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The Sambuka episode of Ramayana cannot be a medieval or modern creation as it is cited as a popular story in Mahabharata.

In the Grdhra Gomayu samvada (dialogue between vulture and jackal) in Apaddharma-parva, the jackal mentions the killing of Sambuka by Sri Rama.

> The Pandits knew much better Skt then he did. But don't try to fool us that they knew a better, non-casteist reading of the Sastras. It is their kind (think of Swami Karpatri, Puri Sankaracarya) who inserted the Sambhuka story into the Ramayana to justify the starkest casteism. https://t.co/zhuIAtyd00
>
> — Koenraad Elst (@Koenraad_Elst) November 23, 2021

[redacted] Mahabharata CE 12.149.62
"It has been heard that Rama, truthful in his valour, killed the shudra Shambuka, resorted to dharma, and brought a brahmana child back to life."

Sambuka was killed not because of his caste / tapas. He was punished as he was engaged in tamasik tapas which was harmful to the society.
As per Ramayana, Sambuka wanted to reach the heaven in his physical body and become a deva.

Sri Madhvacharya in his Tatparya-nirnaya says that Sambuka aspired to attain the status of Rudra and to become husband of Parvati.
[redacted] Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya 9.21

See how tamasik tapas causes infant deaths.

[redacted] Vishnu Purana 6.1.40
In consequence of horrible tapas not enjoined by scripture, and of the vices of the rulers, children will die in their infancy.

The story of Sambuka as found in the Uttarakanda of Valmiki Ramayana and in Mahabharata and other Puranas do not contradict each other. Moreover, the Puranas condemn the kind of [redacted] that Sambuka was engaged in.