

MANU SMRITI

In the period approximately 3500 B.C. a group of invaders from the north western boundary of India came and conquered the country. They not only subjugated the temporal life of its citizens but wanted a cultural invasion also. They tried to incorporate their ritualistic religion into Indian religious life. They tried even to influence the Vedas in a big way.

The Vedas were the guiding light in the theological realm of inter-personal relations, social behaviour and were monotheist in nature. Vedic religion was forced to be intermingled with the Iranian method of Sun and Indra worship and sacrificial rituals. Many saints fled to the south of India and to the caves of the Himalayas.

Iranians and rulers from Asia minor wanted to divide the society to make it weak, subservient and useful for their royal work. Later, around 3250 B.C. Manu propounded a strong rule of social job distribution and named it *Manu Smriti*. Manu himself was a brilliant person and lived during the later part of Vedic period.

Veda is the actual religion of *Sanatana Dharma* (i.e. Hinduism). *Manu Smriti* was a work aimed to help foreign subjugation. Hindus would do well to realize the trick played on them through the social division created by Manu. However, the mathematical work done by Manu was brilliant and is a service to science.

Manu is an ancient author of an important Sanskrit treatise on law, the *Manu Smriti*. The name Manu means simply 'man'. 'Manu' may reflect an ancient Indo-European tradition, although the possibility remains open that *Manu* was a parallel but independent development, as in the case of the Hebrew Adam (also meaning 'man'). The *Shatapatha Brahmana*, an important post-Vedic religious book, recounts how Manu was warned by a fish to which he had done a kindness, that a flood would destroy a vast portion of mankind. He, therefore, built a boat, as the fish advised; and when the flood came he tied this boat to the fish's tail and was safely steered to a resting-place on a mountain top. In the *Puranas*, this fish was considered to be an incarnation of Vishnu.