

A Challenge

to

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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AN APOLOGY

Swami Shradhanand Saraswati and his selfless devotion in the service of Truth need no introduction. Inspired by divine knowledge of Truth, he was dauntless before the heaviest odds defying whom he ultimately laid down his life in 1926.

He devoted his life to the propagation of Vedic Truth and the Vedic Dharma. He gave in abundance and gave ungrudgingly to one and all. India owes him in plentiful measure. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, offered his homage at Swamiji's feet when one met the other and addressed Swamiji as his 'elder brother'. In Shri Anathasayanam Aiyangar's words, "If Mahatma Gandhi was Pita (Father) of the Nation, Swami Shradhanand was the grandfather)".

Swami Shradhanand had once addressed some questions to Christian missionaries. They are included in the questions now listed in the following pages. The aim and the object was, and still is, to unearth and know the truth. But alas ! they remained in his lifetime as much unanswered as they are to this day. Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Punjab has taken liberty to re-produce them for the benefit of the new generation which, I am sure, will find them extremely thought provoking.

Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Punjab,
Gurudutt Bhawan Jullundur,
October, 1964

Raghuvir Singh Shastri

The Challenging Questions

1. Is it not a fact that the gospels supposed to be written by the disciples of Lord Jesus Christ are nowhere to be found. Do they exist anywhere? If so, they must be kept in some library or in a museum. Can these books be traced anywhere?
2. Is it a fact that the present gospels are translations from some Greek manuscripts?
3. Is there any evidence in the gospels that Lord Jesus Christ intended to found any religion?
4. How far is the statement correct that the prevalent Christianity is Pauline Christianity, that is, a religion founded by St. Paul?
5. Is it not a fact that St. Paul never met Lord Jesus Christ nor did he hear any sermon or speech delivered by Lord Jesus Christ?
6. Is it a fact that Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, was the wife of a carpenter named Joseph?
7. Is it not a fact that Jesus Christ was born after her marriage with Joseph?
8. Is it a fact that Mary had several other children besides Lord Jesus Christ?
9. Is it a fact that during her pregnancy Mary was not living with her parents but with Joseph?
10. Is it a fact that when the time of her confinement was approaching it was Joseph who took her to a caravanserai where Mary was delivered of Lord Jesus Christ?
11. Is it a fact that in the Book of Isaiah it is stated that "a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"?
12. Is it a fact that in the edition of the Old Testament as published in U.S.A. the word 'virgin' has been

replaced by the words 'young woman' as the original Greek word does not mean 'virgin' but 'young woman' ?

13. Is it a fact that some orthodox Christians have published protests against this version and have urged that if the word 'virgin' disappears from the Bible the foundation of Christianity so far as they are based upon the birth of Lord Jesus Christ by a virgin are shaken ?
14. Is it a fact that Jesus Christ did not bear the name Immanuel mentioned in Isaiah as the name of the son predicted to be born to a virgin (young woman) ? How can the prediction of Isaiah be related to Christ ?
15. If Mary was married and had so many other children what is the justification for believing that Jesus Christ was not the son of Joseph ?
16. If Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Holy Ghost should he *still* be described as the son of God and not the son of the Holy Ghost ?
17. Is it a fact that a sect of Christians held the belief that Lord Jesus Christ was never crucified and that it was somebody else who was sacrificed in his place while Jesus Christ was allowed to escape ?
18. Is it a fact that when Jesus Christ was under trial in the court of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, the governor was told by his wife that Jesus was innocent and that no harm be done to him ?
19. Is it also a fact that the Governor himself was not in favour of convicting Jesus Christ and was only compelled by the agitation raised by the enemies of Jesus Christ, the bigoted Jews, that he passed order ?
20. Is it not reasonable to suppose that when the Governor and his wife are in favour of Jesus Christ and do not want to do him any harm, the officers who were put in charge of Jesus Christ to take him for crucifixion should also try to save him ?

21. Is it a fact that when Jesus was being taken to Calvary and was carrying a Cross on his own shoulders he was relieved of that Cross and it was given to another man out of the crowd ?
22. Is it a fact that when Jesus was nailed to the Cross he cried out: " O Lord, why hast thou forsaken me in this hour!" ?
23. Doesn't the belief held by a Christian sect that Jesus was never crucified receive strength from the fact that it was not Jesus who could have uttered these words being himself a god or son of God and it must be that poor fellow who had been taken hold of by obliging officials who knew that the Governor and his wife did not want Jesus to be crucified.
24. Does it not also receive support from the fact stated in the gospels that three days after the alleged crucifixion Lord Jesus Christ was seen by some of his disciples ?
25. Is not this version more consistent with logic and reason than the theory that Jesus Christ lay in a sort of cave after crucifixion but rose after three days and then met some of his disciples and then flew bodily to Heaven in the presence of his disciples ?
26. Is it a fact that when Pontius Pilate was questioned by a friend, Aelias Lamia, about Jesus the Nazarene he who, as Roman Governor is said to have tried Jesus Christ, said, "Jesus the Nazarene ? No, I cannot remember him. The name means nothing to me." ?
27. Is it a fact that there is no account of the major part of Christ's life in the gospels ?
28. Is it a fact that some people have stated that during that period Jesus Christ was either in India or in Tibet where such ideas as expressed by Lord Jesus Christ in his Sermon on the Mount are commonly held and practised ?
29. Do the Christians believe that all persons born of Adam and Eve are sinners and that it was to redeem those who believe in Him that Jesus, as the only begotten son of God was sent to the world ?

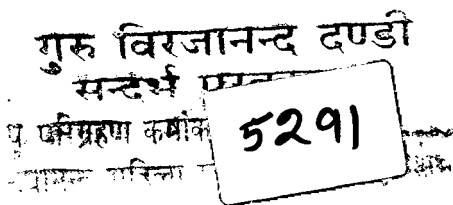
30. Supposing that all men and women born of Adam and Eve, according to Christian belief, are sinners, does the fact not reflect on the wisdom and divinity of the creator? If all the pots turned out by a potter are full of cracks doesn't the blame lie with the potter?
31. If it is supposed that God felt pity for mankind and sent Jesus Christ to redeem them why did God take thousands and thousands of years before sending down the Saviour? If millions of men and women supposed to be sinners have gone to hell for eternity is not God to blame?
32. Has any mention been made in Roman or any other history about Lord Jesus Christ, his teachings or about his crucifixion?
33. Is it not a fact that when Missionaries came to India from Europe they adopted Indian dress and gave themselves out as Pandits from America etc?
34. Is it not a fact that they built Churches and installed a female image in them and gave out that it was Girja known to be the wife of Shiva?
35. Is it not a fact that a Christian Church is in Indian language known as Girja?
36. Is it not a fact that some Missionaries contrived to throw *double-rotis* in the wells of villages and when sometime after some pieces of these loaves were taken out by themselves from the wells they proclaimed that all the Hindus who have been taking water from those wells had become Christians and the fact that the villagers accepted the announcement that they had really become Christians on account of their utter ignorance and innoſense?

“If instead of confining themselves to humanitarian work and material service to the poor, they do proselytization by means of medical aid, education, etc. then I would certainly ask them to withdraw. Every nation’s religion is as good as any other. Certainly India’s religions are adequate for her people. We need no converting spiritually”.

– Mahatma Gandhi

“To those who would convert India, might it not be said, ‘Physician heal thyself?’”

– Mahatma Gandhi in
Young India, April 23, 1931.



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