

“Why there are NO idols in Buddhism and Hinduism.”

A short essay.

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The take home concept is simple: The Vedas, deep philosophical texts that are the base of the culture of India and the Far East, are exceedingly difficult for the average person to understand. They became more difficult to understand, historically, with the advancement of Kaliyuga, the our era at this time.

Due to the difficulty of the general understanding the Veda, a series of texts were composed known as The Upanishads, which were written to explain the Veda, in a manner of speaking. Along with the structured texts, they in their writings, mentioned MOORTI or MURTI as the visual art imagery to carry the concepts of the Veda. Basically, for accessibility. Subsequently, the Puranas were written for further depth.

This is the important thing to remember: The visual art imagery carries the concepts of the Veda for accessibility.

Keeping In mind that abstract thinking is not a skill available to all, that the average intellect is incapable of abstract thinking, visual art imagery is not only plainly important, it is a vital component for the communication of deep concepts.

Murti means ‘the form of’ or containing an essence of meaning. In this case it is the concepts being expressed in the Murti.

Murti is a mass-produced molded form. Sometimes it is sculpture, and exquisite sculpture. However, neither the sculpture nor the molded form has any value spiritually without it being activated.

It is Mantra that activates the Murti. Without the Mantra the Murti is nothing but a decorative item.

The Buddhist Dharma has a slight variation to the Sanatani Dharma method. The Buddhist write Mantra on a small paper, roll up the paper and fill the inside of the Murti with the Mantra. The Murti is then sealed at its base. When offerings of food, incense, Turmeric or, in some Buddhist traditions are offered, it is to the Mantra. Without the Mantra the Murti is nothing but a decorative item. The Sanatani Dharma will activate the Murti with Mantra. For those who are unfamiliar with the word Sanatan, it is the original concepts from the Veda that existed before the coinage of the word Hindu, which was coined during invasion by the Muslims. Since this essay is about the coinage of words this author prefers to use the original and correct term for what is now called “Hindu”

The word ‘idol’ was coined somewhere in the mid 13thC and gathered momentum as the spread of Christianity grew, later with the spread of Islam. Both are Abrahamic religions and reject the Aditya or non-duality of the Brahminic beliefs.

Words are important. The term Idol worship and Murti puja have entirely different meanings.

The basic premise of idol worship, as defined by the Abrahamic religions, is an implication that an empty meaningless doll-like statue is being worshipped. Of course, it is a derogatory statement and, in my view, designed to be so, as an attempt of imperialism, since the concepts mentioned in the Veda are openly stated and openly discussed so all worshipers, aspirants, students, seekers are fully aware of the Vedic concepts which are the quintessence of all Eastern belief.

I will give you a few examples.

Ganesha is Swastika. Swastika is the visual OM. Swastika is the doorway through which the Devotee enters the world of the Divine and the Divine enters the world of the Devotee. Ganesha is the removal of all obstacles or the creator of obstacles where the Devotee is being guided to stay away from paths they should not go. He has a vehicle of a mouse who is in full and complete control. The mouse is the symbol of a human mind.

Saraswati is Wisdom, the Arts and Learning. She is seated on a white swan. The swan has the capacity to drink the milk but reject the water. This is known as the Phenomenon of Milk and Water, Ksheer, Neer Nayam. This gives the Devotee the message of the importance of separating useless information from Wisdom. Without the swan Saraswati cannot give her Wisdom.

Hanuman is the human mind. Once you control the human mind you can win the world.

The rest of the repertoire of Vedic concepts are too detailed for this short essay.

This short essay is merely to highlight the erroneous narrative in wide circulation in the 'western world,' for want of a better term; and, additionally, to whet the readers appetite for more accurate information. Of course, in the 21stC inaccurate narrative, erroneous information is a personal choice. You want to believe the inaccurate narrative? That is either cognitive dissonance or sheer laziness.

Below, is an internet copy of the Abrahamic invention of the word 'Idol'

idol (n.)

mid-13c., "image of a deity as an object of (pagan) worship," from Old French *idole* "idol, graven image, pagan god" (11c.), from Latin *idolum* "image (mental or physical), form," especially "apparition, ghost," but used in Church Latin for "false god, image of a pagan deity as an object of worship." This is from Greek *eidolon* "mental image, apparition, phantom," also "material image, statue," in Ecclesiastical Greek, "a pagan idol," from *eidos* "form, shape; likeness, resemblance" (see [-oid](#)).

A Greek word for "image," used in Jewish and early Christian writers for "image of a false god," hence also "false god." The Germanic languages tended to form a word for it from the reverse direction, from "god" to "false god," hence "image of a false god" (compare Old English *afgod*, Danish *afgud*, Swedish *avgud*, Old High German *abgot*, compounds with *af-/ab-* "away, away from" (source of [off](#)) + *god*).

The older Greek senses sometimes have been used in English. Figurative sense of "something idolized" is first recorded 1560s (in Middle English the figurative sense was "someone who is false or untrustworthy"). Meaning "a person so adored, human object of adoring devotion" is from 1590s.
