

DALIT VOICE

The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities
Denied Human Rights

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**Untouchables are world's worst slaves:
Thus Spake Ambedkar**

Thus Spake Ambedkar

India's Untouchables are the worst slaves in the whole world

With this issue we start publishing from the Vol.9 of "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar writings & Speeches" (1990) the second part of which forms "Mr. Gandhi & the Emancipation of the Untouchables", (Chapter II page 401).

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNTOUCHABLES

Most parts of the world have had their type of what Ward calls the lowly. The Romans had their slaves, the Spartans their helots, the British their villains, the Americans their Negroes and the Germans their Jews. So the Hindus have their Untouchables. But none of these can be said to have been called upon to face a fate which is worse than the fate which pursues the Untouchables. Slavery, serfdom, villeinage have all vanished. But Untouchability still exists and bids fair to last as long as Hinduism will last. **The Untouchable is worse off than a Jew. The sufferings of the Jew are of his own creation. Not so are the sufferings of the Untouchables. They are the result of a cold calculating Hinduism which is not less sure in its effect in producing misery than brute force is. The Jew is despised but is not denied opportunities to grow. The Untouchable is not merely despised but is denied all opportunities to rise.** Yet nobody seems to take any notice of the Untouchables—some 60 millions of souls—much less espouse their cause. If there is any cause of freedom in this Indian turmoil for independence it is the cause of the Untouchables. The cause of the Hindus and the cause of the Mussalmans is not the cause of freedom. Theirs is a struggle for power as distinguished from freedom. Consequently it has always been a matter of surprise to me that no party and no organisation devoted to the cause of freedom has so far interested itself in the Untouchables. There is the American weekly called *The Nation*. There is the British weekly called the *Statesman*. Both are powerful. Both are friends of India's freedom. I would mention the American Labour and British Labour among organised bodies among the supporters of India's freedom. So far as I know none of these have ever championed the cause of the Untouchables. Indeed what they have done is what no lover of freedom would do. They have just identified themselves with the Hindu body calling itself the Indian National Congress. Now everybody in India, outside the Hindus, knows that whatever may be its title it is beyond question that **the Congress is a body of middle class Hindus supported by the Hindu Capitalists** whose object is not to make Indians free but to be independent of British control and to occupy places of power now occupied by the British. If the kind of Freedom which the Congress wants was achieved there is no doubt that the Hindus would do to the Untouchables exactly what they have been doing in the past. In the light of this apathy the Indian branch of the Institute of International Affairs may well be congratulated for having invited a paper for submission to the Institute of Pacific Relations, discussing the position of the Untouchables in India in the New Constitution. I must confess that this invitation for a statement on the position of the Untouchables under the new constitution came to me as an agreeable surprise and a great relief and it is because of this, that notwithstanding the many things with which I am preoccupied, I agreed to find time to prepare this paper.

(Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings & Speeches, Volume IX, 1991, Rs.45 Govt. of Maharashtra, Bombay). The book may be had from Director, Government Printing, Stationery and Publications, Netaji Subhash Road, Bombay - 400 004.

DALIT VOICE

The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities
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Why the whole world hates Islam & Muslims? Why this obsession? Why this deadly nightmares?

With this editorial we are starting a new debate and perhaps the most controversial one : Why Islam, the youngest of the world's religions, is the most hated, most feared and also most hotly discussed subject in the world today? Why every western white leader and commentator is worried only about Islam and Muslims? Why the western whites and zionists, who are the world's richest and the most powerful, fear the weak, disunited Muslim countries? Why the west – which advertises and sells its democracy as the best form of govt. and often criticises Muslim ethos as undemocratic if not anti-democratic – recently managed to dismiss Algeria's very first democratically elected govt. and imposed a military rule just because the elected govt. was a Muslim "fundamentalist" party (Islamic Salvation Front) ? Does it mean that west will reject even its favourite democracies if Muslims were to embrace it ? If the west is

getting obsessed with Islam, in India, the ruling brahminical social order (BSO) comprising less than

15% of its alien Aryans has managed to inject anti-Muslim poison into the blood of the country's all "educated" people.

THE POWER OF ISLAM

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: A report in the *Deccan Herald* (Feb. 17) about Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born zionist agent, crying in London opened our eyes about the power of Islam. The author of the *Satanic Verses* was sentenced to death on Feb.14 1989 by Imam Khomeini. But Rushdie is a citizen of UK where Iran's writ does not run. Still Rushdie was hiding since three years surrounded by armed guards. Literally weeping, he said: I have lost my freedom, my home, my family, my daily life and I want them back. Three years of menaces is a very, very long time". Rushdie's cries prove how Islam can silence any critic. He is begging Iran to lift the death sentence. ■

India's Spanish experiment: So much so, the 15% Muslim population of India has been continuously at the receiving end with its life, property and the honour of its womenfolk always under threat. A proud community which ruled India for about 800 years has been reduced to virtual slavery within 45 years of "independence" to India which houses the world's single largest Muslim population (DV edit May 16 1985: "How to exterminate Muslims in India? Hindu nazis following Spanish experiment). Such an experiment at enslaving a whole community in so short a period is perhaps unheard of in human history.

The BSO having failed to completely cow the Muslims (particularly its masses) has started corrupting Muslim intellectuals (DV

ZIONISM DESTROYING EVERYBODY'S PEACE IN THE WORLD

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The Jewish racism, otherwise called zionism, has not only become a world problem but it is becoming a problem unto itself. ("Zionist ghosts come to the very doorsteps of Muslims", DV Jan. 1 '92, p.19).

Close on the heels of the Falasha (Ethiopean Black Jews flown to Israel) complaints of being segregated away from Russian white Jewish co-religionists and the clash between the two, now comes the disturbing news that even the white Russian Jews are being discriminated by the original Israeli Jews.(Eric Silver: "A Forum for

Russian Jews sought, *Statesman*, Feb. 19, 92).

Over 50,000 Russian Jews have fled into Israel since 1970 and despite being such a big chunk, they can not take part in decision making.

Terrorist Prime Minister: Besides the Russian Jews, 20 immigrant Jewish group are threatening to enter the coming elections. The special correspondent of the *London Economist* (Jan. 25, p.38-40) who toured Syria, Jordan and Israel quotes Syrian foreign minister, Farouk Sharaa, dubbing Israel Prime Minister a terrorist. Israel has the ability through the media to

brainwash American public opinion. Did not the Jews kill Christ? Why do Americans forget this Jewish conspiracy, the Sharaa said.

Jews will destroy US: The correspondent quotes a member of Jordan's Muslim Brothers saying: "World Jewery built up communism only to destroy the Soviet Union. Its next project is to break up United states in the same way". The Brothers therefore want "to destroy Israel in a Jihad because the Jews and Americans are intent on bending Islam to their will".

Very ominous words. ■

edit Feb.16 1992: "Muslim scholars used to destroy Islamic identity"). It has now finally invited the western whites and zionists to take over India in the guise of New World Order. The BSO sold India to the west and zionists just to "teach a lesson" to Muslims and force their surrender to BSO.

Brahminical support to Hitler: All this has made us ponder seriously as to why the whole world hates Muslims and Islam. What harm Islam and Muslims have done to the whites and zionists? At least the BSO has a grouse that Islam is not allowing itself to be swallowed and digested by brahminism. But what grouse the west has against Islam which never came in its way? *It was the white christian nazis who persecuted Jews and it was a white christian Hitler who massacred millions of Jews. It was India's brahminical forces who supplied the nazi philosophy to Germans and Hitler.*

Jews killed Christ: Muslims never troubled the Jews. It was the Jews who killed Christ. It was the western whites who destroyed the Islamic Spain. Muslims hardly troubled any western people or western country. If so, why this deadly hatred against Islam and Muslims.

The west was making much of communism and divided the world into three parts — putting the communist part of the world in the second slot. Though the American-led west set up its NATO saying that it was meant to fight the communists and considered Soviet Russia as its enemy No.1, there was never a shooting war between the two. It was just a mock battle called "cold war" between the western capitalist "First World" and the Russian-led communist "Second World". Because both were whites.

In fact, the American-led western ruling class broke up the Soviet Union to unite the whites of the world and isolate the Muslim Republics and then confront the Muslims (DV edit March 16 1990 Russian racism and ethnic pull breaks up Soviet Russia). That is why we are not surprised by the Muslim charge that the World Jewry built up the ghost of communism only to destroy Soviet Union.

The American attack on Iraq in the Gulf war was the very first western white and zionist war against Islam and Muslims. (DV edit Feb. 16 1991 Welcome war)

Gulf war: And in this war Saddam Hussain taught a fitting lesson to American President Bush, and his New world Order suffered its first defeat. This humiliation suffered by the leader of the white western and zionist ruling class further irritated the US forcing it to re-double its poisonous propaganda against Islam and Muslims. As the west controls the entire world media, we are daily flooded with anti-Muslim propaganda which is music to India's ruling class.

Islamic Bomb: An American Senator, Larry Pressle, recently came to India and warned of the "Islamic

bomb". Here is a sample of his report to the American Senate:

"When I visited Pakistan, it was my judgment that the Pakistanis no longer make any secret about the fact that they have a nuclear bomb. This is a frightening thing. We have the five former Soviet Islamic states. We also have Afghanistan, Iran and parts of Turkey. I believe that they will start to look toward the deep warm water port of Karachi as the export outlet for their goods.

"I foresee a possible new coalition of states there, probably eight or nine countries, that could be a new strategic force in the world. There is also a danger that such a coalition could be dominated by Islamic fundamentalism.

"Pakistan already has a nuclear weapon. Kazakhstan has such weapons. That could be a very destabilising thing in that part of the world and in the world in general".
(PTI — Times of India, Jan. 30).

Why west fears Islam: The world's most industrialised countries are in the west, besides Japan. They only are the nuclear powers. They only are the most scientifically and technologically advanced countries. They only control the world's media.

After the death of Soviet Russia, the American-led west stands unchallenged. It is these countries that possess the world's mightiest armies. It is these countries that possess the language of English which is a world language today. In fact, the dream of every young man and woman is to go to US, live and die there. The dollar dictates the world.

Jews control the entire international banking system. Not only that the entire west is today united and is coming under a common united control, common currency, even the United Nations is on its soil and firmly on its side. Over and above this, all the western countries are "democratic" while the Muslim countries are either monarchies, "dictatorship" or "fundamentalist".

When this is the truth, why should the west be worried about Muslim countries and Islam? Why the western rulers are getting nightmares?

A divided Muslim house: Muslim countries, barring a couple of them like Saudi Arabia, are poor countries and highly disjointed and quarrelsome. Since Islam is against accumulation of wealth, no Muslim country has become a capitalist, industrial giant. No Muslim country is a super power. None has the atom bomb. Muslim masses in these countries are either illiterate or those literate hardly know English. But more than anything else the Muslim world is a house divided. Ethnically, linguistically or even religiously there is no unity among Muslims. The Iran-Iraq 10-year war is a recent memory. The Shia-Sunni divide is well known. When America invaded Iraq, Saudi Arabia and many other countries sided with the US.

In fact, the west has many *chelas* (stooges) in West Asia. The shrinking oil wealth of West Asian Muslim countries are under the management and control of the west. Billions and billions of Arab petro-dollars are stacked in American and London banks.

So, the west has nothing to fear from these rag-tag Muslim countries.

If so why Islam is giving nightmares to the west?

This is the multi-million dollar question today.

The first of the answers to this question is given by an Austrian scholar (p.6) who being a white western close to Muslim countries and a scholarly woman with deep knowledge of Muslims & Islam inaugurates this debate. ■

Nasseef re-elected Muslim World League Chief

The Secretary-General of the Muslim World League (MWL), Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef, has been unanimously re-elected for a third five-year term. The Constituent Council on the concluding day of its 31st session held on Jan. 28 re-elected Dr. Nasseef by a unanimous vote on a proposal made by Dr. Inamullah Khan, the Secretary-General of the Karachi-based World Muslim Congress and also a member of the Constituent Council of the League. The Constituent Council, chaired by the President of the League Shaikh Abdul Azis bin Baz and attended by its 60 members, enthusiastically acclaimed the proposal unanimously.

Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef, a great scholar and an equally renowned *Dawah* activist, is well-known for his service to Islam. Last year, he got the prestigious King Faisal Award for his service to the cause of Islam. The prize consists of a citation, a gold medal and cash award of SR 350,000 (US \$ 93,333). Throughout his life, Dr. Nasseef has been serving both Islam and the Muslims in various capacities and in various ways. A very humble man, he is extremely generous and always eager to help the poor and the needy.

Dr. Nasseef joined the League as its fourth Secretary-General in 1983 and since then he has been serving in his present position and concurrently working as a professor, Faculty of Earth Sciences, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, which he had earlier served as its Vice-President from 1976 to 1980 and President from 1980 to September 1983. After obtaining his Ph.D. degree from Leeds, University of London, on geology, Dr. Nasseef joined the teaching profession and uptill now he is retaining his association with the academic community apart from his onerous duties as the Secretary-General of the League.

Dr. Nasseef is one of the greatest scholars of contemporary Muslim world and also an author of many books on science and religion.

Dr. Nasseef, one of the busiest Muslim activists of the Muslim world is always pre-occupied with multiple works so that he cannot get time for rest, possibly except sleep. He is always busy for the upliftment of the Muslim community in various spheres of life throughout the world and leaving no stone unturned for the solidarity and unity of the Muslims. (*Muslim World* Feb.3). ■

Arafat surrenders to zionists

Ontario: Throughout his life, Yassir Arafat claimed that he was married to the 'Palestinian struggle'. Now that he has abandoned the struggle by surrendering to the zionists, it should not surprise anyone that Arafat has tied the conjugal knot. He is reported to have married his 28-year-old secretary, Suha Tawil, from the West Bank (*Crescent International*, Feb. 16). ■

Warning to Muslim, Sikh revolutionaries

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: We want to warn all Indian Muslim revolutionaries taking refuge in US, UK and other western white countries that they are in for trouble soon. So too the Sikh militants.

Soon US, UK and other countries will succumb to pressures from Indian rulers to conclude extradition treaties. The west is suffering from a terrible anti-Muslim phobia which India's ruling brahminical social order will exploit. Already hints have come. Now that the Indian rulers have joined hands with the New World Order, the days of Muslim and Sikh revolt against India's BSO are numbered. Mossad is coming to India. ■

SUFI SAINTS TO FOOL MUSLIMS

Lucknow: Interestingly a major development is the involvement of Sufi saints in a big way in the BJP endeavour. The large number of dargahs spread over the country have a big following even among Hindus. Sufi saints, known for their message of tolerance and brotherhood, have been closer in spirit to their vedantic counterparts and hence the interaction. A meeting of several Sufi saints held here at the residence of Aizaz Rizvi, U.P.'s Supply and Waqf Minister, on Feb. 11 was attended by at least 80 Sufi Muslim leaders, who decided to broaden the understanding between the two main communities. A new forum, Rashtriya Ekta Khankahi Mission, Uttar Pradesh, was set up with Rizvi as its chairman. The ruling party is to hold Sufi saints conferences in all districts soon followed by a national conference in April. (*Hindu* Feb. 13) ■

Islam feared because it may end western world domination

MISS CHRISTA SCHWAB, HYRTL GASSE, 6A/4-1160 WIEN, AUSTRIA

The Australian scholar doing her Ph.D. in "Communalism in India" met us twice in Dec. 1991 and was keen to know the secrets of the Aryan/Hindu hatred for Muslims. During discussions, we wanted to know why the western world is so much obsessed with Islam and Muslims. Her article together with our editorial should provoke a debate on the subject as to why the Muslims and Islam have become the most hated things in the world today — **EDITOR.**

The last two decades have witnessed the resurgence of Islam as a political and social force. The obsession of the white western world about the Islamic world derives from the fear of challenge which is disclosed by the constant endeavour of the western ruling class to show Islam and its followers in a bad light.

Prophet as sorcerer: If we want to reveal the reasons why the western whites feel so much obsessed by Muslims today, we should consider that Islam has served as a foe image for Europe since its early expansion in the 9th century. In the Middle Ages, the time of the Crusades, monks of law education propagated an image of Islam in which Prophet Mohammed was a sorcerer whose magic wants to destroy the church and Muslims affirmed sexual freedom.

In the 15th and 16th century the threat of the expanding Ottoman Empire brought about a resurgence of an aggressive anti-Islamic propaganda. Again Prophet Mohammed was painted as a violent general of the Turkish army.

Cultural menace: It is important to note that the Islamic world was already rather perceived as a political, military and cultural menace than as a purely religious one, whereas the Age of Enlightenment in the 18th century was celebrated as the beginning of development and the validity of human rights. It was the beginning of the systematic subjugation of nature — including the people living in the colonies and women.

Ottoman Empire: During the

colonial era, the Europeans tried to replace the decayed Ottoman Empire by secular and capitalistic states with the help of the obedient, westernized ruling class in order to patronise and exploit the toiling Muslim masses. That is how Islam as a political and law-giving force lost ground and the Muslim countries lost their political, economic and cultural independence. For the westerners, it seemed as if the troublesome and refractory Muslim-inhabited countries were once for all under control.

However, while the world was turning its attention towards the rivalry between the communist and capitalist countries, a third force, Islam in new and diverse shapes, came back to the scene.

Iran revolution : The first Islamic summit in Rabbat/Marokko in 1969 convened by Saudi Arabia, the representative of the conservative, pro-capitalist wing of the Islamic movement, and the foundation of the OPEC in the early 70s, which caused two oil shocks and consequently a worldwide recession, were the first reassertions of political and economic power of a great part of the Muslim world.

The next blow was the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1978, when the United States lost with the flight of the Shah, an ally, in a country of greatest strategic and economic importance.

Western values: Besides, the challenge of Iran was very dangerous for the west insofar as it was an outspoken insurrection

against western values and the capitalisation of the world economy that have brought misery upon the masses of the so-called Third World. Further, Iran negated the religious claim to leadership of Saudi Arabia since the monarchy spent the money lavishly for western amenities instead of sharing it with their suffering Muslim brothers and sisters as the Koran tells.

Jihad: The appeal to *Al-Jihad*, war against injustice, had not only great impact on the existing Shia groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and Turkey and traditional Sunni groups such as the Muslim Brothers in Egypt, Syria or the Occupied Territories but also on secular civil movements in the Maghrib-states, in the central republics of the ex-Soviet Union and the Occupied Territories.

To counter the expansion of *Al-Jihad*, the west started propagating Islam as a deadly demon instead of reflecting over the roots of this revolution.

Betty story: The US Dept. of Foreign Affairs, for instance, encouraged Betty Mahmood — an American woman who had followed her Persian husband to Iran for a holiday and had been kept imprisoned with her daughter by his family — to write down her story, *Not Without my Daughter*. The book turned out to be a bestseller and later made into a film. While Mrs. Mahmood, with the help of her co-author, describes the Iranians as dirty, crippled, incestuous and aggressive, her alleged upper-class-house in America is depicted

as a realm of peace and harmony.

Male-dominated west: Betty Mahmoody's story also fits the purpose to appeal to western women's mother-love and awareness of emancipation that they allegedly can enjoy only in west but that Islamic society denies female freedom. *I can't approve the policy of most Islamic currents towards women but this should not distract our attention from the fact that women in western countries suffer as well from a powerful male rule.* They have to bear the double-burden of reproduction and production because the US and many European countries prove unwilling to afford a system of free kindergartens and canteens; they can hardly be found in decision-making posts due to deeply ingrained image of women as inferior; they are raped, beaten and their body is exploited as marketable product.

Prejudice against Islam: Besides such trivial novels, there are a number of popular would-be scientists or orientalist who reinforce common prejudices instead of demonstrating the conditions which favour the rise of Islamic movements. Peter Scholl-Latour for instance, transfers through German TV-documentations (*The Sword of Islam*) and his popular books the message that Islam has always been a threat to Christianity and quotes the French ex-President de Gaulle who said: "One day the Russians will become aware that they are white", and adds "and that they are Christians". And his prediction has come true.

After the end of the cold war, Islam has superseded communism as the antithesis to western capitalism. This anti-thesis is even more perfect as it reasserts the historical continuity of the conflict between orient and occident, north and south, and reunites all whites against the Muslim challengers who are per definition irrational, fanatic and backward.

Gulf war & NWO: The "invasion"

of Kuwait by Iraq gave President Bush the opportunity to assert the New World Order in which fake democracies and an exploiting capitalism gained the upper hand. While the strengthening of Islamic states has only indirectly an impact on the everyday life of Americans, the Europeans are confronted face to face with Muslims who form the bulk of immigrant workers in France (Algerians), Germany (Turks) and the UK (Pakistanis, Arabs). *There are native Europeans who fear that one day Muslims would gain the upper hand due to their high birth rate and the 'aggressive' nature of Islam.*

Libyan revolution : To gain a better understanding of the upsurge of the Muslim world, we should grasp that the so-called re-islamization is a modern phenomenon catching on fast-growing industrialised cities and among immigrant workers, and not a return to the dark Middle Ages as the media want us to make-believe. Islamization as a regional form of civil protest derives from a loss of

identity which is a result of rising expectations evoked by industrialisation that remain unfulfilled because of the collaboration of a *selfish, westernized ruling class with the representatives of an unjust world economy.*

As summary we can say that the use of Islam as political weapon is an attempt to relieve the sufferings of Muslim society. Indeed, the Islamic movements recruit their followers from among the downtrodden, as the latest development in Algeria demonstrates again. But sympathy towards the oppressed and exploited does not warrant every ideology and tactic to fight the oppressors. Some traditionalist Islamic movements fight emancipation and participation in the name of the alleged true Islam instead of challenging exploitation and suppression as Lybia, one of the most egalitarian societies, does it since its September revolution in 1969. ■

BOOK REVIEW

A Guide on Reservations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Reservation has been a favourite topic of even people in South India because reservations have taken deep roots in this part of India. As there was opposition in the earlier stages, the subject attracted more and more research, deeper debates and great publicity. Reservations have become a way of life and opponents are shunned and laughed at. What the Mandal Commission recommended was already in practice in Southern States. Therefore, South Indians by and large are not aware of the failures, sufferings and mischiefs of the North Indian upper castes/ Aryans/Hindus.

This small but exhaustive book, *Indian Polity and Reservations*, covers the salient

Indian Polity and Reservation Rights
Dr. Ensanullah Khan
1991 Rs. 20 paper back pp. 60
Bait-Al-Nikma Trust, 165-Zakir Bagh,
New Delhi-110 025

features of the successes and failures in all the States on the subject of reservations. This document helps the South Indian stalwarts to know about the plight of their North Indian brothers and help them and also shows the way to the North Indian reservation-seekers to find out facts, ways and means, and correct strategies. It helps to build the required bridge

between North and South. It also reminds us of the fact that this lack of r a p p o r t between North and South helped the Hindu nazis in enjoying their cake and eating it too. There is much to learn from South Indian stalwarts on this front. We hope that at least the North Indian reservation-seekers will shed their North Indian superiority complex and seek guidance from their South Indian brothers. This book should open their eyes. ■

SIKHS ONCE AGAIN DECEIVED

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The just concluded elections to the State Assembly and Parliament in Punjab – after a lapse of about six years – have proved our oft-repeated claim that it is not the Hindu nazi party but the Congress that is the country's chief brahminical party and hence the most dangerous. That is why the upper castes/Hindus of Punjab voted for the Congress and rejected the nazis who claim to be the real Hindu party. In fact, the nazi party leaders are so angry with their mother, Congress, that they too have joined the Sikhs and all the rest in the chorus of protest that the elections were rigged. But who bothers about these protests?

Be that as it may, the poor Sikhs have been once again deceived by the brahminical social order (BSO). They are deceived because they are willing to be deceived.

A stooge as CM: Their nearly ten-year-old war against the BSO has taught them nothing. They are nowhere nearer to their goal of self-determination. On the other hand, the cunning and crooked BSO has been always having the upper hand. Using the elections, it managed to put Hindus against Sikhs, Sikhs against Dalits and much more the Sikhs against Sikhs themselves. *BSO has divided and sub-divided the people in Punjab by building permanent walls between them.* An obedient Jat Sikh stooge has become the Chief Minister and the BSO will use him to further squeeze the Sikhs. A Jat Sikh police chief was used by the BSO to shoot down any rebellious Sikh (DV March 1 '92 p.11: "Brahminism can't be fought with guns").

The Congress victory (meaning the Hindu victory) may be short-lived as the militants proved they have a big following. The Hindus might have "captured" the State Assembly using their usual brahminical strategy and tactics (DV edit Feb. 1, 92, but they did not capture the hearts of the people. But the heartless BSO does not care for the people or their hearts. What it wants is power to enslave the rest.

Gift of great religion: Will the Sikhs, who form about 61% of the Punjab population as per the 1991 census (about 30% are Dalits) learn a lesson at least now after the BSO helped promote such a sharp communal divide?

The amount of humiliation heaped upon Sikhs, the violence inflicted upon them, the discrimination they faced should have naturally disciplined the whole community and produced a tremendous upheaval among Sikhs, gifted as they are with a very revolutionary religion. Surely, *Amrit* should have come out of such a serious churning of the Sikh ocean. But we are sorry Sikhs are far from it. *With all their wealth, skill, sacrifice, sincerity, valour and their proximity to Delhi, the seat of power, they are not able to inflict even a mosquito bite on the BSO.*

Why Sikhs fail? A society is led by its intellectuals and intellectuals only. Not by money-bags, army generals or musclemen. This exactly is the problem with Sikhs. And that is why the Sikhs are not able to make use of such a liberating religion like Sikhism to liberate themselves from the yoke of brahminism. This is one of the greatest tragedies of India. ■

Nazi Terror Strikes JNU

A CORRESPONDENT, NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, has for long been hailed as India's "premier national university" and the veritable Mecca of the "progressive" Indian intelligentsia. Yet, over a span of barely a few months, bizarre manifestations of Hindu nazism on the campus have rudely torn off the mask that hides the hideous face of brahminical hypocrisy that is slowly, yet steadily, seeping into this institution.

The latest is the formation of an Aryan group called "Savarna Students Front". Little is known about its cadre and leadership as merely a pamphlet was distributed in large numbers in all hostels on Feb.18.

The leaflet entitled, *Bahumat men na Kachhu Dosh Gosain* (The faults of the majority go unheeded), condemns the recent killing of their Aryan Bhumihar (Brahmin) brothers in Bihar. Its real intention is to

engineer/strike terror among the SC/ST/BC/Muslim camp. It names Jagdev Prasad, a former Dravidian Bihar minister, who allegedly used to hurl abuses on *savarnas* for which he was killed by the Hindus. Lallu Prasad Yadav will get the same reward, it warns.

Falsifying history: It distorts history by saying "most of the time it was the *savarnas* who were the Chief Ministers, but there was not a single example of any such

incident (of killings). Why it comes only from the so-called Dalit side?"

It seems these upper caste/Aryan students have learnt nothing at JNU except fabrication, shameless falsification, compulsive lying and downright deceit.

Golwalkar's words: The leaflet describes Dalit and BCs as "beasts of burden" and declares that the *savarnas* are "naturally entitled for any befitting reply. Friends, if you think that it is quantity which rules over quality, you are going against history. Britain ruled the whole world but was a small nation. It is America which is dictating the world, it is not the biggest country by numbers. So, if you are forgetting history, it will cost you dearly", it warns echoing the words of their Hindu nazi philosopher, Golwalkar.

The "quality" being referred to here is quite obviously the much-trumpeted "merit" that the *savarna* anti-reservation racists proclaim to monopolise.

The pamphlet ends warning all those who oppose Hindus: "At last we warn you that we *savarnas* are not impotent enough to bear your abuses. If you again try, your fathers and coming generations will weep on your *smaraks* (graves)". ■

PMK jumps to Bombay

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bombay: The fast-growing Tamil Nadu party of PMK (Pattali Makkal Katchi) has jumped to Bombay and its Maharashtra unit was inaugurated here on Feb.16 in the presence of the famous leader of the oppressed Muslims and Dalits, Haji Mastan. Dr. Ramadoss, founder of the PMK, inaugurated the unit. R. Elumalai, general secretary, was also present at the huge public meeting held in the sprawling Tamil locality of Cheetah Camp. ■

Bara: A landmark in human rights history

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: As Untouchables and victims of Hindu violence, we deplore all killings and violence. That is why our people are the country's most peace-loving. All producers of wealth need peace and that is why Untouchables also crave for peace.

Having braved extreme heat, cold, rain, suffered the worst carnages, their body has become stronger than steel. Despite unbearable sufferings they don't lose patience. Even tears have dried up in their eyes.

But there is a limit to anybody's patience. And when the Untouchables lose their patience and once they get rid of the fear they will be tigers. None can stop them. And this is what happened at the Bara village on Feb.12 '92 when the uncontrollable Untouchables killed 37 (Bhumihar) Brahmins in the Gaya dt. of Bihar.

One-way violence: The upper castes only have been killing our people, raping and destroying our little property. This has been the order of the day. And this order is called the brahminical social order (BSO), *sanatana dharma*, which is being tolerated by our people out of ignorance or fear. The BSO had resorted to all sorts of tricks including manufacture of two cock and bull stories called the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* to see that the SC/ST/BCs do not retaliate but tolerate the BSO and its one-

way violence.

For a change the Untouchables of the Bara village retaliated making the perpetrators of the violence to taste violence.

Hence the Bara massacre is an important development in the history of India.

Bullshit: However, we deplore the Hindu description of the Bara Untouchables as Maoists, naxalites etc. The alleged killers are said to be belonging to the so-called Maoist Communist Centre (MCC). This is all bullshit.

SC/ST/BCs and Muslims, like all those who fight for their human rights, are neither naxalites nor buxalites. The brahminical national toilet papers are deliberately describing our people as naxalites, instead of as fighters for human rights, to defend the proposed Hindu police action on such fighters of human rights. This is part of the Hindu conspiracy of which we have spoken many times. (DV edit Nov. 1, 91 : "DV serves three-month notice on nazi naxalite natak companies".)

The Bara assertion of human rights by the victims of Hindu one-way violence is a big feather in the cap of Bihar's oppressed SC/ST/BCs and Muslims. They must have been emboldened to take this brave step by Chief Minister Lalloo Prasad Yadav, himself a tiger. Things will not be the same again in Bihar. ■

DV Editor Visits Madras

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Madras: The Editor of *Dalit Voice*, V.T. Rajshekar, will release here the book, *An Anatomy of Azad Papers*, written by S.M. Pasha, convener, Minorities Welfare Association, No.21, Barracks Road, Periamet, Madras-600 003, on March 21.

Supreme Court warned about anti-Mandal Maniacs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The Parsee Palkhiwala, the Satya Sai Bab fan and a rich man's lawyer belonging to the house of Tatas, has been the most outspoken enemy of the SC/ST/BCs. But he is an honest enemy and that is why we like him. Like our "sacred brahmins" he does not conceal his hatred against the country's indigenous enslaved races.

During the anti-Mandal war and violence of 1990, Palkhiwala was on the forefront as the friend, philosopher and guide of his Aryan colonials who stand to lose by the Mandal (Parsees are from Iran and hence Aryans). That is why Palkhiwala's sympathies are naturally with his blood brothers.

He is now the lawyer for the anti-Mandal fascist forces in the Supreme Court which is now hearing their writ petitions.

"The Mandal Commission report would revitalise casteism, split the nation forward and backward and open up new vistas for internecine conflict and fissiparous forces and make backwardness a vested interest", N.A. Palkivala said in the Supreme Court (*Hindu* Feb. 19).

Telugu BC Saibaba: Poor Palkhiwala, who is not a Hindu, does not know that the country's people got divided into up and down, forward and backward, not by the Mandal Commission but by its reigning religion known in various names – *Vaidhik Dharma*, brahminical social order, brahminism, *varnashrama dharma*, *sanatana dharma*, Hinduism – which created the graded caste system of ascending order of

reverence and descending degree of contempt. His own god (man), Satya Saibaba, belongs to the Backward Caste Raju community of Anantapur dt. in AP where he is not allowed into any Hindu temple.

The problem we are facing is how to educate these "highly educated" people like Palkhiwalas who become our pleaders and leaders.

Monkeys Club: Pleaders like Palkhiwala must know that they are not the ones to decide the fate of the people. The best judges of the people are the people themselves and they have given the verdict. Political leaders, elected by the people, have not spoken a word against the Mandal. Not even the nazi party leaders have the courage to oppose Mandal. Not a single party is opposed to Mandal. Who is Palkhiwala to speak against Mandal? He can speak inside a Rotary Club, Lions Club, or a Donkeys Club and receive loud cheers. If he speaks the same at a public meeting, he will be stoned. (DV Dec. 16 91: "Reservations meant to elevate, empower a group but not an individual"). Will he face the election and convince the people his theory that Mandal will divide India?

Warning to Supreme Court: Supreme Court judges should be careful with such anti-people arguments. If the court accepts such stupid arguments and goes against Mandal **THAT** will divide the country and not Mandal. The Supreme Court is warned. ■

Brahmin remark provokes BC anger in Maharashtra

A CORRESPONDENT

Nagpur: *Nirnay Sagar*, a Marathi calender, is widely circulated in Maharashtra. Its compiler/editor is D.K. Soman, a Chitpavan Brahmin. In the back pages of this calender he has printed some articles about "auspicious and inauspicious things" and described the Backward Caste Teli (oil pressers), Nhavis (barbers) and Sonar (goldsmiths) as "inauspicious" or polluted people. The Telis are inferior to even a cat. If a Teli is sighted one should walk back 30 steps and if a cat is sighted only 20 steps are enough. Auspicious or hoy things include Brahmins, curd, fruits, milk, horse, cow, pig etc. All those listed as polluted are producers of wealth. *That means cats, horses, cows have higher place in Hinduism than human beings. Cattle are better Hindus than the BCs.*

Anti-human religion: Angered by the anti-human act of this Chitpavan people held protest meetings throughout Maharashtra. Here, the Bahujan Sangharsh Samiti and SC/ST organisations held a

massive protest rally on Jan. 16. Nagesh Chaudhari, editor, *Bahujan Sangharsh*, presided. Dr. Baba Adhav, Adv. Bele, president, Teli Sanghatan, Dr. Bhojar, convener, Kunbi Sanghatan, Namdeo Khamkar, secretary, Maratha Mahasangh, etc. protested against the anti-human religion and its preachers. *They condemned the brahmanic attitude and urged upon SC/ST/BCs to quit this anti-human religion which placed them below animals.* Hindu nazi parties had given the BCs a slogan: *Garva se kaho hum Hindu hai* "(Say proudly that we are Hindus). A barber who addressed the rally said he would charge a Brahmin customer five times more than others. The meeting passed the following resolutions: (1) BCs should not respect any Hindu scriptures, (2) BCs will not only not invite a Brahmin to perform *Satyanarayan* puja but they should resolve not to perform *Satyanarayan* puja at all, (3) BCs should resolve not to do menial services for upper castes. ■

"Hindu Christians" build walls within church to keep out Dalits

DR. GODWIN SHIRI, CISRS, PO BOX 4600, BANGALORE-46

We had a successful Karnataka Dalit Christian Conference at Bellary on Jan. 25/26. About 120 people, mainly from the CSI and other churches attended the meeting to discuss the most burning problems faced by the Dalit Christians who formed about three-fourths of the total 1 million Christian population in Karnataka.

Increasing violence on Dalit Christians were reported particularly in North Karnataka where ironically the great Basava and other *sharanas* centuries ago had preached one of the most egalitarian religions and where the veerashaivites are most numerous today.

Denial of reservations to Dalit Christians is yet another serious aspect of oppression. This action is highly discriminatory and communal on the part of the govt. While in the neighbouring States Dalit Christians enjoy quite substantial State benefits, in Karnataka the govt. has shown utter disregard towards them.

"Dalit" word hated: The second source of discrimination comes from ironically within the church itself. The church leadership is both apathetic and discriminatory. There are too many contradictions in the churches, many of which surfaced at the conference. "Why did they convert us and left us in a lurch?" asked an old woman. "We are orphans," repeated an elderly Dalit Christian from Kamavaram village which witnessed a serious criminal atrocity on Dalit Christians recently (DV Feb. 1 p.10: "AP Dalit Christians face Hindu violence").

Urban-based upper caste Christians did not like the term 'Dalit'. Having left Hinduism and become Christians, the converts had only one identity, the Christian identity. A special attention on Dalits would mean only disunity and disintegration of the Church. The peace of the church would be disturbed if the Dalit issue was taken up seriously, they said.

The conference decided to start a Karnataka unit of the All-India Christian People's Forum (AICPF) to voice the sufferings of the Dalit Christians. The Executive Secretary of AICPF, Rev. Karam Massih from Delhi, said their demands included a Scheduled Caste status for Dalit Christians.

A. Patrick, Bangalore, adds: The meeting fully exposed the hypocrisy of the upper caste Christians who held dominant positions in the Church. These Lingyats and Reddy Christians took strong objection to the very name of Dr. Ambedkar. They were so allergic to Babasaheb's name that we two - Mrs. Lakshmi from the Samata Sainik Dal and myself who were invited to speak on "Dalit's struggle for justice" - were frequently disturbed.

Dr. Ambedkar philosophy: Hindu Christians have not stopped exploiting the Dalit Christians and hence the exploiters cannot fight the battle of the exploited. Our battle can be won only if the Christian Dalits joined hands with Dalits and accepted the philosophy of Ambedkarism, we said.

Church-run institutions like schools, colleges, hospitals and training institutions should give 25% reservations to Dalits and another 25% to Dalit Christians.

This suggestion of mine was not liked by the Hindu Christians who alleged that I was spreading poison inside the church. They did not like my criticising the Hindu Christians for continuing to keep their *jati* surname and relationship with *jati* people.

The CISRS must organise more such meetings and invite the Hindu Christians to hear our cries of agony. Dr. Godwin Shiri of the CISRS organised the meeting very well.

Another naxal natak Co. on its death bed

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The IPF naxal nataka co. is dying. And it must. Get ready for its decent burial.

The Indian Peoples' Front (IPF) is heading towards an inevitable crisis with its very existence at stake, as four out of its five remaining sitting MLAs are all set to join the Janata Dal, and there is growing dissatisfaction among the cadres.

It is only a matter of time before a formal burial takes place. The IPF naxal leadership is Aryan but its membership is from SC/ST/BCs. The leadership is not able to get rid of its *jati* and that is why it opposed Mandal Commission then and the popular Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav now. This upset the members who have started joining the Janata Dal.

The upper castes cheat our people putting on different disguised dresses.

SC/ST/BCs and Muslims must stop identifying people on the basis of their political affiliations. We must start identifying them by their *jati*. The IPF has proved that to Aryans their *jati* is primary and everything else is secondary. Their political mask is meant to deceive us.

Letters to Editor

Athri Srinivas, Madras: Congratulations on your very brilliant editorial on Aryan strategies and tactics. DV has been cautioning the indigenous Indians (SC/ST/BCs and minorities) to realise the superiority of Aryan strategies of enslavement. Ethics has no place in formulation of their strategies. (DV edit Feb.1 92: 'Brahminism defeats us because of its deadly strategies and tactics'). For Aryans, religion is meant only for winning worldly goods. When the Bangalore *papatti* announced a grand brahminical revival scheme to establish a vedic institute, her intention was to save Hinduism and never to provide social justice for the persecuted Dalits. When her proposal met with stiff opposition from the Dravidians, she adopted the time-tested Aryan strategy of stoop to conquer by softening her stand now so that she can cheat later. It is like getting a job producing a false degree certificate. To take the fire out of the Dravidian opposition, she has agreed to admit Dalits also to the proposed institute. Later she will come out with excuses.

R. Arul, Dr. Ambedkar Study Circle, Chidambaram, TN: With ref. to Sampath Welcome (DV Feb. 1, p.13) letter, he said a TN SC boy (Pallar) was murdered by a BC student (Thevar) and this led to clash between the two communities. This is the real problem facing TN. Some Thevar leaders follow the Bangalore *papatti* and become slaves of the BSO. The Meenakshipuram mass conversion of Untouchables to Islam was because of Thevar violence. Some Vanniyar (BCs) leaders also follow the *papatti* because they think that they are Kshatriyas and part of the Hindu caste system and that Untouchables are polluted. But our new rising sun, Dr. Ramadoss, has called the bluff of the hinduised Vanniyars by saying that Vanniyars and Dalits are brothers. Vanniyars are not Kshatriyas. They are Dravidians. They are also Nagas. They are the children of this soil.

Lt.Col. Gulcharan Singh (Retd), 196-R, Model Town, Jalandhar city: This has reference to V.T. Rajshekar's article, "Reservation meant to elevate, empower a group but not an individual" (DV Dec. 16, 91). The anti-Mandal agitation involving loss of human life and considerable damage to public property was started by Brahmins and Vaishya (Bania), two of the four Hindu *varnas* who have for centuries been controlling the country's administration, economy etc. In the process they have denied these facilities to the sudras as well as to the Scheduled Castes and tribes. For the past some time efforts are being made to liberate these oppressed classes. The Mandal Commission

Report is a step in this direction. The danger of losing some plums they enjoyed incited them to violence.

M. Gopinath, Gen. Sec., Karnataka Samata Sainik Dal, Bangalore: This is with ref. to the debate on the word "Dalit" and the "Nagas". N.K. Sharma and M.M. Sao may be right in telling 'Dalit' is a hated Hindu word. And it may be also the right word to identify our people as 'Nagas'. In fact that process has began among our SSD people. But we as organisers cannot be so flexible as these two thinkers and scholars. Sharma says that we are creating confusion by using the word Dalit. But if we heed his suggestion, we will be creating much more unwarranted confusions. In our ideological buildup, we have to be cautious and rigidly-flexible. According to Sharma, Karnataka's Holiyars may be the only Buddhists and Mahadeshwara is also a Holiyar-Buddhist. But today's Madigas think that Malemadeshwar was their man. We must accept their claim and convince them that they were also Buddhists. Lingayats are already trying to confuse the Madigas instigating them against Buddhism and Holiyars by declaring that Madigas were Shaivites and not Buddhists. Theoretically, we may be very sound and correct. But in practice, it may prove disastrous. Thinkers and scholars have every right to criticise us. But we who are in the field know our practical difficulties in wading through the flood of brahminical thoughts in which our people are virtually drowned.

K.A.P. Viswanathan, Tiruchy, TN: Under the auspices of the Tiruchi branch of the Anjumane Taraqi-e-Urdu, an Urdu conference here on Dec.21 was inaugurated by me. Urdu seems to be the language of Muslims. But in reality it is the youngest, sweetest and most widely spoken language throughout India by all people, irrespective of their religious affiliations. It originated in India 400 years ago and it is indeed an Indian tongue. I find millions of people speaking Urdu in TN. Tamils, despite their ancient language, have accomodated Urdu and nourished it. The noble ideals of Tamils abound in Urdu. So, I venture to say that Hinduism is not the religion of Tamils but Islam is. *Onre Kulam* (the mankind is one), *Oruvane Devan* (god is one), *Yadam Oore* (the world belongs to all), *Yavarum Kelir* (all are brothers). These lofty ideals are in vogue from time immemorial and they are meant for unifying the mankind. But Hinduism, which is based on the baneful caste system and casteism always strives to divide the people and sets one section against the other. When I look to Islam, the long-cherished ideals of Tamils are found in that religion and they are also put into practice. Therefore, I wish to state, without any hesitation that Hinduism is not the religion of Tamils but Islam is. In Dalit Sahitya Akademy's book, *Salvation to Shudra Slavery*, written by Periyar (translated to English from Tamil by Prof. A.M. Dharmalingam), Periyar has recommended Islam for the Shudras of TN to get rid of their slavery caused

by Hinduism. The book in English is out of print for long and needs to be reprinted.

Mouni Ramachandran, Bangalore: I hear that L.K. Advani has said somewhere that his nazi party is bent upon creating a "Hindu nation" even if it is as small as their favourite Israel. If this is true then your contention that the Hindu nazis are bent upon driving out Sikhs, Kashmiris, Tamils and retain just the *Aryavarta* (cow belt) is correct. Will somebody confirm this statement?

Tariq Ali, Pune: After reading your shocking editorial on "Muslim scholars" (DV, Feb. 16 1992), I was reminded of an up and coming Muslim organisation called WORK (World Organisation of Religion and Knowledge) based in Delhi which is "trying for Muslim-Hindu inter-religious dialogue by borrowing the best in the Vedas". Will your readers in North probe the motives behind this WORK and expose it? If brahminism/Aryanism/Hinduism is the original home of racism, how can Islam, which is the deadliest enemy of racism, can have any dialogue with sanctified racism? I want more information on this WORK. Since all other Muslim organisations and journals have failed to take up such unpleasant work only you are capable of doing this.

B.K. Ghatak, G-1320, C.R. Park, New Delhi-19: The nearly 50-year-old Jharkhand movement in South Bihar has been mishandled and now threatens to snowball into a larger crisis. Recently, the All-Jharkhand Student's Union leader, Suraj Singh Besra, asserted that the only way to attract New Delhi's attention was violence. This proves that frustration is getting the better of the tribal leaders. Some forces are always trying to use the divide and rule policy. A mood of militancy and violence is perceptible. Talks of launching a 'bloody war' is in the air. They are preparing for a show-down with the brahminical rule.

Kudali Trimurtalu, Kadikana, AP: On hearing about the murder of Anusuri Venkata Ramana of Pedapudi village by a 200-strong Khamma mob while in police custody, we reached Kakinada on Dec. 13 for a spot study. The two-room station has no security for prisoners or the police if the prisoners revolt. The police have no weapon. Even the SI has no revolver. So the police dept. bosses are to be directly blamed for this lapse. Chundru Satyanarayana, a Khamma, had illicit intimacy with the wife of the deceased. Three years back his wife had died and he was charged with murdering her. However, he was acquitted by the court. Ramana wanted to take revenge against Satyanarayana for putting him to all this misery. So Ramana attacked him and later surrendered to the police. On Dec. 9, the Khamma people hatched a conspiracy to kill him. They caught hold of the ASI and attacked Venkata Ramana who was dragged out and killed.

DV 10 YEARS AGO

FEB. 1, 1982

Editorial: "A Bloody New Year Gift to Dalits"

The New year broke on India with a "bloody" news. Coming events cast their shadows. That 1982 began with a repeat performance of "hunting Harijans as rabbits" at Sadhupur in Indira Gandhi's own home State of UP even before the smell of Deoli evaporated confirm the fear expressed in our editorial. (Dec. 1 1981), "Dalit life is the cheapest in India". Officially 21% of the UP population is Untouchables. We have no words to describe the heinous nature of the Sadhupur crime (Dec. 31) in which 10 (official figure) Jatavs were gunned down in a most well-planned bid to silence and subdue the Untouchables. If caste is not the cause of the mass murder, why the "dacoits" wanted to find out where the Jatavs lived and shot only Jatavs and none else? In the Deoli massacre also only the Jatavas were the victims. The Sadhupur mass murder of Dalits confirm our fears that the "Hindi heartland" will soon witness bloody caste wars. It is just a question of time. It also proves that caste and democracy cannot co-exist. If killing a Dalit who challenges the Hindu is jati dharma, how can we have democracy? Our human rights organisations are unconcerned about the human rights of Dalits and Muslims.

Under such circumstances the only solution is that the untouchable victims of Hindu violence in villages must quit their village and migrate to safer cities. As the upper caste-controlled govt. and police cannot be expected to protect Dalits from Hindu violence and as Dalits being weak cannot organise their own self-defence, they have no other alternative but to migrate to cities. We repeat our appeal for migration and systematic shifting of population. Dalits who have already migrated to cities assured us that they had escaped Hindu tyranny. Such a migration and shifting of population cannot be left to govt. which will take no interest in it. So Dalits must make their own arrangements for self-defence. Dalits can no longer remain unarmed. Because in a society where guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have the guns. This is what is happening in India today.

"None to equal Dr. Ambedkar in India: Periyar EVR: In 1930 or so Dr. Ambedkar gave a call to Untouchables to quit Hinduism and embrace Islam. I gave a telegram urging him that he must take at least a lakh of people into Islam. Hindus are caught in a tight corner by Jinnah and Dr. Ambedkar. (Extracts from a speech at Madras on 13.5.1952).

UNESCO honour to DSA's "Brahminism" book, Yoichi Mitsu hashi, Tokyo: A great news came to us from France. Mrs. Yumi Tsuji had sent photocopies of DV Editor's books, "Brahminism" and "Class-Caste-Struggle", to some French scholars. Leon Poliakov, the distinguished French historian, wrote her that he was impressed with the book, Brahminism, which he would use for his work commissioned by the UNESCO.

"Mass promotions: The Gujarat horror Story": RS Salil, Ahmedabad. The article is about the 1981 caste war in Gujarat which began at the B.J. Medical College on Dec. 29, 1980.

Why persecution of worlds' single largest group goes unnoticed?

DR. VELU ANNAMALAI, 14902 JAMES RIVER LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77084, USA

This letter is in reference to the front-page article, "Revolt by the Untouchables Augurs Changes in India" that appeared in the *Washington Post* (Nov. 30, 1991). I wish to thank its foreign service editor, Steve Coll, for bringing to the American public the untold sufferings of the Dalits (the Untouchables) of India.

Their sufferings are unmatched to anything anyone has ever endured in the history of mankind because this is a system perpetuated and well protected for over 3,000 years in the name of a religion and its teachings and scriptures. (Dr. Laxmi Berwa: DV Feb. 1 '92 p.20).

I am, however, compelled to point out several inaccuracies and statements that need explanation in the article.

1. The article says, "... leaders like Mahatma Gandhi promised to build a casteless society". In actuality, this is far from the truth. Gandhi never ever worked for a casteless society. In fact, he worked tirelessly throughout his life to preserve and protect the evil caste system (sanctified racism) of his brahminism (presently referred to as Hindu religion). *Gandhi never opposed the caste system. He lived and died not only as a caste man, but also a fanatical Hindu who revered the obnoxious 'caste-at-birth' doctrine of his Hindu religion.* He has justified in several of his writings and speeches for the existence and the preservation of the caste system. Though he said that he wanted to eradicate 'untouchability', he did not do anything worthwhile towards this goal. As a matter of fact he did everything in his power to keep the Untouchables as the obedient and permanent slaves of Hindus. This is the reason why Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief Architect of the Indian Constitution and the greatest intellectual that India has produced in recent history, said Gandhi was "the No.1 enemy of the Untouchables". Gandhi saved brahminism at the cost of the Untouchables.

DRINKING URINE

2. The village school principal (an upper caste/Hindu) was quoted to say, "No questions like this had been raised in 400 years.... We have been living in this village very peacefully, very happily". What the principal was in fact saying was that the Untouchables have been our obedient slaves all these years and the upper caste/Hindus have been happily sucking their blood without anyone questioning. As long as the Untouchables strictly follow the caste dharma and rules, the upper caste/Hindus will say that everyone is living peacefully in the village. Since the Hindu religion sanctions the Untouchables to be

slaves of the upper caste/Hindus, the sufferings of the Untouchables will not question the human conscientiousness of the upper caste/Hindus.

The minute the Untouchables start questioning the reasons for their lowness bestowed upon them from birth, the upper castes/Hindus say that peace has been destroyed and they need to teach the Untouchables a lesson by way of murder, rape, arson and humiliations of every kind including forcing them to drink human urine and eat human excreta. The police, the judiciary and the politician are all together in this game of preserving the status quo of Hindu religious caste system.

3. India has over 50 million bonded labour children between the ages of 4 and 14 years old. The number for the adults is said to be three times as much as the children. Generations after generations live in slavery because of the unscrupulous upper castes/Hindus who cheat the poor, innocent and illiterate "low caste" people. Then they call these poor people as "unreliable debtor".

GREATEST LIE

4. The greatest lie and hypocrisy of the Hindus is when the village principal says they treat the Untouchables "like members of their own family... We promised them that we are all brothers". How can such blatant lies even be repeated? If the Untouchable were the family members of the upper castes/Hindus, how is that the Untouchables cannot take water from the same well, cannot enter Hindu temples, cannot enter the streets where the upper castes/Hindus live, cannot touch a Hindu, to list just a few atrocious Hindu religious evil acts. Why was a social boycott instituted on the entire Untouchable community for simply filing a case against a murder?

5. The village principal says again, "Their (the Untouchables) leaders misguided them... We want to pressure them to live here peacefully". The principal was in fact saying that the upper castes/Hindus want the Untouchables to be their permanent slaves as usual following the Hindu caste code. Then everyone will live peacefully. If anyone questions even the basic human rights of the Untouchables, then the peace of the Hindus is disturbed. The result is that the Untouchables are mercilessly butchered with the full support of the official machinery. And at the same time, the upper caste Hindus shed crocodile tears and put the blame on the Untouchable leaders for everything.

What a shame! If a school principal, who is supposed to teach his students the truth, love and compassion, can lie like this, what kind of future can one envisage

for the 160 million Untouchables in a truly free India where all human beings will be treated equally as human beings. It might take another 1,000 years, if these unfortunate Untouchables get lucky. *Because neither the Hindus nor the International Community gives a damn about the single largest community in*

the world who has been oppressed and exploited for the last 3,000 years without anyone questioning!!. Not only are the Hindus sick, but it appears that the International community is also sick for ignoring these people for such a long time. ■

Karnataka Dalits were originally Buddhist & Nagas

NAGASIDDHARTHA HOLIAR, MYSORE DT.-571 115

With ref. to N.K. Sharma article, "Naga, the original Indian race", (DV Jan.1 92 p.7) I have to add that like the Mahars and Adi-Andhras, the Adi-Kannadigas (Holiars) of Karnataka were also Nagas and Naga-Buddhists. The Holiars invented Karnataka and the Kananda language. We can find out the Naga-Buddhist Adi-Kannadiga touch in Kannada language if we see the Kannada dictionary. The following sample words in English and Kannada are furnished:

<u>English</u>	<u>Kannada</u>
1. Citizen	Naga reeka
2. Civilization	Naga reekathe
3. City	Nagara
4. Intelligence	Buddhi vanthike
5. Intelligent	'Buddhi vantha
6. Intellectual	Buddhi jeevi
7. Teacher	Bodha ka
8. Teaching	Bodha ne
9. Teach	Bodhi su

One who belongs to the Naga race is called Naga reeka. The lifestyle of the nagareeka is called nagareekathe (civilization). And the living place of so many nagareekas is called nagara (city). *This proves that Kannada language was invented by the Nagas.*

The word *buddhi* is taken from Buddha. And the word *Bodhi* is the name of the Bodhi tree. Siddhartha was enlightened under this tree and became the Buddha. Both the words *Bodhi* and *buddhi* have close relations. *This proves that the Kannada language was invented by Naga-Buddhists or Adi-Kannadigas (Holiars).*

Female deities: Maramma is the most famous female deity of the Karnataka SC/ST/BCs. While celebrating the festival they also worship a tree. But they don't know what they are doing and why they are worshipping the tree. *History says Maramma was a famous Buddhist nun.* The tree symbolises the Bodhi tree. Maramma is our (Holiya) ancestor. She was a Naga-Buddhist-Holiar Nun.

A Buddhist Bhikku, Mahadeva, toured Mysore during 1500 AD, later he came to be known as Malai Mahadeshwara of Kollegala taluk, Mysore dt. and a famous god of our people.

The Sahitya Akademy award-winner and a noted Holiar poet, Devanura Mahadeva, dedicated his book, *Kusuma Bale*, to this great Dalit god and our Holiar

ancestor, Mahadeswara. The people worship this god on the hill, Mahadeswara Betta. His image and temple are located on "Naga Malai". *Malai* means mountain.

Tonsure practice: There are no documents or records on Mahadeshwara. But our people kept Mahadeshwara's history alive through songs and speeches from generation to generation. Memory is also history. Mahadeshwara opposed caste system, untouchability – meaning the Aryan colonialism.

Same is the case with Biligiri Ranga, also our god and a Soliga tribal. Soligas were also Holiars.

In all these three temples tonsure practice is common. According to Dr. K. Jamnadas, tonsure practice is a Buddhist custom. But alas all these temples have been taken over by the Brahmins.

Brahmins worshipping our gods: The Siddaiah of Nanjangud, Mudukuthore Mallaiaha, Devajamma, Bevina Thamma, Karaiah and Billaiah (students of Malai Mahadeshwara) and so on were also our Holiar ancestors.

Now, these foolish Brahmins are worshipping our ancestors. Without our ancestors these idiotic Aryans have no gods.

This is the case all over India. This is the history of Holiars, Naga-Buddhists, Adi-Kannadigas.

If we accept Buddhism, which is our original religion, we will achieve our ultimate goal. Holiars are born Buddhists. ■

TV film on Dr. Ambedkar

NEELAM KAPUR, INFORMATION OFFICER (I&B),
PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU,
GOVT. OF INDIA, NEW DELHI - 1

Doordarshan has already commissioned an eight-part serial on Dr. Ambedkar to be made by M/s. Quasar Communications, Bombay.

The subject was also raised in Parliament during Question Hour on Dec.2, 1991. Both Minister of State Ajit Kumar Panja and the Deputy Minister, Dr. Girija Vyas, have not contradicted this fact.

ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM

HARI SHARAN CHHABRA

Now that the UN General Assembly, under pressure from the United States, has revoked its 16 year old resolution equating zionism with racism, one would believe that the time has come when the South African Government could persuade Washington in getting repealed the 1967 resolution of the General Assembly which described apartheid as a "crime against humanity".

But what did the Nov. 10 1975 General Assembly resolution on zionism say? It simply said:

Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.

This would lead one to briefly discuss the meaning of the terms racism and racial discrimination.

UN Resolution: Racism has been variously described as "hatred or intolerance of another race or other races", "a doctrine that human abilities are determined by race" and "belief in the superiority of a particular race".

Racial discrimination is defined by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, duly endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1965, in the following words:

..... the term racial discrimination shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national and ethnic origin, which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, employment or exercise on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedoms....

In this regard zionist history and origin carry many seeds of racism and racial discrimination. One can quote dozens of zionist leaders who employ racist language. An early zionist, Moses Hess, in his book, *Rome and Jerusalem*, observes:

Every Jew has the making of a Messiah, every Jewess that of a Mater Dolorosa... only the Jews could rise to the height on which life and death seem equal... the great teachers of the knowledge of God were always Jews.

Another early Zionist, Norden arrogantly claimed that Jews were "more industrious and abler than the average European, not to mention the moribund Asiatic and African". Another chauvinist Jew wrote: "Jews are the aristocracy of history."

The founder of the World Zionist Organisation, Theodor Hezel, asserts:

Our race is more efficient in everthing than most other peoples of the earth.

If all this is not racism, what is it?

Gandhi's letter: The oft-quoted correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and the zionist

philosopher, Martin Buber, is quite revealing on the "superior race" theory of the Jews. When Gandhi observed that the zionists were looking for a sanction in the Bible for the demand for a Jewish state in Palestine, Buber shot back :

....the Bible tells us, and our innermost knowledge testifies to it, that once more than three thousand years ago our entry into this land (i.e., Palestine) took place with the consciousness of a mission from above to set up a just way of life through the generations of our people.... No other nation has ever been faced at the beginning of its career with such mission. Here is something from which there is no forgetting and from which there is no release. (Martin Buber, *Israel and the World*, New York, 1963 p.229).

Chosen people: The present-day zionist leaders are even more arrogantly racists. Here is what Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, had to say:

I believe in our moral and intellectual superiority, in our capacity to serve as a model for the redemption of the human race.

Israeli atrocities in occupied West Bank and Gaza smack of nothing but racism and racial discrimination. There is so much of evidence that the Jewish rulers in occupied Arab territories consider Arabs as an inferior lot of humanity.

One must not also forgot how in 1948 the Israelis hounded the Palestinians out of their homes. A cruel example of this was massacre of Deir Yassin on April 9 1948 in which 250 old men, women and children were savagely murdered and their mutilated corpses put on public display. The most terrifying incidents in Hulah, Ramleh and Lydda forced lakhs of Palestinians to flee from their homes. This is all racially discriminatory.

Palestinian stand: The Jewish settlements on Arab territories have so much of racist content. So is the eviction of the Palestinians from the homelands during and after the June 1967 war. The UN Relief and Works agency reported that the Israeli army forced a large number of Palestinians out of the West Bank by bombing the refugee camps.

Most cruel regime: A testimony of the Israeli racist policies is provided by Dr. Israel Shehak and his League for Human and Civil Rights. He calls the Israeli regime as the most cruel and repressive. Its racist expulsion, collective punishments, dispossession through promise and deceit and the enslavement of the Palestinian population.

The case of Rabi Meir Kahanae, an American Jew who came to Israel in 1971 and has ever since been

propagating the cult of racist hatred against the Palestinians, needs to be noted. His solution to the "Arab problem" is: "Throw them out." No wonder he was elected to the Israeli Parliament in 1984 on a racist platform.

Pact with Apartheid: The growing cooperation between Israel and South Africa is a clear case of Zionism and racism being one and the same thing. After the 1967 war there appeared a telling editorial in *Die Berger*, the mouthpiece of the Nationalist Party, which said:

It is in South Africa's interest that Israel is successful in containing her enemies, who are among our own most vicious enemies; and Israel would have all the world against it if the navigation route around the Cape of Good Hope should be out of operation because South Africa's control is undermined.

It was not surprising when *Die Vaterland*, another South African ruling party newspaper, wrote:

Israel's survival in the Middle East is a fundamental part of our security. (*Mainstream* Jan. 4 1992). ■

ENEMY OF HUMANITY

All-out African war against zionism

KWAME TURE, CHAIRPERSON, NATIONALIST FRONT OF AFRIKANS IN AMERICA,
B.P. 3567, CONAKRY, REP. OF GUINEE, AFRICA

Zionism began its career in 1897 with a convention in Bâle, Switzerland, and took its initial imperialist cast with the Balfour declaration of 1917 when the British Govt. promised Zionist leaders in England that Britain recognised the right of Jews to a homeland.

The subsequent establishment of hostile military operations in Palestine under the name of the Haganah and the Irgun after World War II, whose operations constituted a terrorist campaign not simply against Palestine's British overlord but against the Palestinian people.

British abdication of its responsibility for justice in Palestine resulted in the taking of the homes and lands of Palestine people and the declaration of the state of Israel in May 1948.

Theft of land: This theft of land and concomitant oppression of the Palestinian people proved Zionism as a philosophy and a movement to be an imperialist philosophy and movement.

Zionism in its desperate search for a "state" and its theft and maintenance of that "state" has wreaked misery, suffering, and death on peace-loving people. Bloody Zionist atrocities have become a daily way of life for the Palestinian people since 1948 and continuing through the Zionist-caused wars of 1956, 1967, 1973, 1975, 1976 and 1982.

The repeated Zionist massacres of Palestinians in the "refugee camps" in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and occupied Palestine have outraged the decent people of the earth.

US-Zionist axis: Zionism has the unconditional support of imperialism, particularly US imperialism, whereby it has the latest weapons in great stockpiles and has supplied the illegal racist settler-colony of South Africa with the weapons it needs to maintain

its rule, including the development of nuclear capability.

Zionism through its intelligence organisation, the **Mossad**, has compiled information and launched a reign of terror worldwide, including the **cold blooded murder of Abu Jihad in 1988**; It controls the US so much that since 1975 the US has provided Israel with over \$ 14.3 billion in grants and \$ 10 billion in low interest loans. It uses its influence and money to control and subvert many of the so called African mayors, congress persons and other politicians in the US and uses its influence and power to subvert Black organisations and the agendas of the African Nation in the US.

Tripoli decision: Therefore, We, African nationalists who live in the US, have met at Tripoli, Libya, and have established the African Anti-Zionist Front. (1) To eliminate the economic, political and ideological control of Zionism in our communities in the Americas. (2) To create an International anti-Zionist front. (3) To raise the consciousness of our people especially in the United States, and to pursue consistently the education of our organised cadres, particularly in the US on the subject of Zionism.

(*DV Dec. 16, 91 p.9: Africans seek Dalit support for Anti-Zionist Front*)

Organisations in the Front have come together on the basis of the following definitions and principles of unity: As the United Nations has declared, Zionism is racism. Fighting Zionism is simultaneously and inherently a fight against capitalism and imperialism, as led by US imperialism.

Self-determination: The right to self-determination of the oppressed nations in the Americas is an essential element of the fight against Zionism,

The focus and essence of this African Anti-Zionist

Front are international and universal.

The Front's struggle against zionism is uncompromising.

The founders of the Front state that the struggle against zionism is not a struggle against Jews or Judaism but rather a struggle against zionism as a racist and imperialist ideology and movement.

Kwame Ture of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party has been unanimously elected by the Front's founders as chairperson.

US Blacks pledge: We want them to know that there are 50,000,000 Africans in US and the Front shall work to assure that Africans in the US will use all means necessary to break America's grip on Africa.

Intifada: The Africans in the US are the most instinctive revolutionary mass. We organise against zionism because we are ideologically impelled to do so. *Zionism is the enemy of humanity.* It attacks us directly. It has total contempt for us. In the US, it publicly fights to dominate all our organisations and publicly chastises them. The rising consciousness of our people has everywhere caused oppositions to zionism. Even organisations which zionism labeled respectable and responsible such as the N.A.A.C.P. have had to struggle with them recently over many issues such as affirmative action. The heroic struggle of the Palestinian people, bringing for war the "children of the stones" (Intifada), obliges even the most reactionary elements among our people to respect their sacred cause. History impels us to seize the time.

US enslaved: Zionism controls the US. We Africans in the US say when zionism says "jump", the US answers "how high". Every one knows that if the US stops giving aid to zionism, its illegal, unjust and immoral entity in Palestine would disappear overnight.

Following the axiom of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere"*. We act to bring our organised force to end zionism. Zionism will only be destroyed through organised oppositional force, and as it is a worldwide organisation its oppositional force must be worldwide, and efficiently organised.

This African Anti-Zionist Front in the US is the first step leading to the organisation of a world-wide Anti-Zionist Front. The struggle against zionism must be by definition multiform. *Zionism shoots down children who have sling-shots in Palestine*, while holding dominance in many areas of US society, especially in the ideological and political arenas. We come to attack zionism in these two areas without pity and without mercy, and as our strength improves we will spread to every area. We are going to do everything possible to **ELIMINATE ZIONISM BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!**

VICTORY IS INEVITABLE!

UN collaborated with zionists

PUNYAPRIYA DASGUPTA

The discrimination against a whole people, which provoked the equation with racism, still remains zionism's credo and is being pursued with unabated cruelty.

A Jew in Russia, America, India, Ethiopia or anywhere in the world, is born, according to zionism, with a right to Israeli citizenship and if he chooses to migrate to Israel at any time, he will be accommodated by driving away some more Palestinians from their home, if necessary.

This process is now on in the suburbs of Jerusalem especially. What is this if not a form of racial discrimination? It is no use arguing what is a race. To avoid any such dispute the authors of the 1975 resolution called zionism a form of racism.

Zionist propaganda is trying with a new aggressiveness to confuse issues.

The *New York Times* wrote after the rescindment of Resolution 3379 that "it reeks of anti-semitism to suggest that the survivors of the Holocaust are to be condemned for establishing a haven in the only state in which the Jews form the majority."

Nobody ever condemned those who survived the Holocaust for their good luck. Their creating the State of Israel was a totally different issue but even so, the UN gave them the state. The Jewish majority in Israel, now being flaunted, was also, originally, the result of the cleverest possible surgery on the body of Palestine by the UN. What the UN condemned later was the near-racist expansionism by the survivors of the Holocaust at the expense of the Palestinians who had never mistreated the Jews. (*Deccan Herald*, Jan. 15).

Nazis starting "ban cow slaughter" yatras

Bhopal: Yet another religious yatra is in the offing. The proposed "*Gau rath yatras*" (cow rath yatras) will have the full support of the BJP.

To create public awareness for a complete ban on cow slaughter in the country, the "cow rath yatras" will be taken out from all States. The yatras, to begin from March, will end with an all-India conference at Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna on April 11. (*Hindustan Times* Jan. 4)

Middle class Muslims using Islam as ladder duping the oppressed

SULEIMAN FAROOQUI, 23, ANGEL APTS., MUNIRKA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI

The stormy debate raging in the columns of *Dalit Voice* (DV, Dec. 16 '91 p.15 and subsequent issues) forced one to ponder on whether or not the Jamate-Islami is in fact serving the goals that it proclaims to champion. You have been fair as both ardent advocates and vociferous opponents of the Jamat have been given an opportunity to air their respective views. One can only hope that after all this, both sides to the debate will seriously reconsider their own positions and not shrink from self-criticism, introspection and soul-searching.

In particular, one hopes that the Jamat will take serious cognizance of the well-intentioned suggestion of the Editor of *Dalit Voice* and the numerous well-meaning critics of the Jamat so that it can aim at being more effective in pursuing the goals it has set for itself.

Nasty suspicion: If the debate on the Jamat actually served any positive purpose, the least that the Jamat can and should do is to undertake and publish studies on Muslim society and its multifarious problems. One gets the nasty suspicion that *the almost total lack of any serious literature on Muslim social problems reflects the fear of the Muslim elite (and their non-Muslim counterparts) to conceal from the public view their utter failure in solving the myriad problems of the Muslim masses.*

Nearly all Muslim bookshops in every town and city of this country are well stocked with books on Islam, but few, if any, have any literature on Indian Muslim society and its problems. Is this to be explained by the desire of the elite (both Muslim and non-Muslim) to keep the world unaware and in the dark about the miseries of the Muslim masses?

I understand how the Jamat's

ambitious plans to awaken the Indian Muslim society can make any headway without a comprehensive understanding of the social problems of their target group – the Muslim masses – including the social factors that impede their progress.

Masses called lazy: For instance, many Islamic groups stress that one of the central pillars of Islam is that all Muslims should be educated.

Jamat weekly continues to call Dalits as Hindus

TARUN SIDDHARTH, NEW DELHI

Possibly as a result of the debate on the Jamate-Islami in the columns of *Dalit Voice*, the official organ of the Jamate-Islami, the *Radiance Views* weekly (Feb.2-8), has come out with an article on the Dalit perspective on brahminism.

This article by Krishna Dhon Sardar (who was first discovered by DV) is entitled, "Muslim Ulema Miss the Point – A Dalit Hindu viewpoint". While this article is to be welcomed, the very title of the article shows that the Jamat seems hardly to have taken *Dalit Voice* seriously.

For, *Dalit Voice* has, in nearly every issue, been loudly asserting that Dalits and BCs are not Hindus, were never Hindus and can never be Hindus, since they are not part of the *chaturvarna* social order. This being the case, the title in the *Radiance* article, "Dalit Hindu Views" is a contradicting term. But terming Dalits as Hindus, *Radiance* has inadvertently helped legitimize the brahminical enslavement of the Dalits and the BCs.

These groups make shrill appeals and sporadic, unsustained efforts at "educating" the masses but when they find the masses unresponsive, they throw up their hands in despair and condemn the masses for being "lazy", "backward" and worst of all, "un-Islamic".

Now, anybody familiar with the problems of the Muslim masses would know that the major reason for their educational backwardness is their miserable poverty which forces them to send their children to work rather than to school. Their educational backwardness can only be overcome once they overcome their poverty and not merely through appeals made in the name of religion.

IOS Example: The Jamat does not understand it since it is not sensitized to the plight and problems of the Muslim masses.

Thus, undertaking scientific, objective, social research on these issues (like the Institute of Objective Studies) will certainly help these organisations in making their efforts more effective.

It is perhaps more productive to view or define religion according to the way in which it is actually practised rather than by looking at its purely theoretical, theological principles. In addition, any religion can be employed either for a liberative or an oppressive purpose as far as the masses are concerned.

Islam sides oppressed: Thus, Islam as viewed by the Prophet and the Caliphs is generally held to be a revolutionary, emancipatory force that took the side of the oppressed. On the other hand, *the version of Islam being presented by many "Islamic" organisations in India today is certainly oppressive as far as the Muslim masses are concerned.* This is because these

organisations stress merely the external aspects of Islam (fasting, prayer, etc) and not the social liberation that true Islam promises.

Leadership fault: This, of course, is not to say that these organisations are indulging in conscious deception of the Muslim masses. Their interpretation of Islam is largely shaped by their own social position. *Most of these organisations are led and manned by members of the Muslim lower middle class, who have in the past few years experienced some amount of social mobility.*

Very unconsciously, this class seeks to distance itself from the Muslim working, labouring class immediately below it, especially since the lower middle class is perpetually haunted by the very real possibility of being pauperized and forced to join the ranks of the absolutely poor.

Misleading symbols: Thus, this lower middle employs certain "Islamic" symbols and *develops an elitist interpretation of Islam so as to symbolise its distance from the Muslim masses.* This, as has been already explained, is not a conscious conspiracy but an unconscious response of the Muslim lower middle class.

The interpretation of Islam that this class offers naturally does not take into account many of the acute problems of the Muslim masses, since, unconsciously, this conservative interpretation of Islam held by the lower middle class serves to symbolise its intense desire to be recognised as superior to more "Islamic" than, distinct from, the Muslim masses.

Hence, any emancipatory, liberative interpretation of Islam can only be expected from the ranks of the Muslim masses and from others, including organic intellectuals, who are deeply concerned with their cause.

Islam as ladder: Islam as a means for social emancipation cannot emanate from those sections who use it as a ladder for social mobility

and as a means of symbolizing their distance from the Muslim masses. This, one supposes, is precisely what *Dalit Voice* has all along been asserting.

Fighting brahminism: Many Muslim organisations, including the Jamat, plead their inability to join the non-Muslim oppressed ethnic groups in their battle against brahminism. They assert that since the message of Islam is for all persons, irrespective of caste, it would be "un-Islamic" to oppose Brahmins. But the Dalits are not asking the Muslims to oppose Brahmins but to fight against brahminism which is an anti-human and anti-Islamic ideology.

The Dalit movement has always asserted that their struggle is

against brahminism and not against individual Brahmins. In this sense, for Muslims to sympathize with the Dalit (*Mustadafeen*) cause does not imply that this is synonymous with an anti-Brahmin posture. It is quite possible that *the various arguments put forward by some Islamic organisations pleading their neutrality in the crusade against brahminism merely reflects a desire to side with the forces of the status quo.*

Dalit Voice deserves to be heartily congratulated for having made the bold attempt of making Indian Muslims seriously reflect on their future and on those who claim to be their leaders. ■

Muslims don't want reservations

SHABANA, 88/162, MOHD. ALI PARK, CHAMANGANJ, KANPUR, U.P.

In the debate on Jamate-Islami (DV Dec. 1, '91) Murad Ali Yusufzai has said: "Jamat blind to brahminism: Toeing RSS line?"

Murad has criticised the Jamat for its "exclusive concern with purely theological issues totally divorced from the present living social realities". The Jamat is an ideological party and its whole activity is based on Islam. It is not a party created out of any temporary reaction. It believes in the supremacy of Allah and the code given by him through its prophet. It says that all human problems may be solved only if we accept the path of Allah and the Prophet.

The Jamat is quite concerned with the social realities. Those influenced by it are quite active in solving social problems but they are handicapped due to funds.

He has also criticised the Jamat for not bringing any 'meaningful change in Muslim society'. Is it not true that the Jamat could succeed in saving Muslim youth from communism, nationalism, secularism and such other isms? Did it not succeed in

educating the Muslims to work for the welfare of the humanity and not only for Muslims?

Dalit nationalism dangerous: Murad may think that the real "disease" of the society is "brahminical hegemony". But the reality is otherwise. He wants to fight brahminical forces through Dalit nationalism which is also poisonous.

The Jamat opinion on the evil of nationalism is quite popular. Those desiring to fight nationalism can do so by joining the forces Islam. Islam is the only hope for SC/ST/BCs. Muslims and women.

As for alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party, it is also advocating Dalit nationalism and creating hatred against the Brahmins.

Don't want reservation: The basic problem of Muslims is not representation in services, riot-free society, seat reservation in Assembly or Parliament, Urdu language or minority character of Aligarh Muslim University. Their basic problem is the establishment of sovereignty of Allah and a

society based on Islam.

On the other hand, the basic problem of the SC/ST/BCs is said to be reservation in services and legislature and stopping discrimination by the upper castes. That means if the upper castes accept all their demands, they will join the Hindu society but the problems of Muslims shall remain at the same place. In such circumstance, what will be the position of the Muslim *millat*?

Kanshi Ram demand: Once the Indian Union Muslim League had talks with Kanshi Ram at Lucknow for an alliance. I am told by Suleman, chairman of the IUML, UP, that Ram refused to accept any alliance. He wanted the IUML to merge with BSP. What is the difference in the demand of BSP and BJP? Both want the Muslims to stop stressing their separate identity.

Murad quoted a passage of Moulana Maududi from Rafiq Zakariah's book, *The Struggle within Islam*. The passage reads as "I have no objection if the Muslims in India are treated like Sudras and Mlecchas and Manu's laws are applied to them depriving them of all share in govt. and rights as citizens".

Murad must quote this reference from the book of Moulana Maududi. If he reads that book, he will change the idea. In fact, the passage is quoted out of context. ■

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Moulana Moududi started the Jamate-Islami and tried his utmost to liberate Islam from alien influences. He gave a call to Muslims to get out of the so-called spiritual and fanciful world where they have been kept beleaguered. His efforts are gradually succeeding. ■

Dravida Kazhagam decides to fight out brahminism

A CORRESPONDENT

Salem: The two-day state conference of the cadre-based black shirt Dravida Kazhagam held on Feb.15/16 was a big success and speeches of the DK chief, K. Veeramani, and the resolutions passed clearly indicate that Veeramani has taken serious notice of the criticisms voiced in *Dalit Voice* and has decided to uphold DV suggestions and more so its famous editorial "Aryan fate will be decided on Tamil soil: Dravidians facing do or die battle", DV, Oct. 1, 91).

If we go by the speeches made here, it will be now a no-holds-barred war against the Bangalore *papatti* and her brahminism, which has been identified by Veeramani as the principal contradiction.

Apart from DV, Veeramani had also faced criticisms from the DK cadres for not fighting the Bangalore *papatti*. Stung by such criticisms, the ailing Veeramani has decided to fight out the Aryan/Hindu nazis and save India from disintegration and destruction. He has also identified brahminism for the ills of our country. This is a right beginning and every one who loves India's integrity and unity must join

Dravidar Kazhagam and fight against the brahminical forces.

Cut-throat Karunanidhi: What the cut-throat Karunanidhi will do? Is it true that he had declared if defeated in the elections he would follow Periyar and if voted to power he would follow the path of Anna? We do not know what path he would follow now.

The Hindu Front (Hindu Munnani) is after the blood of Veeramani. In case the Muslims/Christians/SC/ST/BCs of Tamil Nadu come together, the Dravidian experiment would lead to Indian revolution. Will these vast majority of Indian races of Tamil Nadu think and act?

Veeramani also warned the Hindu nazis that if they try to make India a Hindu rashtra, then Tamil Nadu would be cut off and would become a separate State. However, he would not like TN going away from India. We know how much we are suffering now because of the partition of India and we do not know what will happen if Punjab and Kashmir also go out of India. This is not in our interest. We will not allow any further partition of our homeland. ■

DV proves right on Rajiv murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Who killed Rajiv Gandhi? No answer is available. And you can take it from us the answer will never come. The truth will never be known. Though it is over nine months since Rajiv Gandhi was killed (May 1991), the much-publicised police investigation has not made any headway, though they have spent millions of rupees and killed scores of people. The police have even made a case that Elam Tigers have killed Rajiv Gandhi but no evidence is given. However, the theory that Elam Tigers have killed Rajiv helped the brahminical forces in the Tamil Nadu to crush Tamil national spirit and hoist the tyrannical Bangalore *papatti* as the ruler to bulldoze the Dravidians. As almost all the alleged killers and their alleged accomplices are dead, there is no chance of any truth coming out. And as days pass, it is getting increasingly certain that the police are not probing the assassination but rather covering up the whole plot in which insiders are involved. DV has thus proved right on Rajiv Gandhi murder. (DV edit June 16 1991: "Thoughts on Rajiv Gandhi murder"). ■

Hebrew origin indicates its African connection

K. VIJAYA RAJU, VISSANNAPETA, AP

A serious debate has started in DV on the "controversial word Dalit" (DV Feb.16 p.8). The critics say that it is a word nearer to *daridra*, *heena* or Untouchable, and so we must give up this word. The word Dalit derived from *Dal*, a Hebrew word, indicates "broken people". (DV March 1 p.6). It is referred to in the book, *DALIT - The Black Untouchables of India*, by V.T. Rajshekar published by a noted US Black leader.

It was Rev. Azariah, our venerable Black Bishop of CSI, Madras, who made a research into the word "Dalit" and his findings had appeared in DV long back. There was a debate on this subject in DV even 10 years ago. After a serious thought and wide consultation, the Editor of DV selected this name to our journal and *Dalit Voice* instantly became popular, linked up all Blacks and Dalits in the whole world and built a powerful network during the past 10 years of struggle. Now, again the same debate has started, thanks to Sao. N.K. Sharma had already said (DV. Jan. 1 p.7) that we are all Nagas and wanted us to give up this "dirty word Dalit". He quoted Babasaheb to support his argument.

Dalits were Nagas: There is no controversy as regards our origin: we were Nagas and continue to be Nagas. Babasaheb himself had made this clear. But why Babasaheb did not prefer the word "Naga" to his movement of Untouchables? Did not Babasaheb know better than us? Why Babasaheb preferred only "Untouchables"?

Because, it was a technical necessity. Babasaheb took a word which was there in common useage so that it was easily understood and also appeared dignified. It conveyed the most apt description of the plight of Untouchables.

But the word "Naga" smells of racism but not so "Buddhism". So, Babasaheb preferred the technical term and called us Untouchables and showed us the only Buddhist path to get rid of untouchability.

In the same way, the word "Dalit" is used as a technical term as it is the only alternative word at present to describe the plight and persecution of Dalits.

Black Panthers: The whites are haunted by the colour of the Blacks. Nothing else. So, the US Blacks wanted to frighten the whites by using the same word, "Black", and began calling themselves Blacks. A suffix to their name, "Panthers", worked wonders. Then emerged the "Black Panthers Movement" in US.

"Dalit" is the 100% correct word for Blacks. So, our

own Dalit sisters and brothers of Maharashtra picked up this from US and coined "Dalit Panthers" which ignited the whole of India. All organisations born after the Dalit Pantehrs movement copied this electrifying name. Dalit Sahitya Academy and *Dalit Voice*, gave international status and recognition to this word.

The "Dalit" word is not the invention of our Editor. He just honoured the wishes and aspirations of Dalits. So DV emerged as a bolt from the blue. And the word "Dalit" was popularised worldwide.

Black-Dalit alliance: This again inspired the Blacks and they forged the Black-Dalit alliance in US. And the Yogesh Varhade and Dr. Velu Annamalai, Runoko Rashidi team-up resulted in the birth of International Dalit Support Group in US. "Dalit" made history in US.

Libyan recognition: The Libyan Mathaba Conference recognised Dalits. Our Editor met Col. Gadafi as India's Dalit representative. Now, efforts are being made by the Mathaba for a worldwide support to Dalits. (John Trimble, DV Dec. 16 91 p.9). These are all the miracles of "Dalit".

So, let us not give up this word in a huff. It is a dignified word. It is a dare-devil word. It strikes terror in our enemy hearts. The "Hindu mind" will not change even if we give up this word. It is the exact word for us. It helps us to reconstruct our history. It persuades us to search for our roots. *Let this word play its role till the Nagas assert their identity.*

Varhade work: Let us not discourage our great hero, Brother Yogesh Varhade of Canada, who did a great, nay historic, job at great personal risk. He is a committed Dalit. Dalits gained world attention with the same word and because of *Dalit* Varhade.

So, there is nothing wrong, nothing below our dignity in keeping this word. Even the Sanskrit dictionary of sir Monier Williams does not give such a meaning to Dalit. Then why do you look into the dirty minds of Hindus and look down upon the dignified Dalits? ■

Papans set to swallow Madras Christian College

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Madras: The *papan* state terrorism in Tamil Nadu has struck the Christian College as predicted in these columns. (DV Dec. 16 p.8 : "TN *papan* state terrorism set to swallow Madras Christian College"). As a first step, the Bangalore *papatti* has managed to close

down the college. It happened on Feb.4 when the State govt. deliberately withdrew the police protection given to the college.

A handful of sacked teachers stormed the campus on Feb.3, disrupted the classes and assaulted the teachers and this forced the principal to suspend the classes the next day. The dismissed teachers had the support of the *papan*-dominated Association of University Teachers, although an overwhelming

number of teachers and students were with the management. Only 25 of the 186 faculty members supported the sacked teachers.

Since what the *papans* do is right and none can question it, even a minority (Christian) institution like the 154-year-old Madras Christian College can be simply swallowed – Constitution or no Constitution. That is the end of this story.

Ramakrishna helped brahminism: Harichand liberated Dalits

D.B. THAKUR, PRESIDENT, HARICHAND MISSION, A/35, RABINDRA PALLI, CALCUTTA -86

Sami Vivekananda was a noted Hindu monk. The Ramakrishna Mission became famous only because of him. In fact, Hinduism received world recognition because of him. But the Brahmins not only did not recognise him but hated him. Brahmins never even saluted him or his portrait because he was a Kayasth (sudra). Had he been a Brahmin, they would have hailed him an *avatar*.

Vivekananda's guru, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, was a Brahmin. Except his birth he had no other qualification. He was a mediocre. Ramakrishna and his Mission became famous only because of Vivekananda. Brahmins used Vivekananda, exploited him but never recognised him.

The original name of Ramakrishna was Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya. To establish him as an *avatar* his Brahmin followers gave him the combined name of Rama and Krishna (*avatar*).

Dakshineswar temple: Ramakrishna supported and praised the caste system and hated the sudras and Untouchables. Rani Rashmani was a big zaminder of Calcutta. She belonged to the Kaibarta (fishermen) community which constructed the famous temple of Kali at Dakshineswar, near Calcutta, where Ramakrishna worked as a paid temple-priest.

Once he went to the house of Rani Rashmani and ate rice which he himself had cooked. But after eating it, he felt polluted. To "purify" himself from eating in the house of an Untouchable, he drank the Ganga water.

Touch-me-not-ism: Mathur Babu was the Rani's son-in-law. Once Mathur Babu's maid servant, Bhagwati, saluted Ramakrishna by touching his feet. At once he prayed to Kali: "O Mother, my feet is paining as if stung by a scorpion. Bring water of pure Ganga to purify my feet." Bhagawati heard this and was shocked. Ramakrishna scolded her for touching him.

Once Ramakrishna was walking beside the Ganga at Dakshineswar. A prostitute came and touched his feet. Immediately he rushed to the Ganga and took bath to "purify" himself.

Kayasths also untouchables: He ordered his Brahmin disciples not to accept rice from Kayasths (Sudras.) Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of W. Bengal, Kayasth. Before his death Ramakrishna was bed-ridden due to throat cancer. The doctor advised him to eat *mistanna* (rice cooked in milk and sugar).

Mistanna was brought by two sudras, Latu and Gopal. Swami Vivekananda was also present. Ramakrishna ordered the sudras out before eating it. Vivekananda took objection to this offensive behaviour and told Ramakrishna: "You are beyond worldly rules and regulations; so, why you are saying so?"

Ramakrishna replied: "My body is of a Brahmin. Our culture cannot be changed.

Matua founder: Harichand Thakur is not regarded as an *avatar* by the Brahmins, founder of the Matua religion of the Namasudras, Bengali Untouchables (DV, May 1, 91, p.20: "Religious revolution of a Bengali community")

Dalits embracing Islam: He was a *namasudra* (Untouchable) from East Bengal, now Bangladesh. He was born in 1812 when thousands of Untouchables of East Bengal were embracing Islam and Christianity to escape from brahminical tyranny. But for him Untouchables and other "Hindus" of East Bengal would have been converted wholesale. Harichand saved the Untouchables from conversion. He founded a new religion named Mutua.

Namasudras not Hindus : Matua religion is not Hindu religion and not even a branch of it. It is an independent, separate religion like Buddhism and Sikhism. It is humanism.

He was dead against brahminism. Babasaheb Ambedkar was not aware of this religion because Harichand's Matua religion lacked adequate publicity. In spite of all this it has half a crore followers in India and 60 lakhs in Bangladesh. Ramakrishna was born in 1836. Harichand in 1812. So, both were contemporaries preaching religion in Bengal (East and West). Ramakrishna was not the founder of a new religion. He only interpreted brahminism.

Harichand was the founder of a new religion named Matua.

Conversion halted: Ramakrishna's centre was Dakshineswar, near Calcutta. Harichand's centre was Orakandi, a remote village. His only disciple was Lokkabi late Tarak Chandra Sarkar.

Ramakrishna worked for the promotion of brahminism which is full of inhumanism. Harichand promoted humanism, equality and saved Dalits from conversion to other religions.



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