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Euclid and Jesus: How and why the church changed mathematics and Christianity across two religious wars

By C. K. Raju



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Euclid is celebrated as the father of geometry, and author of the *Elements*, a book once revered like the Bible, but now a school text. Strangely, Greek manuscripts do not mention Euclid, but speak anonymously of the “author of the *Elements*”. Did Euclid exist? Was the real author of the *Elements* a woman, Hypatia? Was she black? The mystery geometry of black Egypt aimed to arouse the soul, and prove equity, as in Plato's story of Socrates and the slave boy. Early Christians had similar beliefs about the soul, but the church changed Christian doctrine to enable its priests to rule. When pagans resisted, the church retaliated violently: it smashed their temples, burnt their libraries, cursed the early beliefs about the soul, and banned philosophy. This plunged Christendom into its Dark Age, but catalysed the Islamic Golden Age. The contrast fuelled envy, and Christian priests incited the Crusades, hoping to grab Muslim wealth—but the Crusades failed beyond Spain. To convert Muslims, who accepted reason, the church now sought mathematics, connecting it to Christian doctrine by changing both. That led to a subtle religious bias in mathematics, and to its racist history. This book is for the layperson concerned that both biases are still being thrust upon schoolchildren today.



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Professor C. K. Raju started off conventionally as a formal mathematician. After an MSc from the Centre of Advanced Study in Mathematics, Mumbai, followed by a PhD from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, he taught mathematics at Pune University for several years. He researched in functional analysis and its applications to mathematical physics, especially infinities in general relativity and quantum field theory. Later, he played a key role in building India's first supercomputer, Param. In *Cultural Foundations of Mathematics* (Pearson Longman, 2007) he established that calculus developed in India, and was transmitted to Europe where it was poorly understood just because Europeans mixed math with religion. Those difficulties with calculus led to Newton's error about time in physics. In *Time: Towards a Consistent Theory* (Kluwer Academic, 1994), and *The Eleven Pictures of Time* (Sage, 2003), he had earlier explained how correcting that error about time leads to a reformulation of physics using functional differential equations. He was awarded a gold medal in 2010, in Hungary, for correcting Einstein's related mathematical mistake. While visiting the School of Mathematical Sciences of the Universiti Sains Malaysia he taught calculus, in three countries, with a different philosophy called zeroism. This demonstrated that math becomes easy if delinked from Western theology. He was an editor of the *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*. His popular books include *Is Science Western in Origin?* (Multiversity, 2009).

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