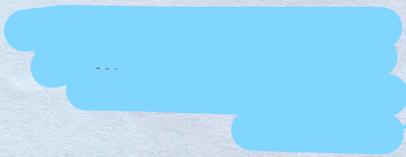


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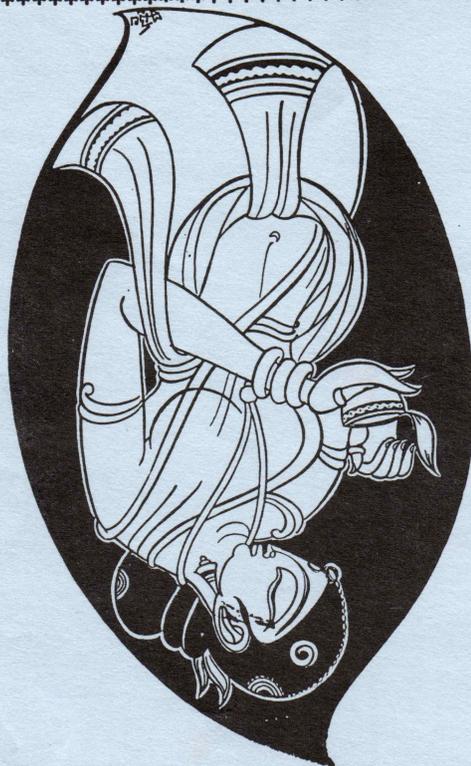
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A Literary Magazine from The Telugu Fine Arts Society, Inc.

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సంస్థాపక అధ్యక్షులు: డా. రామాకృష్ణ జొన్నాదా

సంస్థాపక అధ్యక్షులు: డా. రామాకృష్ణ జొన్నాదా

The Telugu Fine Arts Society, Inc.
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 5. A forum to express your views and ideas for your betterment and that of your kind.
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In this forum, Telugu youth publishes 20 interesting questions and answers solely with the intention of improving readers' knowledge. Readers are requested to contribute to this forum. - Ed.

1. Can you guess who discovered Aspirin ?
2. Very often we find young leaves have a different color. Why ?
3. Do you know at what rate the world population is increasing ? Guess !!!
4. Which section of world population remove their shoes before entering into a room (not only before entering a temple) ?
5. Who discovered Halley's comet ?
6. What is a comet's "tail" made up of ?
7. Beans are flatulence ("gas") producing in many people, although the exact reason is not known. Which one of them is the worst ?
8. Who invented the rocking chair ?
9. Amongst the planets, which one has the most satellites ?
10. Which type of python is the largest of all living snakes ?
11. "Uniform Anatomical Gift" Act (organ donation) - when was this acted upon? Who is popularly known as "Little Corporal" ?
12. Which countries are the leaders in pistachio production ?
13. What is "Lahar" ?
14. In terms of death and misery, which is the worst volcanic eruption so far? We know most Indian Governmental Agencies and departments are corrupt.
15. According to a recent study, which is the least corrupt ?
16. When and who brought tea into existence ?
17. Which section of world population is the prolific tea drinkers ?
18. What is an Abyss ?
19. How did the bird 'turkey' get its name ?

For answers see page no. 28, 29

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Some more stories

A kaleidoscope of colours, the rhythm of drums and dancers, the gay music of village women, the laughter of an happy people, all these mingle together at every Indian festival. And no country in the world has as many festive celebrations as India. To a rural people, what better way to relieve the monotony of their daily lives and the humdrum of an otherwise drab existence!

Most Hindu festivals follow the lunar calendar and that is why they fall on different dates on our calendar whereas Sankranti follows solar calendar always falls on January 14.

Like all Indian celebrations, there are many stories and legends attached to it going back deep into dawn of our civilization. The stories of (1) Rama returning to Ayodhya with Sita and Lakshmana, (2) Narakasura's death and (3) Govardhana Pujā were given in the November issue and some more are given below:

Diwali is also remembered as the day of the visit of Bali, the demon king, to the earth. To quell his arrogance, Vishnu had taken the form of a dwarf, Vamana, and asked Bali for three feet of land. The king laughed in derision and permitted the dwarf to take land measured by the latter's small foot. Vishnu expanded in size and covered the earth with one foot and with the second foot covered the heavens. When there was no place left for he third step, Bali, to show that he never went back on his word, offered his head. Vishnu sent him to the nether worlds but glorified Bali's adherence to his word by allowing him to visit the earth once a year. In Maharashtra and Karnataka it is believed that he comes to the earth during Diwali and in Kerala during the Onam festival.

In some parts of the country, Diwali is a time for ancestor worship, a time to remember and revere ancestors who are no more.

Diwali is also remembered by some as the day of cementing the close bond between brothers and sisters. Yama, the god of Death, visited his sister Yamuna for dinner and granted the boon the brothers who visit their sisters on this day need have no fear of Yama. Brothers are entertained in their homes and sisters anoint the brother's forehead with saffron and rice or with a red mark. Sisters pray for their brothers' welfare and brothers give presents to their sisters. When a sister is in another town, presents may be sent to her by post, but she is never forgotten. Diwali is celebrated as New Year's day by the business community when Lakshmi, the Goddess of Prosperity, is worshipped. New clothes, ornaments and vessels are bought and silver coins given to daughters and dependants. Businessmen open new account books on this day.

Whereas commercial communities worship Lakshmi on Diwali day, in Bengal it is a day for Kali worship. In some parts of the country, Diwali is celebrated by all-night gambling as it is believed that your luck on this day decides your prosperity throughout the coming year. Today, fortunes often change hands after this night of gambling, a sign of the excessiveness which is a hall-mark of contemporary living.

The Jains celebrate Dev Diwali in memory of the 24th Tirthankara or saintly teacher, Mahavira, on the day he left his earthly existence. They illuminate homes and buildings to remind themselves of the great light which left the world. These celebrations are held 10 days after the Hindus celebrate Diwali.

Whatever the mode of celebration, the underlying idea behind Deepavali is the triumph of good over evil, of the light of knowledge over the darkness of ignorance and dirt, of the remembrance of the inner lights of spiritual strength, symbolised by the lighting of lamps, to guide humanity through the rest of the year.

వయస్సు మించడంపై భయం మనలో వారం కాదు. ఆ దర్శనంను వదలకన్నకు మోక్షము లంకించుటకు మాత్రమే యును.

మునువారముకాం.

—వారముకాం

ప్రసాదం చేయవచ్చును. దీనిని తిండిగా తీసుకోవచ్చును. * * * ఆహారం వినోదంను తెలియజేస్తుంది. సోపానం వినోదంను వివరిస్తుంది.

నంది మునుకు సోపానంను వంటివారు. తాము కాని * * * ఆహారం వినోదంను తెలియజేస్తుంది. సోపానం వినోదంను వివరిస్తుంది.

CASTE SYSTEM IN HINDU RELIGION

DR. VENKAT N. KANUMALLA.

(The existence of castes in Hindu religion is often misused and misinterpreted. Here Pt. Venkat Kanumalla tried to explain the origin and principles of the caste system as existed in ancient times. This article is intended, neither to commend nor to condemn any beliefs.)

Q: How many castes are there in Hinduism and what are they?
A: Four. Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra.

Q: Are these castes bestowed, according to one's birth? Are they sanctioned in Vedas?
A: NO! CERTAINLY NOT BY BIRTH!! It is by one's qualities and actions, the community bestows the 'caste' to any person. In Bhagavadgita, the Supreme Lord mentions that there are four types or divisions amongst men according to their qualities and actions.

Q: What are the qualities of Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra?
A: BRAHMANA - Self-control, peacefulness, sense-control, meditation, cleanliness, honesty, tolerance, knowledge of Brahman (Supreme Lord), wisdom, religiousness, etc.
KSHATRIYA - Heroism, majesty, determination, resourcefulness, courage in a righteous battle, generosity, leadership etc.
VAISYA - Farming, business, truthfulness, honesty, looking after cows, cattle etc....
SUDRA - All sorts of labor work, serving others, strength, dutifulness etc.

Q: What are the higher qualities of the four castes?
A: All are just 'men' otherwise. Only he can be called a Brahmana - who has always positioned himself in the mode of goodness (Satvaguna); Only he can be called Kshatriya - who has positioned himself in the mode of passion (Rajoguna). The business people, Vaisyas, are in the mixed mode of passion and ignorance (Rajoguna and Tamoguna), and the labor people, Sudras, are in the mode of ignorance.

Q: Is it prerogative on only Brahmanas to become pundits?
A: NO. Anyone who is duly qualified and who follows a disciplined way of life can become a pundit. Actually, a person is called pundit only when he can see with equal vision all the types of living creatures - one who can see a learned and humble brahmana, a cow, an elephant, a dog, an ant, - all equally. He is a pundit who can realise the Paramatma (the Supreme Lord) in the hearts of all living entities and treat them all equally.

Q: Well, where does a person stand at the time of his birth?
A: EVERYONE IS A SUDRA BY BIRTH ("Kalan Sudra sambavaah"). One can cultivate real knowledge of self and has to take a second birth (Dwijā) to be really called a Brahmana or ANY OTHER ORDER OF THE SOCIETY. If a person does not acquire the real knowledge of the self (Brahmagnana), he is never a Brahmana, nor a Kshatriya nor a Vaisya, and Not even a Sudra! He is just another (wasted) human being.

Q: Was the caste system really rigid in the past?
A: NO! For many centuries this system of separation to different castes after birth was holding good. Never it was rigid - Viswamitra, a born Kshatriya became a Brahmana; Vasista though a Brahmana, married a Sudra woman; Santana, a Kshatriya by birth married a Sudra. There were never hard and fast rules of casting people from or by birth!!! It is only later, after the invasion of our land by Aryans, Muslims, Greeks etc. - plus natural and unnatural calamities - the castesystem is degenerated in to the present situation.

Q: Why then with all the past examples, we are still associate one by his birth?
A: Because we are not prepared to accept the truth and we want to have some false identities, prestige and superiority. It is unfortunate that the originally started 4-caste system based on the qualities of the person, has deteriorated into the present day labelling of caste by birth, not only into the four castes but into many sub-castes.

Q: Alright, What caste do I belong?
A: Judge for yourself! Depending on your real qualities and your actions you belong to one of them or just another human being. You are the better judge to say whether you are a Brahmana, a Kshatriya, a Vaisya or a Sudra depending what you have inculcated - the qualities of goodness, passion, righteousness or ignorance!!!!!! All of us Sudras, unless we acquire the qualifications and become either Brahmana, Kshatriya or Vaisya.

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Tax, Insurance & Pension Consultant

TAX SAVINGS UNDER THE ALL-NEW SET UP FOR BUSINESS CARS

It is a whole new ball game for business cars. How you handle the new set up can make a big difference in your tax bill for 1985 and later years. Newly revised forms have new entries, computations and new questions. Newly effective record-keeping requirements start in 1986. There are big traps for the unwary and big savings for the astute.

1. Additional information required on the New Forms

- a) Average daily roundtrip commuting distance
- b) Other personal mileage
- c) Do you or your spouse have another vehicle available for personal use?
- d) If you have employer provided vehicle, is personal use during off hours permitted?
- e) Do you have evidence to support your deduction?
- f) Do you have evidence to support the business use percentage claimed?
- g) Is the evidence written?

2. Main Test: More than 50% business miles

If the business miles are over 50% of total miles you are entitled to 3 year ACRS write off and also upto \$5000 section 179 expensing and to investment Tax credit upto 6% within certain limits.

If the 50% test is NOT satisfied the business portion can be written off in 5 years by straight line method and no I.T.C. and section 179 write off upto \$5000. Those who are likely to fail the 50% test by a small percentage may be able to make it by some changes in their driving habits or by attending few more business meetings or by reducing some non business driving or still by converting some of their com- munity miles into business miles.

3. Strategy for 2 car families

You could possibly be failing the 50% test and losing tax breaks by dividing the 18000 personal miles approximately half in each car you are a looser because both cars fail 50% test. On the other hand if you use one car for most of your business driving you will make the test and get the best results.

4. New Dollar Caps

For cars bought after 6/84 there are new limits on yearly depreciation and tax credits. Cars put in service Pre 6/84 6/84-4/85 Limit Post 4/85 Limit

Year	Percentage	Limit	Post 4/85 Limit
1st Year	25%	\$4000	\$3200
2nd Year	38%	6000	4800
3rd Year	37%	6000	4800
4th and later	None	6000 (fill 100%)	4800 (fill 100%)
Tax Credit	6%	1000	675

The above limits are based on 100% business use. If your car is driven for both business and personal uses the limits are multiplied by the business proportion.

Housewife to a neighbor: "I have the most marvelous recipe for goulash — all I have to do is mention it to my husband and he says, 'Let's eat out.'"

Glowing Wife: "And what's the reason for you coming in at 5:00 in the morning?"
Ole Slush: "Breakfast."

The nation's newest hero will be the politician who can determine compa- rable worth without making someone mad.

1. Only one coin. Take the box with the label one dime and one quarter and pick up a coin and see what it is. You know, that this box has to contain two of the same coins. Then attach that correct label to this box, from another box. Then change the label from the third box to this newly delabelled box (Because you know all boxes are mislabelled) and the remaining label to the remaining box.
2. Take one coin from stack one, two from stack two and so on till 10, and weigh them. The number of grams by which it is less, will identify the stack with the counterfeit \$.
3. Four. Weigh 27 against another 27, having 26 aside. If 27s are equal, 26 has the defective coin. If not, the lighter 27 has it. 27 can be broken into 9 and 9 to be weighed against each other, having 9 aside. Then each 9 can be broken into 3, 3 and 3. Then each 3 into 1, 1, and 1. If it is in 26, it can be broken into 9 and 9 having 8 aside and so on.
4. 9.
5. You have to ask a question for which you know the answer; such as "Is it raining? or even "Are you a dinosaur?" You would know if they are lying or not.
6. $x=4, y=9, z=5. 459 + 495 = 954.$

BRAIN TEASERS - 5 (Answers in January '86 issue) "SUBBARAO"

1. What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?
2. Arrange the 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,0 so that they add up exactly to 100.
3. Can you correct the following equation in Roman numerals by moving only one line.
 $VI + II = V$
4. Postal stamps in a country are currently available in the following denominations: 1 to 16¢, 18¢, 20¢, 21¢, 24¢, 25¢, 30¢, 40¢ and 50¢ plus \$1 and higher. What are the fewest stamps that will enable you to put the exact postage on letter requiring anything from 1¢ to \$1.01?
5. Here are four marks. 1 1 1. Put down five more marks and make 10.
6. Now, put nine pigs into four pig pens so that an add number of pigs are in each pen. There is this party going on one evening, of people consisting of only truth sayers and liars. Truth sayers always tell the truth and liars always lie. This man said to a group of people he is sharing the drinks with that " THE YOUNG GIRL IN BLUE DRESS HAS CONFIDED IN HIM AND REVEALED HER IDENTITY AS A LIAR." Is he telling the truth??

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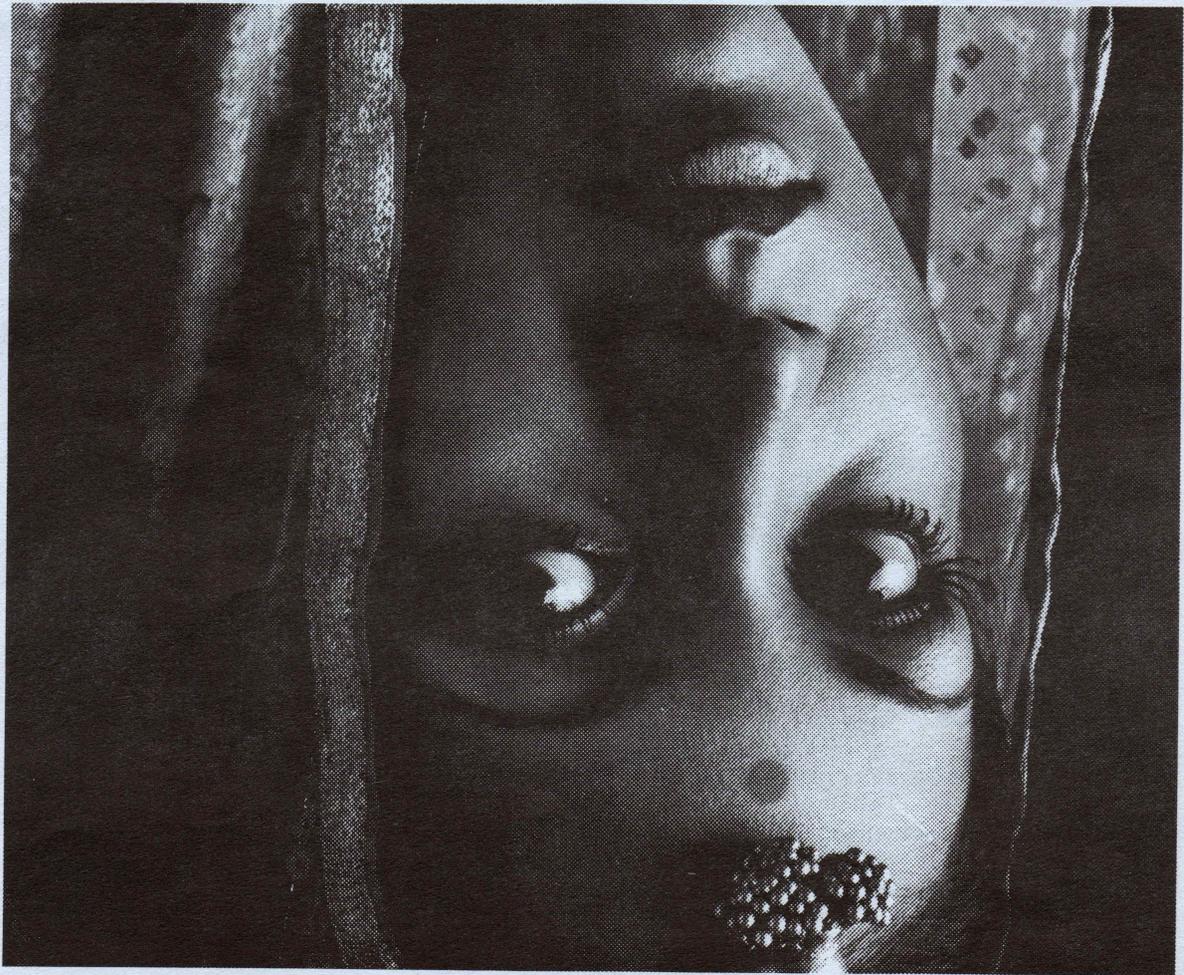
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1. In 1853, Von Gerhardt synthesized acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) from salicylic acid, which was called spirasaur (it was obtained from plants of spiraea family), while working for Bayer Chemical works in Elberfeld, Germany. It was on the shelf for years before its medicinal uses were discovered. The credit goes to Felix Hoffmann who took it out from the shelf and gave it to his father for relief of his rheumatic pains, as an experiment after the old man developed intolerance to the regular salicylic acid. Apart from decorative plants, almost all trees (eg : mango) produce their young leaves in different color - to protect them from sun's ultra violet rays on the tender leaves, to save them from predators which eat green leaves, and of course to attract.
3. At present there are some 76 million more births than deaths, each year, according to the United Nations statistics. If the trend continues, by 2000 there will be 100 million more births than deaths. A billion people would have been added in the last 13 years and the next billion will be added in 12 years ! Can you imagine the problems then ?
4. Removing shoes before entering a holy place is a custom in many religions; but Japanese people are the only ones who remove their shoes before entering a room. This custom is seen in some parts of India too.
5. If you have said it was Halley, you are wrong ! He showed that the same comet appeared in the skies periodically, that comets are like planets in orbiting around the sun and are subject to the same gravitational laws. The observation of these comets are well recorded in Chinese chronicles, dating back to 240 B.C. Halley was the first to predict that the particular comet would come 'back to earth' (rather, will be seen from people on earth) in 76 years. Late this year and early next year, this is supposed to be seen. As the comets approach the sun, its icy nucleus vaporises and forms a long tail. Eventually, it will either vaporise all of its near surface ices and become an asteroid or fragment into many pieces, some of which may enter earth's atmosphere and produce meteor showers. The tail is made of vapor. Beans are not only fattening (due to their high calorie content) but also highly gas producing, probably because of their high cellulose content (hard to digest) and so fermented by intestinal bacteria; or because of NOT chewing well (eating in a hurry) and thus not exposing the cellulose to the salivary enzymes well. Soya beans get top honors for gas production, while black eyed peas get no. 10 rank on the noise scale. Pink beans, black beans, baby lima beans belong to the single digits of the scale, while large lima beans, chick peas belong to the more 'quiet' group. Lentils (eg dhal) belong to middle in this scale !
8. Benjamin Franklin. He invented many other things also. Do you know any ?
9. Saturn! Saturn is considered to be one of the most beautiful objects in the entire sky, with its rings of gas and 10 satellites. It is sixth planet in order of distance from sun, and its gravitational force is more than 3 times that of the Earth !
10. The reticulate python is the largest of all living snakes, growing more than 30 feet by maturity. Unlike Arambas and Anacondas, which produce living young, pythons lay eggs. Female python coils around the eggs until they are hatched. Pythons are seen mostly in East Indies.
11. In 1968, all 50 states of USA passed the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act which allows people to donate their organs after death by signing a donor card. Napoleon Bonaparte, a French general, later Emperor of France is known as "The Little Corporal" because of his short stature (he was 5 feet tall and he was a Corporal first). His driving passion was the military expansion of France, but he made the French empire smaller than when he took over, soon after the Revolution. He was supposed to have said the most famous mirror image sentence : "Able was I, ere I saw Elba" !
13. Believe it or not, California (USA) is the leading producer of pistachios, but Iran, the second largest producer has been selling a cut-throat price (far below USA production cost) to USA importers - only to get the dollars for buying military equipment to fight Iraq.

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