

Hindu Dharma Rakshaka-Kshatriya Award

In the year 2008, Sanatana Dharma Foundation, Dallas, Texas instituted an Award, by the name of "Hindu Dharma Rakshaka-Kshatriya Award".

The purpose of this award is to highlight and recognize the contributions made to Sanatana Dharma, by specific individuals.

Today there are many Hindus who are making a contribution to Sanatana Dharma, in a variety of ways, but the Kshatriya Award attempts to distinguish and honor those contributions that have the following unique characteristics.

1. First of all, these contributions are made with "courage" in the defense of Sanatana Dharma i.e. they offer resistance to a certain concerted attack on a specific institution, culture, person(s) or aspect of Sanatana Dharma.
2. Secondly, the contribution is made at significant "personal risk" on the part of the contributor i.e. in other words, the contribution is made in an environment that is hostile, and in a manner that invites a counter-offensive involving possible negative consequences.
3. Thirdly, the contribution tends to be controversial to say the least, and even unpopular to a degree as Hindus themselves are mostly unsure as to whether it is a contribution worth celebrating and honoring.
4. And lastly, the contribution is mostly unknown, as the media ignores it largely, and the fact that such a contribution has been made remains un-recognized, and under-appreciated.

The civilization of Sanatana Dharma, is today in a state of resurgence and revival, even as India (Bharat) is coming out of a 1000 year period of decline and desolation. However, the old order and structure of the civilization based on its Varna and Ashrama Dharma has largely broken down. While the spiritual revival of Sanatana Dharma is being led by numerous Gurus and Acharyas, it is our committed view that there is a very large gap in the area of Kshatriya Dharma.

In the Bhagvad Gita, the principal Kshatriya of that age — Arjuna, argues with Bhagvan Shri Krishna that he would rather die without striking a blow or rather walk away from the conflict altogether. Bhagvan Shri Krishna asks his protégé Arjuna to rise up resolved to do battle with the Adharmic forces of his time, and advises him that even death in the cause of his Dharma is a superior end. He further asks him to act while being unattached to the outcome, to discharge his Dharma, without regard to pleasure or pain, fame or infamy, success or failure.

It is this spirit of the Kshatriya, the willingness to stand up against the forces of Adharma, the willingness to put oneself at risk, and fight for the Dharma, and do what is right, even though what is right may not be comfortable or popular that the "Hindu Dharma Rakshaka — Kshatriya" Award attempts to honor.

It is our Sankalpa that there is a broader revival of the Kshatriya Dharma, in the years to come. It is our commitment that there is a broader recognition of the need for this kind of Kshatriya Dharma, that embodies a spirit of risk taking, sacrifice and valor and a greater willingness on the part of the Hindu Community to develop new leaders with these qualities for the new generations to come as well as to collectively fund and finance new initiatives that embody this spirit.