

# Dev-Danav Conflict, Ramayan & The Paradigm of Hindu Economics

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**I bow my head  
with full humility  
to the Dev (divinity) in each one of you.**

# Defining Hindu

- *Ha + Indu = Hindu*
- *Ha = Sky; Indu = Moon → Hindu = Moon in the Sky*
- Ocean called *Indujanak* (Father of ocean)
- Hindu believes in complete reality from sky to ocean
- *Bha + Rat = Bharat*
- *Bha = Light; Rat = Full of → Bharat = Full of light*
- *Bharatvarsh = Area where Hindu knowledge rained*

# The Three Fundamental Laws

- **First law** – Universe is ONE and Man is part of the ONE.
- **Second Law** – Law of *Karm* - What you sow is what you reap.
- **Third Law** – The Divine Paradox

# Dev vs. Danav

- *Dev* or *Devta* is someone who gives without any direct expectations in return  
(Examples – Sun, Moon, Trees, Earth, Mother, Father)
- *Danav* – self-centered, tries to maximize grabbing. No pleasure from giving. Pleasure from acquiring or possessing.

# Ram vs. Ravan

- **Ram is always willing to risk all and sacrifice everything.** Ram represents Dev forces.
- **Ravan enjoys grabbing.** Lanka became of gold because resources flowed from everywhere. Ravan was the first imperialist and colonialist.
- **Sita represents all resources.** She was a product of soil. She is a symbol of agricultural produce as well as of all women. Ravan had thousands of wives mostly women abducted during his military campaigns.

# The Divine Paradox

In a war between Dev and Danav

Though apparently Dev might appear to be weaker

The Ultimate Victory

Will always be of Dev only

# Inappropriate reasons for Actions

- Anger (*Krodh*)
- Greed (*Lobh*)
- Delusion (*Moh*)
- Ego (*Ahankar*)
- Revenge
- Jealousy (*Eirshya*)
- Hatred (*Ghrina*)



# Appropriate Reasons

- **Dharm** – Obligations due to relationships
- **Arth** – Resources.
- **Kaam** – Desire

## **Purpose of Hindu Economics / Arth Shastr**

To guide individuals to lead a meaningful satisfying life complete with all types of resources in abundance

as well as

to direct the head of state to take all the right steps which will ensure availability of suitable resources and environment

to help the citizens of the state lead a meaningful and satisfying life.

# TC Economics vs. Hindu Economics

- Descriptive and not Normative
- No official advisory role
- Imitation of physical sciences
- Concerned about not stepping on domain of Church
- Normative
- Focus on advising individuals as well as the state
- No imitation of physical sciences
- There is no Church and no reason to fear a clergy

# TC Economics vs. Hindu Economics

## View about Man & World

- Man is a stand-alone creature who is born free
- Freedom as a fundamental value
- Social Contract Theory
- Human beings cannot and should not be taught
- Spontaneous Social Order
- Universe is ONE and Man is part of the ONE
- Oneness of man & universe is defined by various relationships – some seen and some unseen
- Independence from relationships is neither possible nor desirable
- Teaching and learning is essential in a society
- Social Order is designed, created and maintained

# TC Economics vs. Hindu Economics

## Epistemology

- Observing does not alter the observed
- Parts make up the whole so studying the parts is sufficient to understand the whole
- What cannot be quantified is not worth looking at
- Observation cannot be removed from its purpose since observation changes the observed
- Parts cannot be understood without understanding the whole – Holistic approach
- Focus on qualitative rather than quantitative

# TC Economics vs. Hindu Economics

## Existential Issues

- Denial of all existential problems. Asking “Why be?” is madness in the eyes of TC Economists.
- Maximization of material possessions considered normal & essential behavior.
- Life is meaningless except for money in bank
- What constitutes sufficient and good reason (and also bad reason) for any action by a man is the starting point.
- Resources include not just material, but also human. A child is a resource.
- Objective of H. Economics is to ensure proper acquisition, utilization and maximization of resources for a meaningful and satisfying life for each and every one.

# TC Economics vs. Hindu Economics

## Moral Issues

- Survival of the Fittest. Jump from “IS” to “OUGHT” in Theory of Evolution
- The fact – Species with intra-species cooperation survive better than with rivalry
- Complete Denial of Christian “Love Thy Neighbor”
- Meanness and selfishness are values
- Denial of the “Big eat Small” morality
- Belief in Law of Karma – “What you sow is what you reap”
- Based on Love, Empathy, Compassion and Kindness

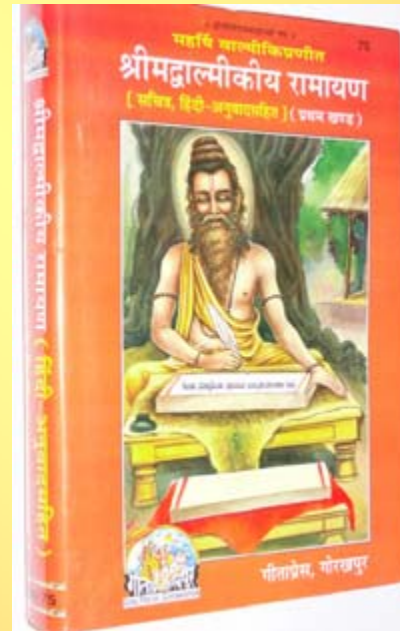
# Key Characteristics of Hindu / Dev Economics

- Society founded on principle of Prosperity for All
- Abundance instead of scarcity
- No exploitation of the weak either by way of bad contracts or by way of high profits or by other charges
- Fair and just in all transactions to be the touchstone – not contracts founded on one fooling the other
- State's right to collect taxes limited
- Food for all
- Free healthcare, education and justice



# Thanks!

For a better understanding of Hindu Economics



Please read **Shrimad Valimikiy Ramayan.**

You may also read my article –  
**Ramayan & Hindu Economics**

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