



Hindoe Raad Nederland  
Hindu Council of the Netherlands  
हिन्दू परिषद नीदरलैण्ड

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Subject: *Complaint 'The Evening Show with Arjen Lubach' Season 3 Ep. 4*

To: [contact@omroepombudsman.nl](mailto:contact@omroepombudsman.nl)

CC: [publieksservice@vpro.nl](mailto:publieksservice@vpro.nl)

Dear Mrs. Smit,

At Hindu Council Netherlands, the official interlocutor of the government for all matters concerning Hindus in the Netherlands, more and more reports are coming in from worried and angry individuals and Hindu organizations. The occasion is the VPRO program De Avondshow with Arjen Lubach Season 3 Afl. 4 - de wet dieren - broadcast on Thursday 26 Jan 22:15 hrs. The link to this is at the bottom of this letter.

At minute 9:45, a derogatory, tasteless and insulting remark is made about the Hare Krishna movement and thus the Hindu community. The rhythmic singing of the names of Lord Krishna is compared in the program to the beaming of a donkey. It is also suggested that it is a pointless activity. The remark is also made completely out of context, since the topic discussed (the animal law) has nothing to do with religion, Hinduism, our culture or with Lord Krishna. We therefore do not understand why a respected person like Mr Lubach takes such action. The only logical explanation we can think of is that this stems from 'ignorance' on the part of Mr Lubach and his colleagues regarding the depth of the Hindu tradition.

I would like to point out that the Hare Krishna mantra has been and is being recited for centuries by millions of people and perhaps billions. It is not a 'Western fabrication', but has its origins in the centuries-old timeless Eastern philosophy and wisdom. It is therefore amazing that this is mocked with such ease. For the practitioners of this process, Lord Sri Krishna is the Supreme Personality of God and reciting His names is a form of meditation aimed at purifying the heart. Through recitation of this mantra, people bring strength and positivity into their lives and into the lives of others. For practitioners, there is no difference between pronouncing the names of God (chanting Hare Krishna) and God Himself.

It is going too far to go into the philosophical details in this letter, but I hope you will see that Mr Lubach's display is perceived as very bad and hurtful. Whatever the motive, we - Hindu Council of the Netherlands - believe that this cross-border remark does not suit public broadcasting. Not even as satire, nor in the context of free speech. It would therefore be appropriate for this issue to be rectified in some way.

We would like to hear as soon as possible, but within 3 weeks, whether a further substantive conversation is necessary and what the further follow-up of this complaint will be.

For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Best regards,

Mrs. R. Datadin

Chairman Hindu Council Netherlands



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Link: [https://www.npostart.nl/de-avondshow-met-arjen-lubach/26-01-2023/VPWON\\_1348923](https://www.npostart.nl/de-avondshow-met-arjen-lubach/26-01-2023/VPWON_1348923)