
To: All Hindu Dharmacharyas

FROM: Ramdas Lamb, Ph.D.
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Sadar pranam evam sastang dandavat,

I am writing this to personally ask for your endorsement and support of Navya Shastra and our goals. As a practicing Hindu of more than 30 years as well as a university professor, I consider Hinduism one of the most important sources and expressions of Divine Truth in our world today. However, the inherent inequality of caste and gender bias has been the largest obstacle for us to being a more pure expression of that Truth. Moreover, caste and gender prejudice have also put our tradition in a highly negative light in the eyes of many in the rest of the world, and these have been used for centuries by missionaries to successfully convert countless of our less fortunate brethren to other religions. I have been working with and studying the Ramnami Samaj, a Harijan religious community in Chhattisgarh, since the mid-1970s. The Ramnamis began in the late 1800s as a vehicle for members of the Harijan community to become involved in Ram bhakti, since many of the high caste in the region sought to prevent them from doing so. I hope you all agree that no Hindu should be prevented from showing and practicing devotion, irrespective of caste or gender. The Ramnamis are all vegetarian and exhibit a very high level of devotion that is both heartwarming and inspiring. Such individuals should be praised and encouraged, rather than oppressed. Navya Shastra is working to open up the Hindu tradition to all such people, for it is in the heart of these very individuals that the soul of our tradition rests.

Thus, the more that we in Navya Shastra can work with saintly guruan like you to root out the elements of prejudice within Hinduism, the better we can help the tradition to be seen by all as a pure expression of Divine wisdom and devotion that we know it to be.