnachchippilla both of Vaddukodai East, Jaffna.
3. Ponnampalam Sangarppillai
4. and wife Ledchumippillai both of Vannarponnai East, Jaffna.
5. Ramalingam Rasiah of Vaddukodai West, Jaffna.
6. Ramalingam Kanagaratnam of do presently of Immigration Department, Port Swettenham, F. M. S.
7. Thangammah widow of Karthigasu Kandasamy of Vaddukodai East, Jaffna,
8. Casippillai Ampalavanar of do presently of Paylang Estate, Batu Annam, Johore.
9. Casippillai Sathasivam of do presently of P. W. D; Pullamadu, Mannar Respondents.

This matter of the petition of the above-named petitioner praying that

the last will and testament of the above named deceased dated the 9th October, 1925 attested by Subramaniam Sittampalam, Notary Public under No. 6664 be declared proved and probate thereof be granted to the Petitioner praying as the executor named therein and the Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the Deceased excluded from the said Last Will coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 21st day of March, 1939 in the presence of Mr. M. Kathiravelu, Broctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Affidavit and Petition of the Petitioner and the Affidavit of the subscribing witnesses thereof dated 21st March, 1939 and 11th March, 1939 respectively having been read.

It is ordered that the Last will and Testament of the above named Deceased be declared proved and probate thereof be granted to the petitioner and letters of administration to the estate of the deceased excluded from the said last will be granted to petitioner unless the above-named respondents or any other person or persons shall on or before the 19th day of May, 1939 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 28th day of March, 1939, .

Sgd; C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

(O. I. 6 & 10-4-39.)

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[M.]

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