



The Serpent
The Eagle
The Lion
& The Disk

Brannon Parker

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Om Aim Saraswatyai Namah

*Dedicated to Abhay Charan De Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada for Re-Introducing
the Primordial Love at the Heart of Religion and for Reviving the Western World's
Forgotten Vedic Heritage*

*To David Sherman Bhakti Ananda Goswami for Deciphering the Primary Elements that
Authenticate the Transcendent Foundations of All Religion and Civilization.*

*This Book is an Acknowledgment of their Tremendous Labors and for Providing the
Vital Clues in the Search of Discovery and Universal Truth*

To Vijai Ganapa for Being a True Brother and Friend

To Fred Tangalin for Being a True Father

To Rachel Mizuta and Four Magnificent Children

FOREWORD

Is God real? If God is real is there any evidence to prove it? What is religion? Is religion merely an invention of the human mind? These questions have challenged humanity from the beginning of time. And where there are questions there are surely answers.

'*Guru, Sadhu and Shastra*' or '*Teacher, Saints and the Scriptures*' represent the system by which the ancient traditions based upon Vedic thought were developed over the millennia. It represents a three tiered process that allowed for new developments within the authentic framework of Vedic philosophy. It also served to protect the accepted conclusions of the Vedic authorities and traditions. An idea that could be agreed upon by all three of these authorized '*guardians of truth*' was accepted as conclusive. The world has been greatly benefitted by these Vedic '*guardians of truth*'. For despite the onslaught of atheism, cynicism, religious exclusivism, corporate industrialism and impersonalism the authentic Vedic truths and conclusions remain readily available to the world at large. It is through these Vedic authorities that the questions regarding God and the development of religion can be accurately answered. The Vedic sources, the Earth and Nature Wisdom of the Ancients, represent a great resource. It is a great reservoir of knowledge. The answers are there and the methodology is sound.

A full spectrum approach is required in the study of ancient history. Context is crucial. Ancient traditions preserve the ritual value and social context of a phenomenon. Modern research, in a skeleton-like manner, provides artifacts and structures. Yet by combining modern scientific and archeological research with the '*Wisdom of the Ancients*' we can find conclusive answers. Through this opens a unique window into the past.

This book '***The Serpent, the Eagle, the Lion and the Disc***' is a testament to the wisdom of the ancients specifically that wisdom preserved in the Vedic literature of India. Many answers to the puzzles that have long beleaguered humanity's understanding of God and religion are addressed in this book. In particular this is an attempt to discover the authentic nature of the origins of religion and civilization.

The Traditional perspective holds that religion is a sacred gift from God. God is identified as a distinct being with a personality. In other words God is a very real and tangible living force. Throughout history God has interacted with humanity and the imprint of these interactions allows us to identify God and the nature of God.

Everyone has the experience of fire. We know it is hot, it burns and it has certain verifiable qualities such as color and heat. Anyone who experiences fire will be able to judge the nature and quality of fire no matter where they are or who they are. In the same way because God is real anyone who experiences God is able to identify certain traits and characteristics that are unique to God. God is Love. Rather than an intangible and impersonal force of nature or a figment of the imagination, God is a dynamically interactive being that is intensely involved with his creation and specifically with his parts and parcels, the living beings of his creation. The impact of these divine interactions between God and his creation has left many substantial and significant imprints upon the history of the world. True religion is understood to be a direct response to these authentic experiences with the divine nature of God. This view holds this to be the '*Original Principle*' and the impetus of religion and civilization.

The essence of that '*Original Principle*' is identified as Bhakti or Love and Devotion. It is based upon a very tangible and heartfelt yearning to love and be loved. Religion is a reflection of the gratitude our ancestors had for an intimate God that constantly involved himself with his creation. While some may label such devotion as a very basic principle of religion the evidence speaks otherwise. Lord Krishna clearly delineates the process of liberation within the Bhagavad Gita. He concludes his list of yogic processes with the process of Bhakti and ends the entire Bhagavad Gita by urging the warrior prince Arjuna to abandon all Dharma and '*to surrender*' unto him. This surrender is the sweet surrender of love exemplified by the Gopis of Vrindavan. We have a reflection of this same love all around us.

Many portray religion as a mere philosophy leading to detachment. Yet all naturally hanker after companionship and love. The Wise counsel against disconnecting these natural yearnings from the spiritual realm; for love and affection is considered to be an authentic reflection of our true natures.

This book is an effort to identify the ancient presence of the world's original religion. Several traditions provide significant clues towards the development of an accurate outline regarding the development of religion. By the application of these ancient templates a cohesive picture emerges. One of these ancient templates is called the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition. Inaugurated over 500 years ago by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, this philosophy found wide acceptance amongst the leading luminaries of India at that time. Initially Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a great Sanskrit scholar and a logician. Many times his spiritual conclusions were challenged by the leading scholars and Vedic authorities of his era. Sri Chaitanya not only successfully met these challenges but every one of his challengers adopted his doctrine becoming his disciple. Thus the conclusions of Sri Chaitanya, a great exponent of *Bhakti Yoga*, rather than the fantasies of an emotional sentimentalist, have been recognized as authoritative and conclusive within the framework of Vedic tradition and Indian thought. Significantly, rather than a new system of learning or philosophy, the teachings of Sri Chaitanya are said to represent a return to the original revelation at the foundation of all religion. This revelation is centered upon that sacred love represented by the Divine Couple '*Radha and Krishna*', God as '*Lover and Beloved*'.

The Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition identifies Shri Chaitanya as an Avatar of the *Divine Couple* Radha and Krishna. The Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition identifies him as the '*maha-vadanyaya*' Avatar or the '*most munificent*' Avatar, a form of God in which he comes to experience and to reveal the authentic mood of the Lover of God. He came to this earth in order to revive, reinvigorate and resuscitate the very heart of true religion. By the application of the authentic template of the Gaudiya Siddhanta or Spiritual Conclusions we can accurately identify key elements of humanity's primal religion. Thus by an application of the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu many remarkable answers regarding the origins of religion and civilization come to light.

For the first time in known history, our globalized world allows us to apply many ancient traditions including the Gaudiya template in the search for the origins of religion. Remarkably the authoritative conclusions of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, a 15th century Bengali Saint, provide a foundational template for an accurate reconstruction of the history

of true religion. This true religion accurately identified as the "*Original Principle*" provided the impetus for the rise of civilization.

It is important to note that rather than a Gaudiya Vaishnava or a Vedic or Hindu perspective this study represents something more profound. These '*Indian*' traditions have preserved an unbroken link to the ancient past. The world's most ancient continuous culture sustained by a large and vigorous population base provides a living template of the past. It allows for the context that is generally absent from modern academic studies. The ancient living Indic traditions provide the linguistic, social, ritualistic and contextual tools required for understanding early human history. The same is true of many ancient traditions and cultures as well yet it is only India that has preserved the ancient ways on a massive scale. While the Indians of ancient America or the ancient Africans, and many other authentic primal traditions represent the same "*Original Principle*" their smaller populations could not maintain the unbroken rhythm of the ancestors. Despite repeated and destructive invasions and centuries of foreign domination India's massive population allowed for a cultural continuity spanning thousands of years. As India is today she was yesterday. Significantly the mystical, spiritual and religious ethos of the entire ancient world has been preserved within the mystical, spiritual and religious traditions of India. The keys provided by this cultural resource allow for a broader perspective in understanding early religion.

None doubt the role religion has had upon history yet today many view religion as merely a matter of faith, while others have labeled it as the root of all evil. Karl Marx infamously labeled religion as '*an opiate for the masses*' seeing in religion a method of mass control and domination. Ironically in an effort to forgo religion his Communist followers developed a form of '*atheistic*' religion with all the trappings of an ecclesiastical hierarchy rivaling any Church. Meanwhile many outwardly religious minded people have labeled the development of religion as an ongoing system of invention and conjecture. They present most religious doctrine as being built upon a process of '*pious frauds*,' well intended, no doubt, yet fraudulent all the same.

Another view highlights *the response of humanity* to the '*Original Principle*' as the origin of religion. In this view religion began when ancient humans attempted to unravel the mysteries of the universe. In other words humans are presented as the source rather than the recipients of the original revelation. The effect is thought of as the cause. Yet the evidence strongly suggests that true religion is the residual effect of God's countless interactions with the world. Humans are no doubt participants yet humans are not the origin or the source of the primal religion. We must look elsewhere for the '*Original Principle*'.

The passage of time has clouded our recognition of history. We get a clear example of this in relation to the ancient architecture of the Greeks and Romans. Many Western cultures have attempted to duplicate the ancient style of the Greco-Romans. Bleached out structures of marble and stone dot the landscape of the Western world; assuming to mimic the buildings of Rome and Athens. Thus one can find many stately yet severe looking structures intended to invoke the power and glory of the Ancients. Yet recent discoveries

have proven that the ancient buildings, rather than being monochromatic in appearance, were brightly painted with diverse colors and hues. While the shape is the same, the context and colors of the original design have long ago been forgotten. In the same way the original religion of the ancients has been lost to the world at large. As with the modern attempts at Greco-Roman architecture, key elements of the original religion remain intact yet the original appearance and context have been drastically altered.

Over the past 500 years a majority of the world has been homogenized. The rhythm of the ancients has all but disappeared from the world. Yet there is a place where this ancient pulse continues unabated and that place is India. Today we find that India represents the most actively religious society on earth. India has long been home to diverse expressions of religion and culture. Yet many leading scholars of Hinduism, both secular and traditional, have labeled a majority of Hinduism to be nothing more than the invention of various sentimentalists disconnected from the original Vedic roots of Hinduism. Astonishingly they will discount the Puranas, Upanishads and Itihasas like the Ramayana and Mahabharata as later developments lacking in authenticity. Some *experts* discount the celebrated Bhagavad Gita as a recent invention stemming from weak minded scholarship and Bhakti-based sentimentalists. The dichotomy represented by this mindset is startling.

'Satyam Eva Jayate!' 'Truth alone is triumphant!'

To this very day this phrase stands as a testament to Indian civilization. It is no accident that this is the official motto of the Indian nation. In this expression we find the entire ethos of the Vedic/Hindu outlook represented in one simple phrase. The entire system of Indian thought and learning is rooted in this axiom. In ancient times spiritual truths and science, both the physical and metaphysical, were carefully delineated and transmitted through a careful process rooted in the tradition of truth. No concept was casually broadcast. Indian philosophy and spiritual practice did not develop in a vacuum. Any new concept had to meet the challenge of a system based in a multi-tiered process that demanded a strict adherence to the tradition of established truth. It is within this framework that the Puranas and spiritual lineages were developed. The idea that a society preeminently dedicated and committed to the establishment and protection of truth developed an entire system of literature and spiritual lineages based upon '*pious fraud*' is untenable.

In the past 100 years or so, many self titled '*rationalists*' developed new theories that in fact discount the entire Vedic system for the discovery and preservation of truth. Ignoring the causes of Indian depravation some blamed Hinduism and its system of '*Puranic based idolatry and superstition*'. New calls were made to "*Go back to the Vedas*" and a return to rationalism. However these new ideas appear to have been reactionary responses to the impacts of western civilization's domineering forces of Islam, Christianity, Colonialism and Industrialism. A brief overview of these ideas is all it takes to recognize the illogical thought processes involved. According to this vision of Indian history, countless frauds in the guise of sages, scholars and metaphysical scientists spent their lives in the development of untruths in the name of truth. Beyond that we are told to believe that the entire Indian society participated in these fraudulent endeavors. Thus to this day we have nearly a billion people who are now allegedly living and practicing a tradition based upon mere invention and pious fraud.

Unlike every other Indian system of philosophy and tradition, these very new theories regarding the development of religion have never been through the vetting process that is inherent to the Indian process of truth verification. The very Puranas, and the spiritual lineages based upon these Puranas that they discount have received and met the challenge of their peers repeatedly throughout the centuries. Great reformists like Lord Buddha, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Tulsidas, Guru Nanak and others functioned within this system and they developed new methods of practice within the authentic framework of Indian civilization. Unlike the more recent '*Philosophers and Spiritualists*' they established their authority within the Indian debate system and they successfully met the challenges of their detractors.

Ancient India long maintained a system of truth verification that featured an intellectual process of debate. New Siddhantas or '*Spiritual Conclusions*' were not merely accepted by society at large based upon personal appeal. It was through a process of debate that new revelations and conclusions were established. The political establishment also played a role in the process ensuring impartiality and the acquiescence on the part of the debaters. In other words the authenticity of the presiding Siddhantas of India has long ago been established. Whereas the more recent mundane theories and '*New Age*' philosophies, all developed within the last 150 years, have never been through the very scientific vetting process of the Ancients. The Indian system of spirituality is based upon the concept of '*Satyam*' or '*Truth*'. This *Satyam* was the underlying fabric of Dharma. The compilers of the Vedic literature insisted upon a strict adherence to the principle of *Satyam*.

Due to the decline of religion, and the many distorted forms of religion that have arisen, cynicism, pessimism and skepticism now run rampant. The very evidences that prove humanity's common sacred heritage are at times misconstrued as examples of Indian triumphalism, freakish coincidence or even alien '*reptilian*' invasion. Undoubtedly the original form of religion was once global in scope. A common universal legacy is at the foundation of all civilization. Yet what was the nature of this common legacy? What is the '*Original Principle*'? What are the true origins of human civilization?

A survey of the world's ancient primal root traditions reveals that the same *Divine Primordial Archetype* can be found at the foundation of every major religion and civilization of the world. Theories abound as to the nature of this *Divine Primordial Archetype*. According to the testimony of the *Traditionalists*, rather than fantasy, alien beings or cunning humans, religion is the eternal ebb and flow of love between the Individual Soul and the Supersoul or God. Rather than an artificial construct based upon belief, religion is the metaphysical equivalent of breathing. As we breathe in the same air we are all connected to the same sacred source of life, God.

Every tribe and nation has at one time or another been witness to authentic revelatory experiences of God. This is evident by the many religious parallels found at the heart of every religious tradition throughout history. For, according the ancients, any sincere soul that harnesses their inbuilt devotion and love for God will make contact with that same Supreme Godhead no matter where or who they are. What to speak of this planet, anyone who turns to God anywhere in this entire creation will be connecting with the same God of Love who is Love itself.

This may, in fact explain the mystery represented by the statement of Lord Jesus Christ, “*I am the way and the truth and the light and none come to the father but through me.*” Because Jesus is the same Love that is God his words reflect the fact that the only way to God is through Love of God. Thus when a lover of God in the pre-Christian Americas experienced God he was experiencing that same God, the Father of which Jesus spoke.

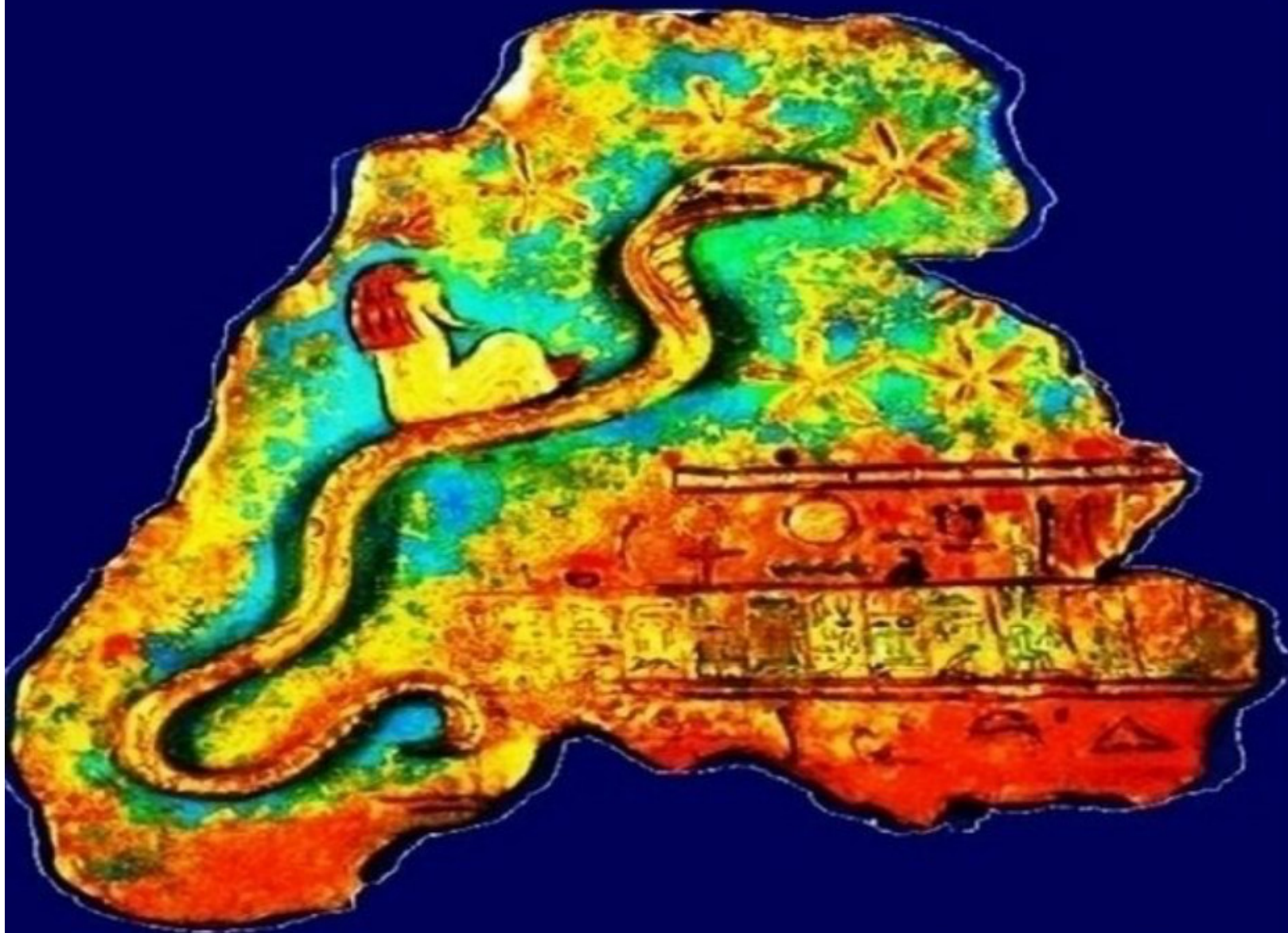
That same God has always been accessible to anyone with love. When they accessed and interacted with that God, they experienced and were witness to the very tangible characteristics of the same Supreme Lord worshiped by countless beings throughout creation. His color, his form, his clothes, his paraphernalia, his associates, his weapons, his energy, his radiance, his aura, his mood, his voice, his eyes, his smile, his form, his name and his unique qualities were all observed and faithfully recorded and documented. These records of the countless encounters with the divine are at the foundation of true religion.

Unfortunately, though the evidence of these encounters reveals a unique singularity of sacred individuality, regardless of where they occurred, the world is still in a complete state of denial and ignorance regarding the oneness of God. The millions of believers of the world are loathe accepting that God is God regardless of the religious tradition involved. Attempting to monopolize God as the purview of their particular faith they deny the universality of religion and God.

In the beginning there was indeed only one religion. It was expressed in diverse forms based upon the unique moods and temperaments of those involved. As time progressed humanity became separated from the original revelation as rituals and the rules based upon an adherence to the letter rather than the spirit of law eventually superseded devotion and individuality. As time went on, disasters, both manmade and natural, plagued the planet. The original principle was lost while the forms of ritual and practice remained. Soon hollow methodologies mimicking the original usurped the place of true religion.

At other times demonic beings, both human and otherwise, posed as Gods and religious leaders, further misguiding humanity and compounding the crisis. Massive movements were developed in the guise of religion that were, for all intents and purposes, meant to usurp the authority of God. By focusing the devotion and worship of the people upon themselves or upon false representations of God, these demonic leaders brought great discredit to the practice of religion. By the intentional misuse of the sacred symbols, terminologies and traditions of the godly, entire civilizations were trampled beneath the boots of tyrannical empires, prophets and kings. The current age of Kali Yuga has seen repeated recurrences of this phenomenon. However even these tyrants depended upon the use of the very same sacred foundations at the heart of true religion. Regardless of their misuse of religion, the original religion like true love is ever-existent and can never be lost.

It is also important to note that many observable Mediterranean examples of the Vedic based religion, specifically from the periods dated after the cataclysmic era of 1600 BC, represent a time of fractured continuity. In other words, while many aspects of the form of Vedic religion were being practiced, much of the ‘*Siddhanta*’, context and philosophy had long been forgotten. In particular, the key and vital concept of ‘*Cow Protection*’ had been lost. Other fundamental aspects of the original tradition had been lost as well. These



"The Serpent, The Eagle, The Lion & The Disk"
A Startling Revelation and a Revolutionary New
Look at the Origins of Humanity's Common
Mystical Experience, its Religion, Culture and the
Rise of Civilization.

