

DO HINDUS REALY WORSHIP IDOLS? THE FACTS!

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1. Some Hindus deny that they worship idols. They attempt to sanitize and embellish their religion by claiming that they do not really worship idols as Christians think they do. They claim that they use “murtis” instead.

“To begin with, Hindu scriptures do not recommend the worship of an idol as God.... In fact, scriptures very clearly state that an idol is not a substitute for God, but only a means of making the mind think about God.” Ed Viswanathan, Am I a Hindu? The Hindu Primer, pg. 205.

2. However, in the Bible YHWH forbids the worship of idols; no graven images for the sake of worship must be made, not even objects of nature must be worshipped. Deut. 4:15-19.
3. How then is an idol made? Observe it is really worshipped as God because God is invoked in it and it is given the “breath of life”.

“Prior to making the idol, the Silpi [the artisan who makes the idol] undergoes ritualistic purification and prays to the gods for help. It is said that he meditates and mentally visualizes the idol prior to starting the work. After the idol is made, it is purified by water, darbha grass, honey and ghee (liquefied butter). Then by a special Nyasa ritual (touching ceremony) the deity is invoked in the idol. Finally, by a special Mantra, Prana or “breath of life” is infused into the idol. Now the idol-making is complete.” Ibid, pg. 222.

4. Again, we see in the Bible, the second clause of the Ten Commandments forbids the making of graven images (idols) for the sake of worshipping them. Ex. 20:4,5.
5. Observe the dictionary meaning of idol and idolatry is exactly what Hindus do to their murti.

“Idol... an image of a god; an object of worship...” The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary, pg. 477.

“... idolatry the worship of an image held to be the abode of a superhuman personality...” Ibid, pg. 477.

6. Another dictionary’s description of idols confirms that the Hindu murti is in fact an idol, and they do have and worship idols.

“idol... An image, representation, or symbol of a deity made or consecrated as an object of worship, esp. among pagans; a false or pagan god...” The Lexicon Webster Dictionary Vol. 1, pg. 476.

7. Observe again the twisted reasoning of this late author, which nevertheless reveal that Hindus

do indeed worship idols.

“The truth, in other words, is that God is not worshipped as the idol, but, the idol rather, is worshipped as God because God is in everything. There is nothing wherein He is not.” D. N. Vidyarthi, What Every Hindu Must Know, Pg. 27.

8. Again, the true God YHWH describes the folly of a man making an idol and worshipping it. Isa. 44:9-20.

9. In a special book about idol worship and its philosophy, we are given insights into why Hindus do worship idols, and also the fact that they do worship idols. We are told that an image or a Murti represents the particular form of God who is worshipped in it.

“An image, a Sila or a Vighraha or Murti represents the form of the particular Lord who is invoked in it.” Swami Sivananda, The Philosophy and Significance of Idol Worship, pg. 8.

10. We are told that idols that are worshipped grant boons or blessings. Certainly this is idol worship.

“The image of Vishnu and of his Avatars, and the images of Sakti and Siva are the popular idols that are worshipped both in temples and in houses. The idols in the temples of Tirupati, Pandharpur, Palani, Kathirgama, etc., are powerful Deities. They are pratyaksha Devatas. They grant boons to the devotees, cure their ailments and give Darshan.” Ibid, pg. 9.

11. These idols are even presented as meritorious or granting merits, this is sin in God’s eyes.

“The idol of Pattavardhana Rama is highly meritorious and blissful... The gift of the idol is highly meritorious and pleasing to Srinivasa... If the idol carries nine to twenty wheels it is called Ananta. It confers endless fruits to the worshipper.” The Garuda-Purana, pt. 111, pg. 1106.

12. However, the Bible tells us that these idols are just stone, wood, gold, silver etc., they cannot see, hear or give any benefit to their worshippers. Dan. 5:23.

13. Hindus do worship idols because they claim that the Lord in the form is worshipped.

“You may worship Lord Siva or Lord Hari, Lord Ganesha or Lord Subramanya or Lord Dattatreya, or any one of the Avatars, Lord Rama or Lord Krishna, Sarasvati or Lakshmi, Gayatri or Kali, Durga or Chandi. All are aspects of one Isvara or Lord. Under whatever name or form, it is Isvara who is adored. Worship goes to the Indweller, the Lord in the form.” Swami Sivananda, The Philosophy and Significance of Idol Worship, pg. 9.

14. We are further told that idols are a support or prop for spiritual childhood to worship.

“Idol is a support for the neophyte. It is a prop of his childhood. A form or image is necessary for worship in the beginning.” Ibid, pg. 10.

15. We are even told that idol worship is the easiest form of worship for today's man.

“Idol worship is the easiest form of worship for the modern man.” Ibid, pg. 10.

16. We are told that when the image is worshipped, the worshipper feels the presence of God in the idol, and that makes him move devoted to the idol. Surely this is idol worship.

“Though the image is worshipped, the devotee feels the presence of the Lord in it and pours out his devotion unto it.” Ibid, pg. 11.

17. Because of pantheism, the teaching that God pervades everything, Hindus teach that God is in the idol.

“... It is possible to commune with the all-pervading Lord through the medium of an idol. The divinity of the all-pervading God is vibrant in every atom of creation. There is not a speck of space where He is not. Why do you then say that He is not in the idols?” Ibid, pg. 12.

“... the idol rather, is worshipped as God because God is in everything. There is nothing wherein He is not.” D. N. Vidyarthi, What Every Hindu Must Know, Pg. 27.

18. Seventh-day Adventists believe that pantheism is the devil's teaching, and that since it is the very essence of idol worship, then idol worship is of the devil.

“Pantheistic ideas regarding God in nature are framed by Lucifer, the fallen angel. The strange part of the matter is that these ideas have been accepted by so many as beautiful truth. But that which they think is light will lead them into dense darkness.” Ellen G. White, The Upward Look, pg. 336.

19. Thus Mrs. White tells us that idolatry is demon worship.

“Ancient idolatry, which, as we have seen, comprises both worship of the dead and pretended communion with them, is declared by the Bible to have been demon worship.” Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 685.

20. The pantheism which is at the root of idolatry in fact separates man from God rather than bring him close to God as Hinduism teaches.

“If God is an essence pervading all nature, then He dwells in all men; and in order to attain holiness, man has only to develop the **that that** is within him. These theories, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They do away with the necessity for the atonement, and make man his own saviour. These theories regarding God make His Word of no effect, and those who accept them are in danger of being led finally to look upon the whole Bible as a fiction. They may regard virtue as better than vice; but God being removed from His position of sovereignty, they place their dependence upon human power, which, without God, is worthless. The unaided human will have no real power to

resist and overcome evil.” Ellen G. White, Evangelism, pg. 601-602.

21. Thus Mrs. White tells Adventism that God hates idolatry.

“In His dealing with Pharaoh, the Lord manifested His hatred of idolatry...” Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 268.

“Idolatry and all the sins that followed in its train were abhorrent to God...” Ibid, pg. 369.

22. This is why the warning comes to Adventists to desist from alliances with idolaters.

“Idolatry and all the sins that followed in its train were abhorrent to God, and he commanded His people not to mingle with other nations to “do after their works,” and forget God.” Ibid, pg. 369.

23. And they are also told, as Christians, about alliances with influences opposed to God, YHWH, (as idol-worshipping religions), and which leads astray from the one true God.

“Multitudes have a wrong conception of God and His attributes, and are as truly serving a false god as were the worshippers of Baal. Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are **unattainably** opposed to God and His truth. Thus they are led to turn away from the divine and to exalt the human.” Ellen G. White, The Story of Prophets and Kings, pg. 177-178.

24. The Bible thus counsels us to separate from idolaters and their religions if God is to receive us. 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

25. Hinduism tells us that the image generates divine thoughts in the worshipper.

“The Lord is superimposed on the image and the image generates divine thoughts in the worshipper.” Swami Sivananda, The Philosophy and Significance of Idol Worship, pg. 13.

26. We are told that one realize God through the worship of an idol or murti.

“From the above facts, we can clearly infer that one can realize God through worship of Murti or idol.” Ibid, pg. 19.

27. We can see from the perversion of the perception of the difference of good bad or right and wrong, how idolatry damages the morality and thus can only lead to evil in society. Mr. Sivananda tells Us.

“The aspirant who worships the idol in the beginning beholds the Lord everywhere and develops Para Bhakti. From Vaidhi Bhakti, he passes on to Ragatmika Bhakti or Prema Bhakti. He beholds the whole world as the Lord. The ideas of good and bad, fight and wrong, rogue, etc., vanish. He sees the Lord in a rogue, dacoit, cobra, scorpion, ant, dog, tree, log of wood, block of stone, sun, moon, stars, fire, water earth, etc. His vision or

experience baffles description.” Ibid, pg. 21.

28. But Mrs. White tells Adventism just how idol worshipping debases humanity.

“It is a law of the human mind that by beholding we become changed. Man will rise no higher than his conceptions of truth, purity, and holiness. If the mind is never exalted above the level of humanity, if it is not uplifted by faith to contemplate infinite wisdom and love, the man will be constantly sinking lower and lower. The worshippers of false gods clothed their deities with human attributes and passions, and thus their standard of character was degraded to the likeness of sinful humanity. They were defiled in consequence.” Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 91.

29. Thus the Bible tells us that those who worship the idols are like them. That is, they are like the humanity that is corrupt that they clothe their idols with, hence the horrible corruptions and immoralities of the Greek, Roman and Hindu gods as exposed in tracts in the past by Thusia (S.D.A.). Ps. 135:15-18.

30. Hindus actually teach that an idol is part of God body, and He is pleased when you worship it.

“Even so, the Lord is highly pleased when a small portion of His Virat (cosmic) body is worshipped. An idol is a part of the body of the lord. The whole world is His Body.” Swami Sivananda, The Philosophy and Significance of Idol Worship, pg. 14-15.

31. We are again told that God is in everything, thus all things could be worshipped.

“To the worshipper who believes the symbol, any kind of image is the body of the Lord under the form of stone, clay, brass, picture, saligram, etc. Such worship can never be idolatry. All matter is a manifestation of God. God is present in everything which exists. Everything is an object of worship, for all is a manifestation of God who is therein worshipped.” Ibid, pg. 15.

32. However, again, even though pantheism is used as a justification for idolatry, the Bible tells us we are not to be idol worshippers because God is not manifested in idols or nature. Deut. 4:15-19.

33. We are told that divinity in the idol speaks and solves man’s problems.

“Regular worship, Puja and other modes of demonstrating our inner feeling of recognition of Divinity in the idol unveils the Divinity latent in it. This is truly a wonder and a miracle. The picture comes to life. The idol speaks. It will answer your questions and solve your problems.” Ibid, pg. 16.

34. We are told that God is enshrined in the idol, so the idol will perform miracles.

“God is enshrined in the idol. From here, He will protect you in a special manner. The idol will perform miracles.” Ibid, pg. 16.

35. Again we are told that the idols cannot move to help anyone. Ps. 135:15-18; Isa. 42:8.

36. We are told that the Murti is the same as God, thus we see that Hindus do worship idols.

“The Murti is the same as the Lord...” Ibid, pg. 18.

37. So much is the idol God Himself, that the idol moves to prove this.

“The devotee beholds actually the Lord in the idol. Narsi Mehta was put to the test by a Raja. The Raja said: “O Narsi, if you are a sincere devotee of Lord Krishna, if as you say the idol is Lord Krishna Himself, let this idol move.” According to the prayer of Narsi Mehta, the idol moved.” Ibid, pg. 17.

38. The idol has the living presence of the Lord, so it must be treated according to Hinduism.

“The Lord answered, “My child, there is no mystery to be explained; how could I reveal Myself when you treated Me as a mere image, as a mere piece of metal worshipped or thrown away according to your whim? Today you treated my image as a living presence when you wanted to plug the nostrils with cotton wool; thus you revealed that you recognized My living presence in the idol and I could no longer withhold Myself from you”.” Ibid, pg. 37.

39. Thus we see that the Hindus do worship idols because their scriptures prescribe idol worship.

“Idolatry is only the beginning of religion. Certainly it is not the end. The same Hindu scriptures... prescribe idol-worship...” Ibid, pg. 23.

40. But as always we shall be judged by the Law of God which explicitly forbids the Hindu concept of idol worship. (Jam. 2:8-12; Ex. 20:4,5).