

Twitter Thread by Tanvangi



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In his letters describing the India Mission, Carey has given us an insight into how the society functioned then, of how the minds of the people worked and what methods the missionaries used to approach and brainwash the common people.

William Carey landed on the Indian soil in the year 1793. He spent the remaining years of his life in India. He was a British missionary, a translator and a social reformer who is best known for having the practice of Sati abolished in India. <https://t.co/kRiPwgjwcP> pic.twitter.com/JqO3A7cCsX

— Tanvangi (@Tanvangi17) December 18, 2020

It is entirely possible that, Carey in his arrogance of being the white man and hence more civilized, his inability to understand the Hindu scriptures and his natural disdain for the learned community coupled with his inherent hatred for the idolaters may have exaggerated the incidents.

In fact, considering the venom with which he has spoken about Hinduism and its practices, it's likely that he has exaggerated these incidents. But it cannot be denied that these incidents did happen even if they may not have been on scale at which Carey has described.

One of his journal entries mentions a debate which happened in a temple in front of around 200 people. Carey describes having debated with two learned men and goes on to say when both learned men failed to answer his questions, he went on to preach the gospel to the assembled crowd.

This day kept Sabbath at Chandareea - had a pleasant Day - in the Morning and Afternoon addressed my family - and in the Evening began my Work of publishing the Word of God to the Heathen, tho imperfect in the knowledge of the Language yet with the help of Munshi I conversed with two **Brahmans** in the presence of about 200 People about the things of God. I had been to see a Temple in which were the Images of Dukkinroy, the God of the Woods riding on a Tyger, Sheetulla goddess of the Smallpox without an Head, riding on a horse without a Head, Punchanon with large Ears, and Colloray riding on a Horse, in another apartment was Seeb which was only a smooth Post of Wood with two or three Mouldings in it like the Base of a Tuscan Pillar - I therefore discoursed with them upon the Vanity of Idols - the folly and wickedness of Idolatry, and the Nature & Attributes of God, and the Way of Salvation by Christ -

One Brahman was quite confounded, and a number of People were all at once crying out to him, Why do you not Answer him? Why do *(end of page 54)* you not Answer him? He replied I have no Words; Just at this time a very learned Brahman came up who was desired to talk with me - which he did, and so acceded to what I said that he at last said Images had been used of late years but not from the beginning - I enquired what I must do to be saved? He said I must repeat the Name of God a great many times; I replied Would you if your Son had offended you, be so pleased with him, as to forgive him, if he was to repeat the word Father a thousand times? This might please Children or Fools - but God is Wise. He told me that I must get faith. I asked what Faith was - to which he gave me no intelligible reply - but said I must Obey God - I answered what are his Commands - What is his Will - They said, God was a great light - and as no one could see him, he became incarnate, under the three fold Character of Birmmha {*Brahma?*}, Beeshno {*Vishnu?*}, & Seeb {*Shiva?*} and that either of them must be worshipped in order to Life - I told them of the sure Word of the Gospel - and the Way of Life by Christ, and Night coming on, left them. I cannot tell what effect it may have as I may never see them again. *(end of page 55)*

In a letter dated 30th June, 1795 he goes on to gleefully narrate how Hindus were unaware of their own scriptures and how an supposed expert named a grammar book when he was questioned as which scripture said that the Murti is God.

the Country".

This may serve to show you how difficult it is to convince them of Sin for tho their Shastras abound in expressions of the evil of the Heart, and the necessity of an entire Change. Yet not one in a Thousand has ever seen or heard even them. Nay, I have found many **Brahmans** so Ignorant that they have never seen their own Shastras; and many who are esteemed Learned don't know the difference between the Sanskrit Grammar, and a Religious Book. [An instance of this occurred] Thurs Last Lord's Day. I had occasion to go and preach to a Company of people who were worshipping Saroseade [*Sarasvati*], the Patroness of Literature. [The Brahman who attended the ceremonies told me plainly that the Image was God.] [tho] The general opinion of the most learned is, that the Idols are only images, having no power in them, but that it is well pleasing to God to worship them, in honour of persons they represent, who they say were eminent for Virtue or Good to Man: [he said] The Brahman, however, who attended this ceremony told me plainly that the Image was God. When I asked him by what authority [command] he did this he answered that the Shashtra commanded it. I enquired what Shashtra. He said, the *Bee Accoran*, which I knew to be only a Grammar. I was much drawn out in Love to their Souls, and was enabled to discourse with them, and warn them against the devices of their teachers for a considerable time, and felt [a very considerable] more than usual Liberty in speaking, and but little Want of Words.

An example of how they dismissed "idolatry" as a mistaken path to reach God/attain salvation and how "worshipping the Murtis" disgusted God.

. . . In the Morning Bro. Ward, myself, and my eldest son went out to a place where two roads cross each other, where I had frequently preached before, when we got there I saw three Men sitting, and asked one of them, What News? And what they were talking about? He said they were talking about their Work: I asked what was their work: they answered they were thatchers. I told him that they laboured very hard for a scanty meal, but that I was come to tell them of the Bread of Life, which they might get for nothing: that their labour was in vain, for they would hunger again & again, and labour again & again. That they were in a wretched state, but God did not delight in their Misery, but invited them to lay hold of happiness. One Man (for a good number soon collected) observed that we must serve God. I said true, but how will you serve him without knowing his will. He said, we might worship the Debtahs. I answered, suppose I have a boat to go to Calcutta, and order the man to take me there. If instead of going to Calcutta he went to Nuddea [*Nadia?*], it is plain that he would labour as hard or harder than if he had gone to Calcutta. Yet he would not serve me, but do just the contrary to my Will. So you may labour to worship idols, and labour harder than many do to worship God, yet all would be disgusting to him and contrary to his will.

An example of how the brainwashing and propoganda that the Brahmins are an evil creation probably began and how our scriptures were used to vilify us. And here I quote Carey himself.

"Our friend Bharat asked several questions about several parts of the Mahabharata.

I told him that though I often used it as a weapon to fight against the Hindus, yet I only did it to reason with them on their own principles, but that I did not believe a word of it to be true.

He inquired where I thought Brahmins came from (this was the second time the question had been put to me this morning) I answered that God had created men - but when Man sinned the devil became the Lord of this World, and he made Brahmins: +

... and then Brahmins made Shastras for their own Emolument which I proved by several passages from the Mahabharata."

Such were the methods that were employed by the missionaries to brainwash the common people of this land. This are some of the examples that have been highlighted. There may have been many such examples which have not been highlighted.