THE ANTIQUITY OF INDIAN IMAGES AND TEMPLES

BY RABINDRA NATH ROY

THE study of Indian temples is a fascinating one if it could be recovered from the academic clutches of archaeologists, the posessions of theologians, and the perverted presentation of missionaries. Even archaeologists, though generally free from the prejudices of the last two, have been obsessed by theories of pro-Hellenistic pre-pensions so to the so-called influences of foreign art on Indian culture. The data which the spade of the archaeologists has brought forth to prove the antiquity and the autochthonous origin of Indian temples, are not yet accessible to systematic public, which are still liable and misguided by the incorrect views of earlier theorists now exploded by the discovery of new evidences.

As the construction of temples pre-supposes the worship of images, it is necessary to consider the position of the use of images both as regards their base psychology and their chronology or antiquity. The two phases are somewhat interrelated. Some theories have asserted without considering the available evidences that the practice of the use of images must belong to post-Vedic times, as the fundamental position of Vedic forms of worship is essentially antithetic. This has been the position of certain sects of the, as from Puranic Hinduism who take their stand on Vedic culture in its earliest phases, which, according to them, has nothing to do with image-worship. A superficial support to this point of view has been accorded by a group of archaeologists anxious to establish, on one-sided evidence, that India is indebted to the Greeks for the beginning of her sculpture and architecture, and that Vedic culture being a culture without images, India had nothing to do with image-worship. It is very unfortunate that writers on Indian temples and sculpture generally ignore the opposite view in order to avoid the difficulty of meeting the case in support of the earliest practices of image-worships and temple-buildings. The necessary correctness have been given by scholars belonging to the other camp. We shall quote here only two authorities. Professor Gardner, a great authority on Greek art, has observed:

"There can be no doubt that Indian art had an earlier history. The art of Asshoka is a feature art in some respects more mature than the Greek of Darius time."

Dr. Stan Knoov, a great Sanskrit and Prakrit scholar, in controversy, with solid and unassailable data, the theories of the so-called Greek influence on the growth of image-worship, has remarked:

"It would, however, be unwise to refer to the Indians learnt to worship images from the Greeks or that the practice of adoring images of the Buddha was inaugurated by the 2,000 year old Vedic Greek population of the Punjab as maintained by Ferguson and Conze. It is, however, not due to this influence but due to the unique art of the Hindus which made the beginning of the Vedic Brahman who laid the beginnings of image-worship.

Before alluding to the actual evidences, it is necessary to show that image-worship is not psychically opposed to fundamental Vedic conceptions, and objections offered to "300 images in the Rigveda are not inconsistent with the monotheistic doctrine of one Brahma, a single principle pervading and pervading the whole of the created universe. Even if we should accept, which we need not, the popular Western view of Hinduism as a polytheistic system, continued on page 3
THE CORE OF ROT

Every country in the world has its core of rot. Comrades, we have found ourselves an honoured place among the nations of the world. We have our core of rot. Leaders like Ceylon, however, enjoy the distinction of being able to retain such control by the simple majority of two in a legislature with a voting strength of 48 for the occasion. We refer, of course, to the voting on the motion by Mr. E. R. Jayatilaka that "This Council requests the Executive Governor to make arrangements to have another election to the Council at an earlier date." Mr. Jayatilaka was good enough to inform the Council that his intention was "not to obtain a majority, but to have a member for Trincomalee to fight his case and show that the House should constitute itself into a Body of its own." He was, therefore, perhaps a little too candid to ask why, if the State Council was not going to constitute itself into a Second Chamber, the motion for an early election was to be judged on the grounds of the necessity of the Commission, it was unnecessary to publish the evidence. For what purpose was this evidence to be studied by the Councillors themselves? The motion was a highly mischievous one and it is certainly surprising to find that it was defeated only by a narrow majority of two. Mr. Nallawala, for example, voted against the motion referred to with a certain amount of feeling to the fact that the members of the Council were the victims of their own decision. This apologetic attitude was hardly necessary in dealing with a vital question of principle. We trust we are not overstating the case when we say that the entire Legislature was on its trial before the Commission who were entrusted with the duty of giving his verdict on the evidence before him. There was no indication at any time that the decision of the Commission would be subject to an appeal to the very persons whose conduct it was in the performance of their duties was to be investigated by the Commission, for we know that no such investigation had been made at the time, the Commission would have refused to accept the Commission, and, if what was proposed was a quasi-judicial investigation, no lawyer of standing would have consented to accept such a Commission. There is only one inference to be drawn from the conduct of the twenty-three gentlemen who voted for the motion: their attitude would have been different if the Commissioner's report had merely withheld them. The Council, it is only when the Commissioner finds certain members guilty the appellate jurisdiction of the State Council to be invoked. The position taken up by these members is illogical and constitutes a defiance of the solemn undertaking of conduct one is entitled to expect from the Legislature as a whole. Now that all the other members found guilty by the Commissioner, with the exception of Mr. Taminbhum, have resigned, where was the necessity for this motion? When told by the mover that the Council was anxious to know who the unidentified culprits were, the motion was not prepared to accept this explanation at its face value. It is impossible to credit the mover and his supporters with a desire to continue the purge started by the Commissioner. Already there is the name of Mr. Taminbhum mentioned among those who voted for the motion, and it is just possible that, if a diligent search is made, the identity of the unidentified culprits will be revealed to his associates.

It is interesting to note that the member for Mannawella and his friends were not opposed, not only to the refusal to publish the evidence led before the Bribery Commissioner, but also to the campaign carried on by the newspapers against the Commission. The motion of Malack referred with a good deal of indignation to "spectacle of the Press in Ceylon almost booting out the men who had found it and the time for this step has disabolished the very principle of the Press of Ceylon. The Press of Ceylon has been very fair in all circumstances and has thoroughly discharged a distinct public duty by drawing the attention of the public to the investigation of the State Council in the matter of bribes and other forms of graft and corruption. As for the members who have been convicted by the judgment of the Commissioner, we certainly respect those of them who have been devoted to their work with enthusiasm without waiting to be ejected from the Council. The Council, however, cannot be said to be the member for Trincomalee whose friends want the Council to consider the evidence on the question of the Commissioners findings. The objection to the whole move is obvious and it is by no means reassuring to find that the Council has been asked to shirking how to do its duty by only: a majority of two votes.

THE JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL

Mr. C. Ponnambalam's Reply to the Chairman

The following statement has been issued by Mr. Ponnambalam on the occasion of his election as a member of the Jaffna Urban Council.

The Chairman of the Jaffna Urban Council (Mr. K. Riyadaru) when tabling the papers relating to a resolution from the secretary of the Council and the report of the Bribery Commissioner against the personal abuse of a member of the Council, declared that the Committee had not decided as to the extent of the extent of the breach of the code of conduct the member. Mr. Riyadaru stated that the member in question had been warned and a statement by the member was produced in the press. The member was not prepared to accept the explanation. It was stated that the member had not been present at the meeting and had not voted on the motion.

When Mr. Ponnambalam was appointed to the Council, it was not prepared to accept the explanation at its face value. It is impossible to credit the mover and his supporters with a desire to continue the purge started by the Commissioner. Already there is the name of another member mentioned among those who voted for the motion, and it is just possible that, if a diligent search is made, the identity of the unidentified culprits will be revealed to his associates.

It is interesting to note that the member for Mannawella and his friends were not opposed, not only to the refusal to publish the evidence led before the Bribery Commissioner, but also to the campaign carried on by the newspapers against the Commission. The motion of Malack referred with a good deal of indignation to the "spectacle of the Press in Ceylon almost booting out the men who had found it and the time for this step has disabolished the very principle of the Press of Ceylon. The Press of Ceylon has been very fair in all circumstances and has thoroughly discharged a distinct public duty by drawing the attention of the public to the investigation of the State Council in the matter of bribes and other forms of graft and corruption. As for the members who have been convicted by the judgment of the Commissioner, we certainly respect those of them who have been devoted to their work with enthusiasm without waiting to be ejected from the Council. The Council, however, cannot be said to be the member for Trincomalee whose friends want the Council to consider the evidence on the question of the Commissioners findings. The objection to the whole move is obvious and it is by no means reassuring to find that the Council has been asked to shirking how to do its duty by only: a majority of two votes.

PANNAI CAUSEWAY URGENT

IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION URGED

At a largely attended public meeting convened by leading residents of Jaffna, held in the Ootacamund Hall on Saturday and presided over by Mr. A. G. S. Simonsinghe, Crown Advocate, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. C. Ponnambalam. The resolutions were seconded by K. S. M. Abobucker and supported by Muddaliyar V. Ponnambalam. They unanimously passed:

"That in view of the highly unsatisfactory position of the heavy rain and the consequent (a) great hardship and (b) disease and inconvenience caused for generation after generation and the public (d) risk and danger to life as evidenced by the recent tragedy in 1947, the inhabitants of the Jaffna District in public meeting assembled request the Government to take the necessary steps for the construction of the Panai Causeway immediately."

The meeting requested the Government to consider the question of setting aside a sum in the budget for 1948 in order to make provision for the construction of the Panai Causeway immediately. Others who spoke at the meeting were Meenars A. R. Subramanian, C. A. Jayawickrama, S. A. Jayawardene and V. Pathapathipala.

NORTH CYLON PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the North Ceylon Printers' Association was held at the Vidyadara Hall on Saturday the 11th instant at 10 a.m. Mr. I. P. Thuraisthama, the President of the Association, presided.

Mr. K. N. Natarajan, the Secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were confirmed.

Mr. I. P. Thuraisthama who attended the All Ceylon Printers Association as a representative of the association account of what took place there.

The constitution of the association was accepted by the house.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE JAFFNA

R. V. A. C. Silverthorn, Bishop's College, Colombo, his Excellence the Bishop of College Chaplain.

Mr. J. P. Balsingh, B.Sc, Hon. Madras Christian College, Secretary of the Biology Department.

Mr. E. Ponnambalam, B.Sc, is proceeding on study leave to the University of Madras to do post-graduate work. Mr. Ponnambalama was entertained by the College Council on Thursday on the 8th of his departure.
SCARCITY OF CAMPHOR

At a meeting of the Board of Management of the Jaffna State Forest Produce School, held on 16-5-39, the following resolution was passed: "We recommend that the Government of Ceylon take the necessary steps to import camphor from any source outside Ceylon and to help the Hindu devotees to conduct their religious ceremonies without any handicap." 

LECTURE ON 'BUDDHISM'

The Headmaster of Jaffna has arranged to have a lecture on the Pavan Celebration Day on 'Buddhism' by Dr. P. Rajaratnam, Principal of the Hambanthota College, on Thursday the 17th June at 5.45 p.m.

NOTICE

Wanted for Karadveli Vigneswaraswami Vidyapitha Graduates in Arts or Teachers trained to teach English and Latin. Hindu Tamil preferred.

App. 10: MANAGER

The ANTIOQUITY OF INDIAN IMAGES AND TEMPLES

Continued from page 1

In India, particularly, a symbolic image, representing one or other of the divine attributes and called a Prathik is not, in fact, an idol, because it has never been accepted as a substitute for anything and is not that you worship (it is images), and in that well-known verse from the Ramayana:

It is for the advantage and benefit of the worshippers, and not by any intrinsic meaning that the idol, whose nature is sagittarian, become a symbol. When the function is performed, the image is sacrificed, but as worship, is properly a simple, and a symbolical, is absolutely correct.

That is to say (as commented by Dr. Coomaraswamy):

"There is no intention on the part of any other arrangement of God to have a mere replica, and not an absolute reality -- if the case of the image as a symbol. Worship has been defined as an intellectual operation with respect to the Brahman with absolute qualities.

Pramukha Bharata.

NEW SCHOOL OPENED AT CHULIPURAM

The newly built building of the Chulipuram Cooperative Primary School was declared open by Mr. P. R. L. Wandel, Government Agent for Travancore, on Thursday the 17th July, at 7 p.m. Mr. V. Ramasamy, Manager of the School, presided at the ceremony and other visitors went and showed them the school rooms. After which a picnic took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Pressad at the School Hall. Mr. S. U. Donnol, District Inspector of Schools spoke. Further help from the public to put up additional buildings was solicited. The meeting came to a close with the singing of Thevarum.

AUCTION SALE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the insolvent of C. Thandayuthapani and M. P. Sundraratnam of Jaffna, Importers.

By virtue of the order of the District Court of Jaffna dated 25th May 1943 the lands described hereunder may be sold by public auction at the spot on Saturday the 2nd July 1943 at 10 a.m. from 10 a.m. onwards.

LAWERS REFERRED TO

1. All that piece of land situated at Vannarapanni East by Jaffna known as Adiyapalayamyaaram, Thalampaludai, and Adiyapalayamyarakkil in extent about 19.50 V. C. and 19.45 Kos with buildings and two wells and cultivated and sparsely populated, and bounded on the east by tank, north by the properties of Subramaniam Chinniah and Subbulal Paty; Thamby, west by Chinniah Surai and the south by the District Land belonging to the Jaffna Urban Council.

2. All that piece of land known as "Abelady" in extent 1.5, 10.5 and 10.5 Kos, with houses and cultivated plants, Scissoor, and, situated at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and bounded on the east by the properties of Kathiri Nayab Neeb N. Neebo and C. Ramalingam, and on the north by the properties of Subramaniam and Subbulal Paty; Thamby, and on the south by the properties of C. Thandayuthapani, and on the west by the properties of Nallar and Nallar, and, in the south by the properties of C. Thandayuthapani.

3. All that piece of land called "Palluvichikodihom" in extent 42.53 V. C. with well cultivating and sparsely populated, and bounded at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and, on the east by the properties of C. Thandayuthapani, and on the south by the properties of Nallar and Nallar, and, in the south by the properties of C. Thandayuthapani.

4. All that piece of land called "Mankaliyakathal" in extent 21.5, 21.5 and 15.5 Kos, with buildings and planted trees, Scissoor, and, situated at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and bounded on the east by the properties of Kathiri Nayab Neeb N. Neebo and C. Ramalingam, and on the south by the properties of Subramaniam and Subbulal Paty; Thamby, and on the north by the properties of Subbu Pillai, and, in the south by the properties of Nallar and Nallar.

5. All that piece of land called "Ranikkoro" in extent 24.3, 24.3 and 15.6 Kos, with cultivated plantations and timber, and, situated at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and bounded on the east by the properties of Kathiri Nayab Neeb N. Neebo and C. Ramalingam, and on the south by the properties of Subbu Pillai, and, in the south by the properties of Nallar and Nallar.

6. All that piece of land called "Karaikkadum" in extent 24.3, 24.3 and 15.6 Kos, with cultivated plantations and timber, and, situated at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and bounded on the east by the properties of Kathiri Nayab Neeb N. Neebo and C. Ramalingam, and on the south by the properties of Subbu Pillai, and, in the south by the properties of Nallar and Nallar.

7. All that piece of land called "Nallar" in extent 24.3, 24.3 and 15.6 Kos, with cultivated plantations and timber, and, situated at Vannarapanni West in Jaffna, and bounded on the east by the properties of Kathiri Nayab Neeb N. Neebo and C. Ramalingam, and on the south by the properties of Subbu Pillai, and, in the south by the properties of Nallar and Nallar.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Justice", and "Rationalist" crowded out of this issue. [S. H. D.] 

SALARIES OF TEACHERS AND GOVT. SERVANTS

Continued from page 1

was starting the nation building service needed to be getting down.

He stated that experienced and efficient teachers and school heads are needed to have the opportunity to take the initiative in the direction of the Inspectorate, and proposed a united educational service. It was proposed that the core of education if every teacher were a graduate, and training and it was proposed that the candidates who were trained graduates and men with teaching experience. It was difficult to imagine that men with hardly any teaching experience and academic qualifications should be appointed District or Divisional Inspectors.

He would firmly urge teachers to devote themselves wholeheartedly to their profession and do nothing that would be deeply regretted by their work and not satisfied in producing nothing but intelligent and capable teachers who would be able to perform their work with enthusiasm and understanding. The country needed the best training for their sons and daughters and, it was for the teachers to train such.

Mr. R. E. Jayakody, M. S. C. O., the political leader and member of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna District, made a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. C. C. Gunaratnam.

Elections

President: Mr. G. N. K. Netesh, Vice-President: Mr. V. C. Narasimhar, Secretaries: Mr. C. S. Gunaratnam, Mr. C. C. Gunaratnam, Mr. C. G. K. Netesh, Treasurer: Mr. T. T. Jeyaratnam, Representatives on the Executive of the M. U. T. S. 352, S. H. Perera, S. S. Subrahmanya, C. Subramaniam, C. A. Gunaratnam, A. T. Shanmugam.
CEYLON

THE HINDU ORGAN

JUNE 14, 1943.

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Wanted a London Inter Arta and a Teacher’s Certificate for the above school. Applications must reach Mr. T. M. M. M. Wenig, Headmaster, Puttur, on or before the 20th June, 1943.

S. DONAPALAM,
Manager, Puttur, 9th June, 1943.

(W. 5. 11 a 14-6-43.)

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK

The Annual General Meeting of the Directors of the Ceylon Savings Bank will be held at the General Meeting Hall of the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, the 21st June, 1943, at 6:00 P.M.

R. A. HAMPER,
Secretary.

Colombo, 16th June 1943.

(C. 10-11-4-13)

THE ORIENTAL BANK OF MALAYA LIMITED

(Incorporated in F. M. S. with liability of members limited)

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S. P. Joseph,
MANAGER.

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