Preface

India with 1,189,700,000 billion people, having 3824 castes and 461 tribes is one of the mega diversity countries in the world. It is the second continent after Africa habituated by man for the past 60,000 years. Many more migrants have settled in various parts of India and huge expansion of Mankind has occurred. As a result, different marriage practices and social customs developed. The basic pattern of the society and value system seems to have been laid down well before the origin and spread of Dravidian and Aryan languages in India. India is an ancient land of immigration / spread of many different streams of people, whereas Africa is a land of origin, expansion and diver-gence of the same gene pool for the past 0.2 million years. Comparing these gene pools has already thrown newer insights into various evolutionary principles. One of the greatest experiments of Nature was the Caste system in India. A caste or tribe is an isolated breeding unit and drifts away from one another as time passes. A tribe is primitive in mode of subsis-tence, economy and living conditions, mostly living in isolation in hilly terrains sigh of the modern developments. On the contrary, castes live in plains and are capable of articulation and egging their income in more modern inter-dependent civilizations. Most of the castes and tribes in India are inbred and endogamous, with a variable degree from one region to another. Each caste / tribe contains many clans, mostly patriliny, though matriliny is an ancient custom and is practiced even today in a few castes / tribes. Usually the clans of tribes are Naturalistic and Animistic, whereas, castes are derived from seven *Rishis*, temples or other modern surrogates. Each caste / tribe is a social unit and a social security system defined by his or her own characteristics, territory, job and inter-dependency. Different castes living in the same region, sharing the environment and epidemiology as on date are sympatrically isolated in terms of their gene pool. This has great significance in terms of epidemiology and infectious disease transmission and susceptibility. It is known that not all the infected develop the disease. People having two different genetic makeup may not be equally susceptible to a given disease, however, the Nature-Nurture interaction plays a dominant role in the incidence and prevalence of various diseases.

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