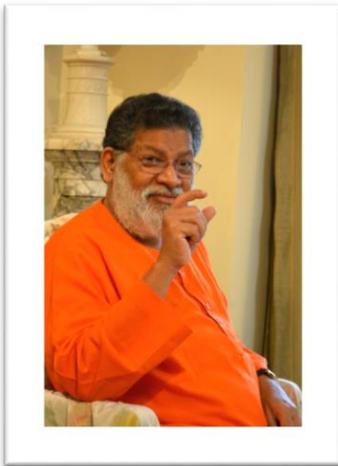


# Hinduism & Indian Identity

SWAMI BODHANANDA

A SHORT INTRODUCTION

22 MARCH 2014



India's search for identity cannot be divorced from the 7000 years long Hindu religious and cultural experience. Most often Hinduism is defined in terms of Indian geography with references to the Himalayas and the Sindhu, Ganga

and Brahmaputra rivers. Words like India and Hindu refer to the Sindhu or Indus river. Outsiders know and call all Indians as Hindus and not as Vedantins, Mussalmans or Christians. The modern attempt to create a secular India disregarding this historical fact will be inauthentic and futile. Hindus are all over the world--in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific, the Caribbean, and Africa. The Internet age has brought them together and multiculturalism a quest among them for identity. Religious world view and cultural perspectives underlie a people's outlook

to life and interpretation of experiences. It is in this context that we engage in this conversation on the Indian identity, both as a nation and as individual Hindus belonging to different countries.

[*"Hinduism & Indian Identity"* – Free-Flowing, Open-Ended Conversation with Swami Bodhananda] Join us for this conversation on Saturday evening (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014) at Kunzum Travel Cafe, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi.  
Contact: Ratnesh Mathur, New Delhi]

*Swami Bodhananda is Chairman, Sambodh Foundation, India; The Sambodh Society Inc. USA; and Bodhananda Research Foundation for Management & Leadership Studies*