



Mmm, nothing like a walk through the unexplored wilds. Does make one kind of hun- gery though. Two of the usual, Joe.

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THE WONDER THAT IS INDIA

(... Some time ago a boy in India, carrying food for his uncle working in the paddy fields, saw a cobra, a dreaded snake with a fatal sting, barring his way on the narrow foot-path. The boy picked up a small stone that lay nearby and threw it at the cobra. The cobra, hit by the stone, chased the boy who fled in panic and crossed a stream, taking a different route to his uncle's field. But fate seemed to be hard on his heels. A couple of miles away he was confronted by the cobra which had apparently been lying in concealment awaiting his arrival. It stung the boy, and he died within a couple of hours.

It was said that the boy's family was under some curse for generations—his father and grandfather and others had been done to death by a cobra! Even today the Cobra is worshipped, and we find people unwilling to kill it even if it enters the house or remains in the vicinity, a potential death-dealer! It is believed that if it is worshipped and given eggs and milk at regular intervals, it will guard the house against thieves and other dangers.

This is India, but not entirely—it is a curious compound of superstitious faith and scientific knowledge, a happy blending of the Past and the Present. There is now an organized attempt to present to you glimpses of "THE WONDER THAT IS INDIA". So turn to...

UNB INDIA ASSOCIATION by C. B. K. Menon

Last week saw the birth of a brand new Association, perhaps the first of its kind in the annals of UNB. Christened "The UNB India Association", it is conceived in the spirit of a social and cultural organization, seeking in its modest way to present to the UNB world glimpses of "The Wonder that is India". Its aim, as proclaimed in its Constitution, is to foster friendly relations among students of India and other countries and, in general, to further a deeper understanding of India, Yesterday and Today, than exists at present.

Culturally India has a hoary and venerable tradition, which looks back, at a modest estimation, to a distance of about five thousand years. Sanskrit, the language from which a great many European and Asian languages are said to have sprung, found its dwelling-place in India, inspiring most of the Indian languages and dialects (which run into hundreds) Tamil, the language of the South, said to be a Dravidian tongue, found the high water-mark of its growth some two thousand years ago (and it is claimed by some to have flourished four thousand years ago).

Today the Age of Science and Reason has entered India but not engulfed her ancient culture. So that we may see what to the casual observer seems to be a paradox—On the one hand people throng to the portals of Scientific Knowledge, and on the other, to distant centres of religious significance to bathe in holy rivers which are guaranteed to absolve them of all sins committed to date. This is not really

a paradox, but a happy blending of the Spiritual and the Material. This fusion of varying, and sometimes even conflicting strains, this adaptability and plasticity, is one of the richest heritages of Indian culture, and could be understood better when viewed in its historical perspective. Horde after horde of invaders were incessantly knocking at the gates of India—Afghans, Moghuls, Turks, Arabs, Persians—and when they swept over the land they destroyed many things but not the culture, into which, contrarily, the foreign cultures were absorbed.

It is this tolerance, this adaptability, that today makes possible to the extent it has done the forging of a united India, which in its composition has a myriad varying strains. From the Himalayas in the North to Cape Comorin, the tip of the extreme south, we see a vast pageant of variety—in language, dress, eating habits, worship. But the essence of Indian culture runs through them all—a manifestation of unity in diversity.

It shall be the endeavour of "The UNB India Association" to present, through its social and cultural programmes, some aspects of "The Wonder that is India". (Membership is open to all who are interested—on payment of a modest membership fee of \$2.00). But the success of our programme obviously depends on the interest of those whom it is intended to serve, and so may we request you to extend your cooperation. But if you won't, then what can we do—as the sailor said to the damsel?

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though I didn't understand a word!" In addition to providing an enjoyable evening the Theatre Universitaire Canadien even succeeded in transcending language barriers and in doing so achieved the author's aim which was simply to produce laughter.

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