Twitter Thread by ■■■■■■ ■ pvaal

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■■■■■■■■■ - Dead or Alive?

Came across a discussion on BVP that linked to a few leading western Indologists opining on the Sanskrit Revival movement & the spoken Sanskrit movement

https://t.co/KXFQU9exUx

Quite instructive!

The starting point - the famous chai video of Pollock (Padma Shri 2010)

Efforts to revive or 'speak' ■■■■■■■■■ as exemplified by unwashed Hindoos trying to order ■■■■■■■■■■ in Sanscreet memorably filled Prof. Pollock with 'nwosayae' ■ https://t.co/HMEfonAsnw

> As a background, worthwhile to hear what Prof. Pollock wants to see happen for \u0938\u0902\u0938\u094d\u0915\u0943\u0924\u092e\u094d\u0964
>
> Don\u2019t you dare order Chai in \u0938\u0902\u0938\u094d\u0915\u0943\u0924\u092e\u094d\u0964 \U0001f602
>
> And while you are at it, check out the \u0909\u091a\u094d\u091a\u093e\u0930\u0923\u092e\u094d\u0964\U0001f60e pic.twitter.com/S1nlE1DQdh
>
> — \u092a\u094d\u0935\u093e\u0932\u0903 \u0964 pvaal (@pvaal2) September 4, 2020

The evocatively titled Death of Sanskrit by Sheldon Pollock had crystallized the Indological view that Sanskrit is dead & its best left dead!

He also shared a horror of Hindoos, 'Inheritors of a past that they did not create themselves' actually daring to bring it back to life https://t.co/lnunp8639E

> For a second snort of this exquisite high colonial discourse!

> Brilliant exemplar of the \u2018white man\u2019s burden\u2019 and cultural appropriation
>
> How dare some desert dweller deny me photographing his rare Sanscrit manuscripts? I offered him a FREE digital CD ROM in return \U0001f602\U0001f601\U0001f923 pic.twitter.com/oEA5odNzCb
>
> — \u092a\u094d\u0935\u093e\u0932\u0903 \u0964 pvaal (@pvaal2) September 4, 2020

Now most ■■■■■■■■■■ learners will find it most perplexing !

Why should an Indologist, a lifelong Sanskritist have such a horror of ■■■■■■■■■■ springing back to life?

■■■■■■■ ■■■?

To help ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ understand their PoV, an instructive thread is attached

Prof. Stella Sandahl, an Emeritus Professor at Dept. of East Asian Studies has this opening remark

‘How can we rescue Sanskrit from these vandals’?

She claims that speaking Sanskrit is correlated with demolishing temples & violating nuns!

This is a Professor & a Sanskritist!

A raft of Indian compradors & native informants support this view

For e.g an Indian ‘Professor of Sanskrit’ is echoing the pernicious nature of spoken ■■■■■■■■■■

So, ■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■ ■■■■? may be the Hindoo revivalist equivalent of the infamous East Pakistani lungi test■

HH Hock, a leading Indologist, takes a more nuanced , but still negative view

Spoken ■■■■■■■■■■■■■ is a pidgin & creates a false, manufactured sense of Identity!

George Hart, a Sanskritist & Tamizh Indologist & a Padma Shri (2015) has this to say

The trouble with spoken Sanskrit is that its dumbed down! It creates a sense of arrogance & ‘superiority’! Doesn’t make you rap like Kalidasa!

There are of course, sane views also

Heres one

Probably panicking at the thought of having stepped on a land-mine, Professor Sandahl asks plaintively

‘Why can’t we let it be, a beautiful dead language’?■

Apparently Panini assassinated Sanscreet!■

This topic is relevant given a recent tweet on ‘scholars’ & twitter folks who rubbish them

These above screenshots shows the nature of politics/views connected with Indology scholarship

Staggering hypocrisy!

No wonder hotheads on either side quickly escalate to ■■■■■■■■

And to conclude by following the sane advice ‘do they even read a line’ of what they discussed, here is what Sarala Samskritam sets out to do! https://t.co/ucYH5y5BuY

> #\u0969\u096f What is Sarala Samskritam?
>
> Is it \u2018real\u2019 \u0938\u0902\u0938\u094d\u0915\u0943\u0924\u092e\u094d ?
>
> Why is it needed?
>
> What are the potential benefits & flaws ? https://t.co/5jitzeyG4H
>
> — \u092a\u094d\u0935\u093e\u0932\u0903 \u0964 pvaal (@pvaal2) May 18, 2022

A few screenshots of the stated purpose & design of the ■■■■■■■■■■■■■ movement

Quite clear that it’s designed as a ‘gateway program’ & tries to be fully compliant with the Paninian framework

Coda

A whole bunch of privileged Indologists are fearful of unwashed masses learning ■■■■■■■■■■, becoming aware & ‘horror of horrors’, ‘debating’ with them!

They fear ■■■■■■■■■■ will engender civilizational confidence

They fear a living ■■■■■■■■■■■

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