Religion and culture, now more than ever before, have become vital for survival. Even the greatest optimists, materialists or atheists will agree that the world is in a state of utter chaos and is in the brim of disaster in spite of modern amenities and luxuries brought to us by advanced technology. Happiness is a fast decreasing and declining commodity. Countries are ready to destroy each other. Many live far below the poverty line and are on the verge of starvation, while some others are amassing millions and living in splendor. Some rob and plunder their country and fellow men and, ironically enough, get away with it. Corruption, robbery, deceit, drunkenness, alcoholism, drug addiction, prostitution are rampant and on the increase. Is there any remedy to avert these calamities? YES, the one and only way is to go back to what our religion states. However, in a more narrower scale, is our religion vibrant in Australia?

Our soul is a speck of God and this divine spiritual and immortal body of light is believed to permeate throughout our body. The soul is the source of all the higher functions, including knowledge, will and love. However in the present time, in Australia, among our Hindus the soul has been filled with anger, hatred and jealousy, pride, vanity and arrogance. Anger, hatred and jealousy will eventually destroy us. We must learn to accept others opinions and treat them as equals whether they may be of a higher or lower class. Pride, vanity and ignorance has lead to people thinking high of themselves and leaving others out of the picture as you can see with members of certain organizations or committees. The great Samuel Johnson states, “The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”

Talking ill of others has become a common practice for us. It is said to be even worse than physical violence. Evil people should be avoided and silence is the best attitude to take against unpleasant ones. Harming anyone by deed, word even thought will be detrimental to us. Desire for material things must be brought to a minimum. Even the great Sita, our ideal of womanhood, because of her desire to possess the false deer, had to suffer in captivity, separated from Rama. You may be thinking that all religions have a few stray paths. Well I agree, but all the paths of Hinduism in Australia are going astray due to these evil qualities that should be obliterated. We must learn to face this unpleasant truth. Competition is partially responsible, but we too must take the blame. And yes, it is up to everyone of us to leave these evil qualities behind. Purity and love should be of the mind and soul. We should be pure in deed, word and thought. Love should be shown to everyone, even to animals and plants.
Power has been a major component that is leading to the death of our religion. A false tactic of doing good for the community has been used to rise up in class. **In fact most people with power tend to damage the community and obtain maximum power for themselves.** Another issue concerning the community is the belief of attaining god; by going to the temple, touching the Vakanams, carrying the Gods/Goddess during festivals, singing Thervarams etc. These beliefs are absolutely nonsense. The mind, heart and soul should be pure in ones life. **Purity should be in word and soul.**

Going to the temple and obtaining a food token (to purchase food at the food stall) before entering into the temple, eating meat before going to the temple, preaching one thing but doing the other, are a few of the many religious sacrifices, we Hindus do in Australia. The younger generation in particular are having trouble in bringing Hinduism into their everyday lives. So what is the use of continually building temples when the younger generation has no clue of what is going on? **WAKE UP HINDUS!**

Hinduism asserts that one is born again and again so as to experience the consequences of one’s good and bad actions. The joys of heaven and the torments of hell truly belong to this world itself. The sorrow and happiness that are our lot in our birth are proportional to the virtuous and evil deeds of our past birth. Those who sinned much suffer now and, similarly, those who did much good enjoy much happiness now. This is the same for our next world. Those who sin now will face the consequences in their latter or next life, while the good will live another worthy life. Hopefully, this could be a good reason for all Hindus out there to rethink their actions and leave their wicked characteristics behind. No other religion has faced so many challenges and onslaughts from within and without as Hinduism. Aggression, religious persecution, materialism and poverty have all proved a threat as well as a test to our Sanathana Dharma. It is indeed a marvel that in spite of all these challenges, our religion has survived. The biggest threat now, is mankind. If this hurdle is passed then our religion will be more vibrant, resilient and dynamic than any religion.

“**Darkness can not drive out darkness; only light can do that. 
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that**”

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**Note to the Readers**

0 Aum Muruga Society encourages all Hindu children to write short articles on Hinduism related topics. If your child wishes to write, please send the articles to Dr. Ravi via email. **R.Ravindra@ts.edu.au.** Selected articles will be considered for the publication on the quarterly Aum Muruga Journal. This is a community service project

0 Visit the websites
