



INFINITY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

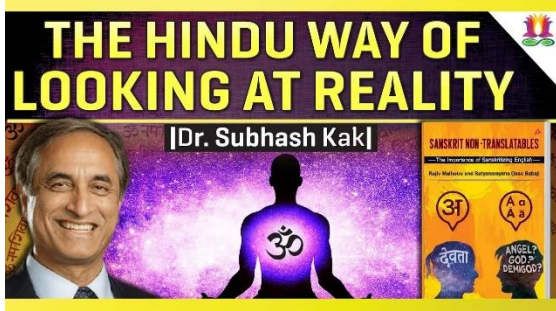
MAY 2021

The Sanskrit Non-Translatable (SNT) initiative spearheaded by Infinity Foundation for many years culminated in the launch, in November 2020, of the path-breaking book "[Sanskrit Non-Translatables: The Importance of Sanskritizing English](#)" by Rajiv Malhotra and Satyanarayana Dasa Babaji.

Due to the unprecedented success of the book and the tremendous response we have received since then, for the month of May 2021, we have focused exclusively on highly engaging SNT related analyses and discussions.

Book Endorsements

The Hindu Way of looking at Reality | Dr. Subhash Kak

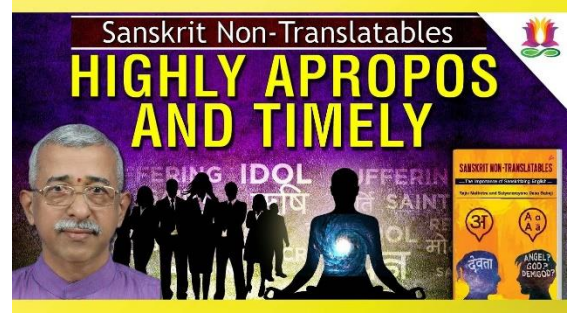


Eminent scientist, philosopher and thinker Subhash Kak congratulated the two authors for foregrounding an often-overlooked cultural fact through this book.

The Hindu experience of reality, he says, is not the same as the European one and so European interpretations do injustice to Indic concepts.

Additionally, there is an ongoing tussle between the colonizers and the traditionalists about who should interpret the past with Europeans currently in control. He asserts that the book is very timely, because it equips the traditionalists to meet the European interpreters on equal ground and appreciate each other. [Video.](#)

Highly Apropos and Timely | Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry



Renowned Sanskrit scholar Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry said that Sanskrit Non-Translatables is a book that is highly apropos and timely. It should be a required reading for our times, and adds value to all kinds of people, including teachers, enthusiasts, researchers, students, layman etc.

He congratulated both the authors for creating something that will be remembered for a long time to come. [Video.](#)



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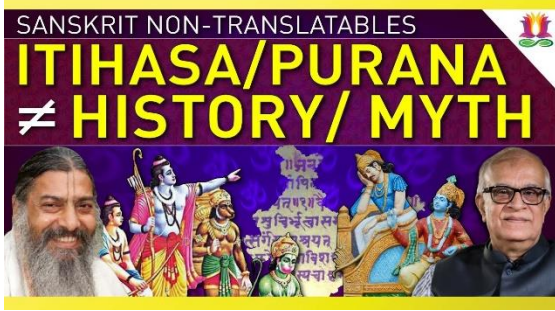


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Discussion with Dr. Satyanarayana Dasa Babaji

Itihasa/Purana ≠ History/ Myth



In the Indian tradition, the Sanskrit words Itihasa denotes the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, while the Puranas refer to a corpus of many texts, of which 18 are generally regarded as more exhaustive and important. These two Sanskrit words have been victims of misinterpretation due to their translation in English using words like 'myth' or 'history'.

In this video, Rajiv Malhotra and Babaji discuss why these two genres of Indian narrative texts cannot be adequately described by these English terms.

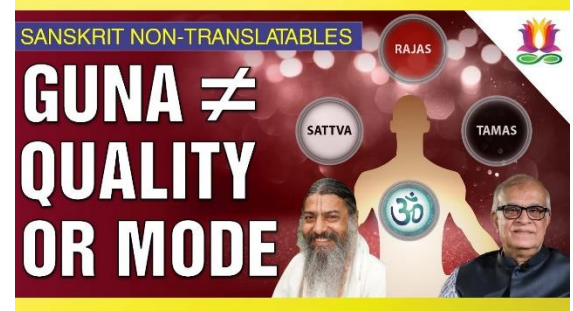
Itihasa-s and purana-s represent a genre that is unique to the Indian tradition and it would be futile to forcibly fit them into the English dictionary. [Video](#).

Guna ≠ Quality or Mode

'Guna' is a very familiar word from the Sanskrit language that is understood in its non-technical sense by nearly every lay person in India. However, the word guṇa also denotes different technical meanings in various branches of Indian philosophy.

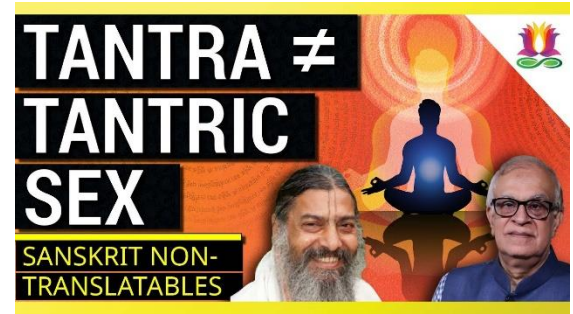
So when the word guṇa is translated into English as 'mode' or 'quality' irrespective of the context, we lose the deeper

significance of the gunas as the basic building blocks of prakriti.



In this video Babaji and Rajiv Malhotra take a closer look at the concept of guṇa and some of its technical and non-technical senses in Sanskrit literature. [Video](#).

Tantra ≠ Tantric Sex



The Sanskrit word 'Tantra' usually denotes a type of Hindu shastra, based on the experiences of seers and yogis, which have been passed down to humanity since time immemorial. Tantras deal with numerous sadhana-s for elevating a person's consciousness which have been verified for their efficacy by a longstanding tradition of experimentation. They also explain their own metaphysical doctrines.

Unfortunately, the topic of Tantra stirs up all kinds of controversial ideas in the minds of the general public. There is a rampant misconception among people that Tantra is all about sex, black magic and rituals.



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In this video Babaji and Rajiv Malhotra try to clear all these misconceptions by providing an authentic view of Tantra from the Dharmic perspective. [Video](#).

Samskara ≠ Ritual



Samskara is a versatile and very important Sanskrit word that is often used in Hinduism in a variety of ways. Most commonly, the word means the various purificatory actions done for sanctifying and refining the body, mind and intellect of a person.

The performance of these samskara-s is essential to make an individual a full-fledged member of the Hindu community. Western scholars generally translate the word as 'ritual' in English. Ritual or ceremony just means a series of actions done mechanically without any deep significance attached to them.

In this video discussion Rajiv Malhotra and Babaji show why such a translation is erroneous and leads to a gross misunderstanding of the meaning of this Sanskrit term. [Video](#).

Ahimsa ≠ Non-Violence

India is popular across the world as the land of ahimsa. Ahimsa is an important principle of Hindu dharma and is considered as one of the yama-s in yoga.

But this important Sanskrit word 'ahimsa' is wrongly translated as 'non-violence' in English.



In this video, Babaji and Rajiv Malhotra examine the concepts of ahimsa and non-violence to bring out the distinctions between the two. [Video](#).

Discussion with Vrinda Acharya on Non-translatables in Indian Music

Shruti ≠ Semitone

The 22 'Shrutis' of Indian music are not the same as the 12 'Semitones' in the Western musical tradition.



This is explained by Vrinda Acharya, who logically analyzes and compares both these concepts quoting theoretical definitions from the two musical systems and highlighting the differences in practical usage. [Video](#).



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Articles/ Media Coverage on AI Book

- Storizen - [Book Review: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power](#)
- Free Press Journal - [AI & Its Social Impact: India needs a wakeup call on Artificial Intelligence](#)
- Indian Journal of Artificial Intelligence & Law - [Excerpts from the Book Discussion with Shri Rajiv Malhotra](#)

AI and Faith has appointed Rajiv Malhotra as a key founding member in order to bring Hindu perspectives on AI into the mainstream discourse. Read more [here](#).

Guest appearances

- Rajiv Malhotra Speaks to DRaS on Artificial Intelligence - [Watch](#)
- Rajiv Malhotra in conversation with Peter Scott - [1](#) [2](#)

Podcasts on Kurukshetra Channel

- [Itihasa/Purana ≠ History/ Myth](#)
- [Guna ≠ Quality or Mode](#)
- [The Hindu Way of looking at Reality | Dr. Subhash Kak](#)
- [Tantra ≠ Tantric Sex](#)
- [Sanskrit Non-Translatables: Highly Apropos and Timely | Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry](#)
- [Samskara ≠ Ritual](#)
- [Shruti ≠ Semitone | Non-translatables of \(South\) Indian Music | Rajiv Malhotra with Vrinda Acharya](#)
- [Ahimsa ≠ Non-Violence](#)

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