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PYTHAGORAS: AN AMBASSADOR OF HINDUISM TO THE WEST

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History of knowledge in Europe starts with Pythagoras. Pythagoras, in the 6th century BC was the first European(Greek) who brought Indian knowledge and mathematics to Greece in an organised way.

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Pythagoras was born around 560 BC, on Samos an island not far from the coast of the Asia Minor . His life history was recorded from oral traditions a couple of centuries after his death, and even that information has survived only in fragments.

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After studying the very best available in his country (music and gymnastics) he set out for more. He went to Egypt which had already received Indian Geometry through its contact .

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With Indians as well as with Indo-Iranians and had then scholars teaching geometry and a bit of astrology. During his stay in Egypt, Egypt was invaded by Iran and he was brought to Iran as a captive , where he stayed at Babylon and other cities.

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Babylon was no more a Semitic city by that time, and it had been thoroughly Indo-Iranized in language, religion and knowledge at least a century earlier, when the Medes and the Persians thoroughly overran the country of Babylon, and it was now a part of Persian Empire

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and culturally a part of Indo-Iran. Probably, Pythagoras went to the Punjab and thence to the Himalayas as well. It thoroughly changed his life style and thinking. He permanently rejected the long Greek robes, and adopted trousers turning away from Ionian culture.

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And identifying himself strongly with the East. Before Pythagoras, trousers were not known to Europe. Woollen trousers were worn by Indians living at high altitudes in the Himalayas, like people of Nepal, Laddakh, Tibet, Kashmir etc.

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The statue of Indian king Kanishka, found in Afghanistan, is wearing a long double-breasted coat and trousers. Variants of trousers like pyjamas and shalwar were worn in the northern plains of Indo-Iran [@BharadwajSpeaks](#)

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The costume which Pythagoras introduced into the Europe was going to become the ethnic costume of the West!!

Having lived twenty years in the east, he returned to Europe and settled in Croton, a Greek speaking town of South Italy.

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He formed an order of ascetics devoted to develop a sense of community with the help of religious injunctions and instructions. He preached that the world, like human society, was held together by the orderly arrangement of its parts.

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Pythagorians believed in transmigration of life through different life forms. His contemporary poet Xenophanes writes: "Pythagoras was once passing by when a man was beating a dog.

He took pity on the animal and said, Stop it; Indeed it is the soul of a friend of mine;

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I recognised it when I heard its voice. Pythagoras was even able to recall the details of his own previous incarnations. Pythagoras preached the essential unity and kinship of all forms of life which is the fundamental principle of Hinduism

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He preached non-violence and banned killing and eating animals in his order of ascetics. He was a firm believer in Karmic law and preached immortality of existence. The human body is temporary ,therefore one must purify the soul by abstaining from bodily pleasure.

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By these means soul would ultimately win release from the wheel of becoming and realise its true divine status. Pythagoreans believed that anyone who downgraded his life by immoral and impure acts will be born as animal in his next life.

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In his brotherhood, members were of two kinds. Acousmatics would visit him and seek guidance on how to lead a simple ,non-violent and virtuous way of life. Others called Mathematikoi lived inside the math (monastery) and studied the nature of reality more deeply.

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From mathematik is derived the word mathematics. Pythagorians studied and further developed the science of mathematics and philosophy which was brought to them from India by their great Guru.

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SOURCE- HOW BRITISH RUINED INDIA by Dr. V.V. Bedekar, V.Y.Sardesai