



“Perhaps, in return for conquest, arrogance and spoliation, India will teach us the tolerance and gentleness of the mature mind, the quiet content of the unacquisitive soul, the calm of the understanding spirit, and a unifying, pacifying love for all living things”
— Will Durant

How Indian Spirituality Changed the West

The following excerpts from Philip Goldberg’s new book, American Veda, indicate the theme and content of his study of cultural transfer from East to West. The book will be the focus of a study group beginning June 6th at 7:30 PM at Concord House.

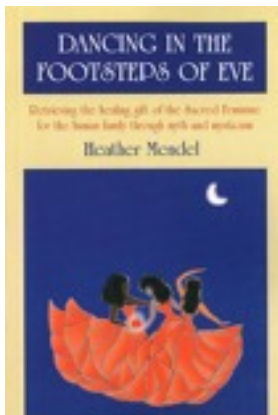
“The East-to-West flow of ideas actually began with the ancient Greeks. It moved quietly through the age of exploration, when Europeans were too busy extracting resources from the newly discovered lands to learn much from their sages and seers. Then in the early nineteenth century British scholars produced the first English translations of India’s sacred texts. Those books reached American shores and fell into the hands of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman.

“Thereafter, gurus came, lectures were given, books were written, and the message of India proved alluring to more and more people. Predominantly white, urban, and educated, they were seekers of truth, of God, of self-improvement. Some became exponents of Indian teachings themselves. Others absorbed Eastern ideas, incorporated them in their own areas of expertise, and passed along the final products. Through them Indian philosophy, though not always discernible, has been disseminated deep and wide.

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Theme for 2011: The New Learning: Pathways to Global Culture
Aim 9. To assist in the emergence of men and women of universal culture, capable of continuous growth in non-violence of mind, generosity of heart and harmony of soul — Declaration of Interdependence

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dancing in the Footsteps of Eve

**Forum: Saturday, June 4
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.
Speaker: Heather Mendel**

Author, artist and teacher, Heather Mendel will share her kabbalistic interpretation of the mythic Eve who symbolizes the persistent effort to reach for knowledge and experience, the fruit of divinity. The symbol of Eve is thus stripped of association with shame, guilt and evil. Author Mendel seeks the “building of a global community that celebrates diversity, respects individuality and inspires us all to acknowledge Presence in our lives.” To this end, she encourages “men and women to remember and recognize the Sacred or Divine Feminine once again” so as to “enhance the burgeoning consciousness that ushers in the new paradigm.”

Other works by Heather Mendel are *Towards Freedom* and a DVD, *Eve, God and the Quantum Age*. Call 967-1055 or email Carolyn@worldculture.org for more information.



New Book Circle: *American Veda*

**Forum: Mondays, June 6
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.

American Veda by Philip Goldberg offers a fascinating description of cultural transfer. Subtitled “How Indian Spirituality Changed the West”, this survey starts with an account of how the American transcendentalists Emerson and Thoreau made use of “Hindoo” texts and continues through the 20th century documenting how a variety of spiritual seekers, radicals, celebrities such as the Beatles and contemporary clerics brought Indian religious ideas and meditation techniques into Western consciousness.

The forum will be led by Carolyn Dorrance and discussion of salient themes encouraged. *American Veda* was published in 2010 by Harmony Books, a division of Random House. The ISBN # is 978-0-385-52134-5.

Contact Carolyn Dorrance at 967-1055 or email carolyn@worldculture.org for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE:
Founding Day Address**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson
and Thomas Carlyle:
A Friendship of True Minds
Saturday, July 2**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Cliff Tillotson
Concord House, 1407 Chapala St.**

*"A friend is a sort of paradox in nature."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The forty year transatlantic correspondence between two of the 19th Century's greatest thinkers has left a legacy of provocative thought about cosmic questions and social issues that are still relevant to contemporary life. What insights can we harvest from the long-standing relationship of these two titans of thought? Like ourselves they lived during a time of moral and political crisis and strife. What can we learn from their four decades' long, multi-dimensional debate to help us orient our inner compasses and wisely navigate through the foreboding challenges of our own time?



How Indian Spirituality Changed the West

"The influence spread slowly and imperceptibly like a gathering weather system, then surged mightily in the late 1960's when a constellation of forces came together – mass communication and ease of travel; social unrest; war and nuclear anxiety; psychedelic drugs; and alienated but idealistic youngsters with the time and money to explore new ways of being. The Beatles journey to the banks of the Ganges blew the gates between East and West wide open. In a flash, more Americans learned about Indian spirituality than in all the previous centuries. Baby boomers read books about eastern Philosophy, took up meditation and Yoga, grooved on on the sound of the sitar, chanted Sanskrit in the streets, flocked to gurus, and in some cases trekked to ashrams in India. Hundreds of thousands joined... Hindu- inspired meditation movements.... But for every committed ... member, there were ten or twenty more who never dove into the pool but dipped in enough that their lives were changed and their worldviews were reshaped.

"In a few short years Eastern ideas and practices spread from the counterculture to the mainstream, fueling enthusiasm in medicine, psychology, academia, sports, the arts and entertainment. In time, Indian philosophy seeped into the culture, changing what we know about the mind, body, and spirit, and the way we relate to the sacred."

Philip Goldberg

In June

Anniversaries

- 5th John Maynard Keynes, British economist b. 1883
- 6th Thomas Mann, German novelist, social critic, Nobel laureate b. 1875
- 6th Alexander Pushkin, Russian author, poet b. 1799
- 6th Johann Müller (Regiomontanus), German mathematician, astronomer, astrologer b. 1436
- 7th Paul Gauguin, French Post-Impressionist painter b. 1848
- 8th Thomas Paine, British pamphleteer, revolutionary, inventor, Founding Father of the U.S. d. 1809
- 8th Frank Lloyd Wright, American architect, writer, educator b. 1867
- 9th Bertha von Suttner, Austrian novelist, pacifist, Nobel laureate b. 1843
- 10th Sir Edwin Arnold, English poet, journalist b. 1832
- 11th John Constable, English Romantic painter b. 1776
- 17th William Crookes, English chemist, physicist b. 1832
- 19th Blaise Pascal, French mathematician, physicist, religious philosopher b. 1623
- 23rd Giambattista Vico, Italian philosopher, rhetorician, historian, jurist b. 1668
- 23rd Alan M. Turing, British computer scientist, mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst b. 1912
- 24th John of the Cross, Spanish mystic, Carmelite friar, Catholic reformer b. 1542
- 26th Lord Kelvin, Irish-born mathematical physicist, engineer b. 1824
- 26th Pearl S. Buck, American scholar and novelist of China, Nobel laureate b. 1892
- 27th Helen Keller, American author, political activist, lecturer b. 1880
- 28th Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Swiss philosopher, writer b. 1712

In June

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 2nd Ascent of Mt. Everest by Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay announced in 1953
- 5th World Environment Day established by the U. N. in 1972
- 15th Magna Carta signed in 1215, one of the world's most significant legal documents, leading to the rule of constitutional law in the English speaking world
- 16th International Day of the African Child sponsored by UNICEF
- 16th International Court of Justice (World Court) established by the U.N. in The Hague, Netherlands in 1945
- 16th Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space in 1963
- 19th (2011) Fathers' Day celebrated in many countries
- 20th Great Seal of the United States adopted in 1782
- 21st (2011) Summer Solstice (17:16 UTC; 1:16 p.m. EDT)
- 24th Inti Raymi Incan Sun Festival celebrated in Peru
- 26th United Nations (U.N.) formally founded in 1945
- 30th Special Theory of Relativity propounded in 1905 by Albert Einstein



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