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childrenwithinhinduism.wordpress.com

Contents

1	2016	5
1.1	February	5
	Blog post title (2016-02-28 22:49)	5
	Blog post title (2016-02-28 22:49)	5
	Blog post title (2016-02-28 22:49)	5
	Blog post title (2016-02-28 22:49)	6
	About (2016-02-28 22:50)	6
	Contact (2016-02-28 22:50)	6
	First blog post (2016-02-28 22:50)	6
1.2	March	7
	Hinduism: A Parental View of Children (2016-03-01 03:21)	7
	Hinduism: Religious and Cultural Education of Children (2016-03-03 04:11)	8
	Hinduism: Hindu Children in the U.S. (2016-03-19 00:29)	10

1. 2016

1.1 February

Blog post title (2016-02-28 22:49)

This is an additional placeholder post. Click the Edit link to modify or delete it, or [1]start a new post. If you like, use this post to tell readers why you started this blog and what you plan to do with it.

1. <https://wordpress.com/post>

This is the excerpt for your very first post.

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About (2016-02-28 22:50)

My name is Robert Kleinman and I decided to blog about children growing up in the Hinduism religion. I am a senior at Florida State University and am an out-of-state student from North Carolina. I hope you enjoy!

This is just a short excerpt for the about page.

Contact (2016-02-28 22:50)

This is a contact page with some basic contact information and a contact form. [contact-form][contact-field label="Name" type="name" required="1"/][contact-field label="Email" type="email" required="1"/][contact-field label="Website" type="url"/][contact-field label="Comment" type="textarea" required="1"/][contact-form]

This is just a short excerpt for the contact page.

First blog post (2016-02-28 22:50)

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better with longer posts, so we'll fill this one out with some filler text.

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1. <https://wordpress.com/post>

This is the excerpt for your very first post.

1.2 March

Hinduism: A Parental View of Children (2016-03-01 03:21)

Parents that identify themselves as Hindus almost always raise their kids as Hindus as well. Children are considered gifts from God and are interconnected with their parents for their entire lives. Although the love for their children is strong, the love for a male child is much stronger. Female children are often times not treated the same. Female children are thought to be financial burdens because of the marriage ceremony that the parents would have to pay for. Add more than one female child to the mix and the burden can be extreme. Parents are even thought to go to a place called the Hell of Punnama if they cannot bear a son for whatever reason. It often causes marriage problems and anxiety amongst parents in this predicament. These parents often feel alone and helpless because female children cannot participate in funeral ceremonies and cannot visit cremation grounds. As female children are considered a financial burden, male children are considered a financial asset. Males have many more opportunities to achieve monetary success based on available jobs and not going through pregnancy. A male is also the holder of family continuity. Hindus believe in a form of reincarnation or "rebirth" as they call it. The religion teaches

that relatives were also relatives in past lives and that man recreates himself through his own children. It is a cosmic cycle of family connectivity throughout life sequences. Another reason why male children are sought after is because they are given special qualities to head the family through a ceremony called a transmission ceremony before a father dies. During this ceremony, a father's qualities are thought to spiritually transfer to his eldest son. These qualities are to help the son become the "man of the family". Despite overpopulation in areas where Hinduism is prominent including India, deciding not to have kids is extremely frowned upon.

Robert Kleinman

Source:

J., V. (n.d.). Children in Hinduism. Retrieved February 29, 2016, from http://hinduwebsite.com/hinduism/h_children.asp

Hinduism: Religious and Cultural Education of Children (2016-03-03 04:11)

Children born to Hindu parents are educated on the basis of 4 main goals:

1. Dharma (Virtue)
2. Artha (Wealth)
3. Kama (Pleasure)
4. Moksha (Liberation)

These 4 main goals help guide a child throughout his or her life in a positive pro-Hindu manner. An illiterate person is described as no better than an animal. An uneducated person cannot control emotions of anger, jealousy, and fear because they have not learned self-control. In Hinduism, a child initiated into education is twice born; first physically and second spiritually. Knowledge is a double-sided sword broken down into two categories: higher and lower. The higher side liberates people from the cycle of births and deaths. The second is equated with avidya or ignorance. The lower knowledge is also said to be acquired through senses and goals. In areas around the world where Hinduism is prominent along with areas where

it is slight, parents carry the majority of the responsibility of teaching Hinduism in a positive manner. If not taught in a positive manner, the child may not follow or practice their faith moving forward in his or her life. This could potentially break the coveted family chain of Hinduism beliefs. In areas where a Hindu temple is non-existent, parents are said to dedicate one room within their home to worship and meditate with their children. The household shrine should be used each morning before breakfast. This practice is a similar concept to the Christian saying "a family that prays together stays together." Parents are supposed to teach their children about life's purpose, which is spiritual advancement. While Hindus believe in reincarnation, they believe that through each life cycle, spiritual consciousness is gained. Today, many other practices are taught to Hindu children. Children are encouraged to eat a vegetarian diet, gain tolerance toward others through kindness and appreciation, engage in yoga and meditation, and protect the environment.

The caste system in areas where Hinduism is prominent, especially India, is another interesting tradition that children learn. The caste system brings about both pros and cons. There are four principal castes that make up Hindu society: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (rulers, warriors), Vaishyas (merchants), and Shudras (servants). Although these are the four main classes, there are many subclasses that exist in each. Children are born into a certain caste depending on their mother and father's class. It is important in the Hindu culture to marry within one's own caste. If that is not the case, the other acceptable form would be for the man's caste to be of a higher rank than the woman's. If that is also not the case and the husband and wife decide to have a child, the child would be of a lower caste than both of his or her parents. This form of caste system, as stated above, brings about many pros and cons. Some of the pros include a life that is planned out. The worry of uncertainty is non-existent, as each person knows his or her place in society. This can also be a con as it takes away the excitement of the unknown. Life in a caste system is a straightforward road with no twists and turns. Although the caste system seems to be a very tight, non-lenient method, many parts of India today rely less on the caste system. It is not as extreme as it was many years ago and people have a bit more control of their lives.

Sources:

"Hinduism and Education." *Hinduism and Education*. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.

[1]http://www.hinduismtoday.com/pdf_downloads/what_is_hinduism/Sec5/WIH_Sec5_Chapter37.pdf

Oxtoby, W. G., Amore, R. C., Hussain, A., & Segal, A. F. (Eds.). (2015). *A Concise Introduction to World Religions* (3rd ed.). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

1. http://www.hinduismtoday.com/pdf_downloads/what_is_hinduism/Sec5/WIH_Sec5_Chapter37.pdf

Hinduism: Hindu Children in the U.S. (2016-03-19 00:29)

Assimilation into the United States can be very difficult for parents and children coming from different parts of the world. Many Hindu parents are immigrants from India, which is an extremely different country from the U.S. Like discussed in earlier blogs, it can be very difficult for parents to raise children in Hinduism the way they were raised in areas where Hinduism is prominent. In the United States, only about .7 percent of the overall population are Hindu's, which is a bit of an improvement from .3 percent in 2007. This is such a small percentage, which means that children will most likely be the only Hindu in their entire class in grade school. Grade school, as we all know, can be vicious based on the fact that children do not understand nor accept people that are different from the majority. Bullying can be detrimental to a child's upbringing, especially children who do not understand why they are bullied. A major teaching to all children growing up in the Hindu culture is to accept all religions; unfortunately young children in the United States do not understand that yet. This can make many young children dislike their Hindu religion.

Raising a Hindu child in America can also bring disputes between parent and child. America is described to be a melting pot of cultures, which means that children will be exposed to all different traditions, cultures, and ways of life. Many Hindu children in the United States are not as devoted to their religion as their parents are. This is because the parents were born in an area where Hinduism was the major religion. It can sometimes be the parent's fault as well. The parents can get caught up in achieving the American dream and not do as well of a job teaching their children Hinduism. This brings about a great deal of religious confusion for these children. The article researched stated that Hindu children living in America must ask themselves "why am I Hindu" which should help them in deciding how much the religion means to them. The good news is that there are after-school programs that teach the Hindu religion and traditions to children. This also gives children to opportunity to make friends with other children who identify as Hindu.

Sources:

Rambachan, Anantanand. "The Future of Hinduism in America's Changing Religious Landscape." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.



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