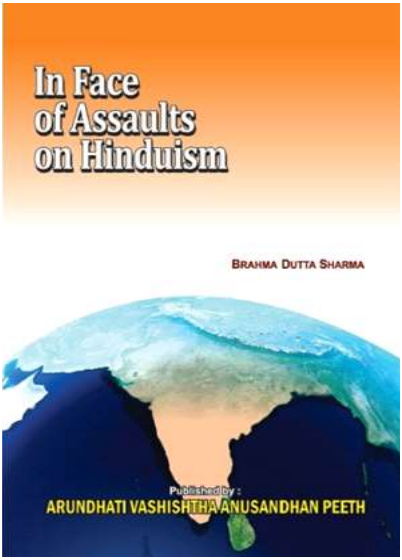
Brahma Dutta Sharma. *In Face of Assaults on Hinduism*. Prayagraj: Arundhati Vashishtha Anusandhan Peeth, 2019, pp. 157, PB, Price: Rs. 200, ISBN: 978-81-931312-8-2.

Reviewed by
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The memoirs of the author's stay at Taiz University, Turba, Republic of Yemen have been presented as a 'novel'! This points to a trend of things going topsy-turvy, post-pandemic memoirs are being hawked as fiction! – the very negation of the purpose of the book that seeks to propagate the virtues of being a Hindu! Can Hinduism be fictionalised? The book reminds us of our cultural past and its remnants in some sections of society – tufts of hair at the head, sacred thread (*yagyopavit*), sacred mark on the forehead (*tilak*). It is a good attempt to trace linkage of one with the other human being in Faith and Clime.

The author talks of Yemeni students' angling for top grades in examinations. This desire is universal but never manifests in direct demands. It also talks of Hindu caste system and basic differences in practice of Islam in Yemen. It talks of Indian caste system with Brahmins at the top of hierarchy, self-contradictions in Islam like Shia-Sunni; beautiful maidens and boys being made available to a Muslim in Heaven; virtues of having 4 wives in the face of maiden hunting on the street or around; uniform worship format and the like. It's dominant rhetoric of demand for huge sums of money for every formal job in any office speaks of poverty of the otherwise well behaved Yemenies. They do not like playing cricket because it may wound you, break your bones.

'Pakistanis attacks'; 'plants can't be called living beings'; 'been beings' are a few examples of syntax going out of control. Although the author talks of Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose's researches centred on plants' breathing, growth-writhing effect of music on growth! The author claims 'plants can't be called living beings'! The book is useful. It makes Hindus aware of problems in living with adverse cultural settings.

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