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**A British Government Official Presents an Insightful
Analysis of Culture, Colonialism and Rebellion**

THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA *The Psychology of Social Unrest* by Lawrence J.L. Dundas

In "The Heart of Âryâvarta", a former British Governor of Bengal has attempted a study of the psychology of Indian unrest. If the heart is ever capable of revealing its secrets to anyone outside itself, India should have revealed herself to this more than sympathetic foreigner—New York Times

A masterpiece of psychological evaluation of culture, religion, patriotism and rebellion, **THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA** (Quanterness Press) is a penetrating investigation of a complex society at a critical time in its history. At the beginning of the 20th century, India's evolving nationalist movement, led by educated and cultured men such as Gandhi, was gaining strength. The British, whose colonial agencies had dominated Indian life for generations, were unable to fathom this desire for independence. Lawrence Dundas (1876-1961), a statesman and administrator, unlike most of his countrymen, did not contemptuously dismiss this movement, but committed himself to fully understanding the underlying economic and political factors that drove forward its systematic rejection of British rule.

However, Dundas takes the discussion much further than politics. Using first-hand observation, as well as in-depth research, he articulates the positive goals of the Indian nationalists, which were founded on the idea of a return to a golden age of peace, wisdom, and fulfilment that existed before the arrival of the colonialists. He also sagaciously analyses the complex social and intellectual mechanisms that regulated, stifled or encouraged the attacks on the institutions of British colonial authority. These mechanisms were often outwardly expressed as religious concepts, some quite startling in their ingenuity. In fact, Dundas believed it was essential to understand these remarkable "myths", and he explains them at length, in a manner that a Westerner can easily comprehend.

The author, an aide-de-camp and biographer of the famous Lord Curzon, was extremely unusual, in being a high-ranking political official in India with a scholarly interest in sociology, psychology, metaphysics and history. His studies resulted in a very original analysis of current affairs, social class, educational goals, morality and ethics. One might argue that in certain ways he resembled, and even surpassed, Carl Jung in his interpretation of Indian symbolism and cosmology. **THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA** is an ambitious work that is almost unique in its impressive ability to reconcile the mystical with the political.

Despite his position and background, Dundas demonstrates that he has a profound knowledge of the deep-seated human need for social and cultural development free from external interference. He sympathizes with the difficulties of the Indian people, and sincerely attempts to see their desire for autonomy from their perspective.

Although **THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA** was written some 80 years ago, it paints a picture that would be quite recognizable to any astute observer of our day. Indeed, the international sphere still contains many of the same struggles that are discussed in the book, such as: Preserving national independence in the face

of aggression by avaricious, colonizing powers; establishing social institutions based on traditional cultural principles, and not on concepts introduced by self-serving foreigners; securing stable governments that attend to the needs of native constituencies, and not those of foreign politicians and industrialists; maintaining the search for peace and stability in spite of the empty promises of “democratic freedoms” and the failures of “liberation”; promoting the positive in the indigenous culture, and offsetting the image of Western superiority as propagated through controlled schools and media.

Despite centuries of colonialism, the deep psychological basis for this form of endeavor is nonetheless poorly understood. Yet **THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA** does much to reveal that myths underlie the justification for colonial conquest, as the following excerpt shows: “Appeals to their [India’s] past greatness, couched in powerful and moving language, are capable of stirring their souls to their very depths. And naturally enough, perhaps, the darker shadows in the picture of Indian life as it existed when *Great Britain took up her beneficent task*, find no place in these glittering but fanciful panegyrics of the past.” (Italics added)

This unique book is for those interested in the dynamics of colonialism, Western influence on the cultures of Asia, the psychology of rebellion and patriotism, and the patterns of self-determination. Dundas makes highly fascinating comments on rebellion and the middle way, while still falling into the some patronizing attitudes of the colonizer. His emphasis on monism and its integration with patriotism is unique in any political work. For the purpose of allowing the reader a fuller understanding of the issues involved, the book includes a newspaper article written by an American in 1925, which considers Dundas’ views on Indian nationalism but comes to different conclusions.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **THE HEART OF ÂRYÂVARTA**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, Paul Dennis Sporer, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform@anzapublishing.com. The publisher’s website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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