



JAN-MAR 2019

Dialog with Imam Tawhidi



Imam Tawhidi, is recognized worldwide as the liberal face of Islam, and is therefore much disliked by Islam's orthodoxy. Rajiv Malhotra was on a panel with him in Zee TV's Delhi lit-fest where they discussed a number of serious issues.

They discussed whether Islam can reciprocate the principle called Mutual Respect which is offered naturally by Hindus. They discussed other serious issues like the beef controversy in India, women in Islam and reformation of Islam. Imam Tawhidi gave a strong rejoinder to Pakistan's version of Islam, calling it self-serving for some of their leaders.

Imam Tawhidi expressed the desire that he and Rajiv Malhotra must collaborate on ideas for the future of Hindu-Muslim relations.

Video: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

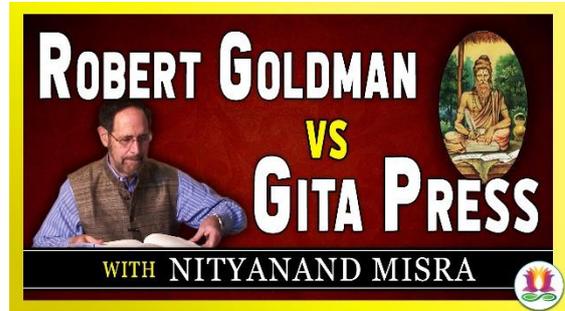
Discussion with Nityanand Misra

Robert Goldman is considered the most prestigious Sanskrit scholar of the past 50 years in the Western academy. In a path-breaking 3-part series, Nityanand Misra dissects Goldman's translations of Ramayana.

Goldman's Ramayana translations are used worldwide as the standard interpretation by

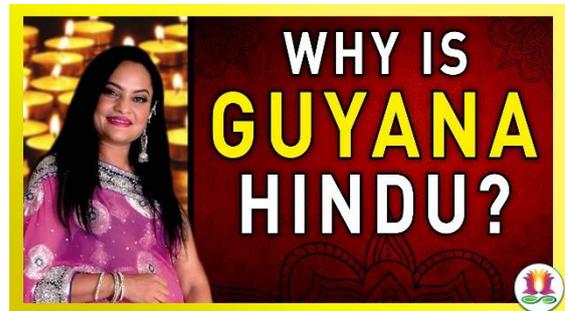
English speaking academics. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (part of Ministry of External Affairs) gave Goldman the highest Sanskrit award in 2017.

Nityanand Misra gives detailed evidence that Robert Goldman mistranslated Sanskrit to allege prostitution in the Ramayana. Audrey Truschke uses this false translation to make her Hinduphobic case before her students and on social media.



Nityanand Misra demonstrates that these are not innocent errors but manipulations to distort the basic foundations of the tradition. He shows that Gita Press' translation is far superior. Episodes: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Discussion with Vindhya Persaud, MP, Republic of Guyana



In this discussion, Vindhya Persaud explains how Hinduism, especially Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita, helped the Indian indentured



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laborers survive in Guyana for 175 years of extreme hardship. This illustrates the positive role of collective identity in securing a community's self-esteem and survival.

Good leaders stuck their necks out over many generations and resisted pressures and inducements to sell out. This courageous leadership helped the Hindu community's preservation of rituals/festivals as a method of collective survival and engagement with the mainstream. [Video](#).

Conversations with Madhu Pandit Dasa



In this important series of conversations with Madhu Pandit Dasa, President of ISKCON-Bengaluru and Chairman of Akshay Patra Foundation, Rajiv Malhotra discusses a wide range of issues like the nature of Ultimate Reality, significance of Hare Krishna mantra and analysis of the Sabarimala controversy from a Vaishnava perspective. After this, they had private discussions on important collaborations which are now under way. Videos: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Other Episodes

[Sabarimala: Faith under Attack](#)

[Subhash Kak on AI and Consciousness](#)

[Dr Subramanian Swamy's Election Strategy for 2019](#)

[Globalizing the RSS/Mohan Bhagwat](#)

[Hindus without Defense/Mohan Bhagwat](#)

[Open Challenge to Devdutt Pattanaik](#)

[From Naxalite to Dharma / Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog](#)

Current Projects

Multiple projects are happening on the regional language front. In this quarter we have provided Indian language subtitles for 22 videos in Hindi and English, 3 in Telugu, 2 in Tamil, 1 in Kannada and 1 in Bengali.

Full video transcripts in different Indian languages are now available for easy reference. Rajiv Malhotra's academic writings are being translated into various Indian languages. All these are being made available in [Rajivmalhotraregional.com](#) website.

Projects supported by your donations

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Swadeshi Indology Conference - 5

“Karnāṭaka Śāstrīya Saṅgīta: Its Past, Present and Future”



The fifth Swadeshi Indology Conference titled “Karnāṭaka Śāstrīya Saṅgīta: Its Past, Present and Future” was organised by Infinity Foundation India in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts - Regional Centre, Bengaluru. The day-long conference was held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru on Saturday, **30th March 2019**. Its objective was to reaffirm the *Sanātana Dhārmic* roots of the Karnatic music heritage and the centrality of *bhakti* therein, in the wake of the various disruptive narratives afoot aiming to delink its sacred aspect, and projecting it not only as a mere secular art but also delineating its sacredness as the very tool of oppression.

An auspicious beginning to the conference was made by the Nāgasvara recital of **Viduṣī Prabhavati** and **Vidvān Palanivel**. The conference was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Paramapūjya **Śrī Śrī Yadugiri Yatirāja Jīyar Swāmiji**, Padma Bhushan awardee **Dr. R. Nagaswamy**, **Śrī Mohandas Pai** and **Dr. Sumathi Krishnan**. Śrī Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education and a philanthropist, gave a rousing address regarding cultural appropriation and the multiple dimensions of attacks on our civilisation. Dr. Sumathi Krishnan, Secretary of the Madras Music Academy, set the tone of the academic event by giving a very balanced view

on tradition in the context of our music and brought in issues in a subtle manner. Finally, *pūjya* Swāmiji put into perspective the onslaughts that are happening on *Sanātana Dharma* as well as the divine art of Karnatic music, with particular reference to the turn they have taken in the past few decades. His *āśīrvacana* boded well for this undertaking by a few scholars to stand up to the distortions that are happening *in the name of artistic freedom*.



A short but very focussed and hard-hitting **keynote address** was delivered by **Śrī Rajiv Malhotra** via a video recording, where he threw light upon how the Bhakti performing arts of our culture are being systematically desacralized and hijacked by alien-colonial forces and the role of our own scholars/artists in aiding the same. A scholarly plenary session by **Dr. R. Nagaswamy** (renowned historian, archaeologist and epigraphist) traced the origins of Karnāṭaka Saṅgīta.

The academic sessions had a total of **8 paper presentations** which covered the various aspects of the classical musical form. The first session saw three papers being presented under the expert chairing of **Dr. T S Sathyavathi**, the reputed musician and musicologist. The first paper by senior scholar **Dr. Korada Subrahmanyam** on the philosophy underlying Śrī Tyāgarāja's *kṛti*-s brought out



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the aspects of *bhakti* and deep spirituality therein, while also offering rebuttals to the allegations of casteism and oppression made regarding the celebrated *vāggeyakāra*. The paper by Viduṣī **Gayathri Girish** focussed on the essential philosophy in Muttusvāmi Dīkṣita's *kṛti*-s, presenting their inherent *sanātana dhārmic* character and also elucidated the divine personality of the composer. The final paper presentation of the session by Viduṣī **Vrinda Acharya** was effective in conveying the non-translatable nature of several key concepts related to our music. She compared them with the popular equivalents used and showed their inadequacy, making a strong case for retaining the original terms. The session concluded with a summing up by the chair, Dr. T S Sathyavathi who gave a touching analogy of a body sans life, when our classical music is divested of its *sanātana dhārmic* nature.

Under the able chairing by **Śrī N S Krishnamurthy**, Former Director of AIR and reputed scholar, the second academic session saw **Dr. Radha Bhaskar**, the musician, musicologist and organiser of repute, discussing the topic of how far is too far in experimentation. She methodically dealt with the various levels in experimentation, discussed what constitutes a legitimate experiment that is in tune with the core values of our music, and what would be really crossing the rubicon. The next presentation by **Śrī Aravind Brahmakal**, of Ranjani Fine Arts, provided a patron's point of view, suggesting the various ways in which a Karnatic musician can be encouraged to undertake music as a full-time profession, so as to retain it in its purest form without being allured to distort the same. The session concluded with the **Śrī N S Krishnamurthy's** perceptive remarks on the papers presented.

An interesting but focussed **plenary discussion** took place under the able moderation of Dr.

Radha Bhaskar, with **Dr. T S Sathyavathi, Śrī N S Krishnamurthy, Vidvān Melkāveri Balaji** and **Śrī Lalitharam**. The questions such as the status of Nāgasvara artists, the hard but *dhārmic* decisions to be taken by professional artistes, and the focus of today's music were discussed, which were very well received by the audience.

The **final academic session** took on the momentous question of appropriation of the Karnatic music heritage and the allegations on the heritage done by the musician Vidvān T M Krishna. **Prof. K S Kannan**, the Academic Director of Swadeshi Indology, chaired the session. **Śrī Jataayu**, the famous blogger on Hindu culture and Tamil literature, gave an in-depth view on the Christian attempts of appropriation of Karnāṭaka Saṅgīta, dwelling on the works of Vedanāyagam Śāstriyār and Abraham Paṇḍitar in detail. The second presentation by **Dr. V B Arathi** dealt with a fitting refutation to the allegation of the Karnatic music field being a 'Bastion of Brahminical Patriarchy', which she handled by raising some fundamental questions about the two parts of the topic. The final paper by **Dr. V Ramanathan** of IIT-BHU was a fairly detailed critique of **Śrī T M Krishna's** book '*A Southern Music – The Karnatic Story*', questioning the flawed methodology followed and the drastic conclusions that are drawn. The final session concluded with the Prof. K S Kannan's remarks on the three papers. Audience involvement and participation in the form of Q&A made all sessions lively and interactive.

The **valedictory session** was a brief one, with **Śrī V Nagaraj**, Secretary of the Mythic Society (which is partnering with IFI to bring out the conference proceedings) and **Dr. Deepti Navaratna**, Director of IGCA - Regional Centre, Bengaluru, delivering short addresses summing-up the day's proceedings. This was followed by the Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Kannan, concluding the day's events.



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