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DALIT VOICE

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The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities Denied Human Rights

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The country is going to dogs : Thus Spake Ambedkar

Thus Spake Ambedkar

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: The hon. Member is right. Mr. Rajagopalachari had long been expressing this fear that this Union will break down.

Hon. Members: No.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: There are plenty of slaves who keep it up.

Shri R.U. Agnibhoj (Madhya Pradesh): Independence is kept by the united people, not by slaves. Therefore this country will have its independence through unity and not through slavery.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: I am very glad to have your assurance.

Shri R.U. Agnibhoj: Thank you.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Now there are plenty of things one can imagine on which the issue may be between the north and the south and if that happens and if the matter is taken to bloody conclusions, well, all the efforts that we have made in order to bring about unity will have been in vain. I therefore suggest that the United Provionces should be cut down into three provinces, Bihar should be cut down into two and Madhya Pradesh also should be cut down into two.

Shri R.U. Agnibhoj: You should have 600 States.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Nothing is lost. It does not affect the linguistic principle at all. They all have the same languague. What does it matter if U.P. is divided into three States. or if Madhya Pradesh is divided into two? I see no difference at all. My friend Mr.Pant, I remember to have read once his statement, had stated that he would have no objection to dividing the U.P. but he has never said a word about it in the course of the debate nor has he voluntarily suggested this self-sacrifice on his part. But I give a warning, I know the house is not going to listen to me, but it is my duty to say what I feel. With regard to Marathwada, I have very strong feelings and I very vehemently resist the United Maharashtra. I can speak more authoritatively about the Maharashtra than I can speak about other areas. What has been the state of affairs of the United Maharashtra? In Maharashtra I find that only that Marathas from the Satara district or that area are able to capture political offices. The rest of the people are just where they are. I do not understand how a Minister drawn from Satara can have any interest in for instance, the Ratnagiri district. I do not think any Minister has ever visited the Ratnagiri district.

The country is going to dogs

An Hon. Member: So many have.

Dr.B.R. Ambedkar: For the sake of drawing allowances, I think. Not for doing service.

An Hon. Member: Still they have visited

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Areas and areas are completely neglected, what interest has a Maratha from the Satara district in the Ratnagiri district? What interest can a Brahmin for instance from Mahavidarbha have in the Satara district? I do not quite understand this mentality of huddling together. Is it like Bharat, Milap? When Ram came from Lanka, Bharat embraced him. What for-for brotherly love and affection. Nothing more than that. Why not allow such areas to develop their own interests, to pay attention to their own interests? Besides, as my friend Mr. Pant knows-I may be wrong-I suppose he is the last of the veterans. Who will succeed him-can he tell me? Who will succeed him as a Minister? I don't see anybody. Certainly I don't see anybody in the rank and file of the Congress. If any Minister of the towering personality of my friend Mr. Pant has to be looked for, it would have to be someone outside the Congress ranks. I am sure of that.

Shri H.P. Saksena: You for instance.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: I shall die pretty soon. Don't enrol me. This country, by this kind of thing, is going to dogs. Our primary concern is to raise and train politicians so that they can learn to take responsibility upon their own shoulders. We ought not to sit tight on one thing for ever. We ought to allow other people to take responsibility while we are alive so that if they commit any mistake, we may rectify it in time. If you have U.P. divided into three provinces, you will have probably 30 ministers trained in the art of administration, while if you have one, you will have just 10 ministers-nothing more than that. The same thing will happen in Bihar and the same thing will happen in these big provinces. Therefore, in my judgement, there is a great disadvantage to this country in keeping these large provinces as they are. My Friend may perhaps listen to this argument if he does not listen to the other. His argument, if I have heard correctly, is 'Oh! in a country where Ram and Krishna were both born, do not divide it'. That is the argument. I think, he used sometimes. But that is not an argument of a statesman.

(To be continued)

Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings & Speeches, Vol. 15, (pages 968- 970) 1997, Rs. 110. 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 Denied Human Rights

Vajpayee can't begin governing India as long as he doesn't appreciate principle of power-sharing

The name that the DV has given to BJP, *Brahmana Jati Party*, is officially being accepted.

> **New Delhi:** The upper caste MPs of the BJP are putting pressure on the party leadership to replace the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Kalyan Singh. One of the arguments being extended by them is that the party is in danger of losing its upper caste base which seems to be shifting to the Congress. (*Hindu*, Oct.27, 1999).

If BJP is a party of the upper castes (Aryans) then why all these pretensions? Why does it need Kalyan Singh? Aryans alone must protect Aryans. How can a non-Aryan Backward Caste Lodha protect the Aryans who are the enemies of BCs?

The Aryans know they cannot rule India with the votes of their population which comprises not even 15% of the country. They are a micro-minority. That is why they want the SC/ST/BCs. With our votes, the Aryans want to rule India and ride over us. This can no longer be allowed.

Democracy sabotaged: Kalyan Singh revolted after realising this Supreme Truth. And vote- politics has made this Truth known to many. Parliamentary democracy assures one vote for one person. When political equality is assured, it should be accompanied by social and economic equality. The Aryans refused to accept this and sabotaged democracy.

Kalyan Singh as a BC commands majority support. But the micro-minority Aryans want to sabotage democracy. This shall not be allowed. As long as the Aryans refuse to concede social justice our people cannot cooperate with them.

If the Aryan upper castes want to protect their properties and posts, DV has already suggested a golden mean: power-sharing.

(DV Edit Nov.1, 1999: *"Verdict on election: Broken mirror further breaks proving DV right on caste identity"*, DV Edit May 16, 1999: *"None killed BJP Govt. it committed suicide: Coming elections must bury all national parties"*).

Ungovernable country: The principle of power-sharing was discussed in our above two Editorials.

Vaidik Vajpayee could do nothing in his previous term as Prime Minister. He could not get down to the task of governing India. Yes, the ministers could make money but could not start governing.

The same thing will repeat in his current term as PM. He cannot get down to the task of governing. He will not be allowed.

The point is India itself is becoming ungovernable.

This is because India is not a "nation" but a vast sub-continent of several "nations" (caste and communities). The Aryan rulers must first accept this Supreme Truth.

Once this is accepted they will have to get down to the second step: namely power-sharing. No doubt, the conglomeration of 24 alliance parties which the BJP has assembled to stand over its shoulder and form the govt. is itself an indirect admission of this Supreme Truth.

The BJP being a party

DV RATES REVISED

Shifting from Bangalore to Delhi has not only made the life expensive but bringing out DV on time itself a big struggle. Still we did not revise the DV subscription. The last increase was made in November 1997 — over two years ago.

DV is a family. Our members are not like readers of other papers. We suffer together and share our joys and sarrows together. DV is a mission, not a business like other toilet papers.

So, with this issue (Dec.1, 1999) DV annual subscription is raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

And price of individual copy from Rs.7 to Rs. 10.

Overseas subscription, however, stays at 75 US dollars.

DV is posted on the 5th and 20th of every month.

Those who correspond with us **MUST** state their label numbers printed on the address sheet. This is a **MUST** because without this it is not possible to trace the subscriber's address.

— PUBLISHERS

of "Sacred Brahmins" is the first to admit this fact that the "era of coalitions has come to stay". This coalition is a coalition of castes and communities. And each segment ("nation") in this coalition will have to be assured its share in proportion to its population.

The Aryan *vaidiks* who lead this micro-minority Aryan rulers must note that the non-Aryan original inhabitants of India are good-hearted producers of wealth. They are ready to accept the *vaidik* rulership for some more time provided the Aryan rulers accept this Supreme Truth. If they refuse to accept this Supreme Truth, then they should be ready to face the music. Kalyan Singh is saying exactly this.

BJP wants to rule India. That is why it has agreed to remove all its poisonous teeth: Babri Masjid, Muslim Personal Law, scrapping Kashmir autonomy etc. But still it is not prepared to work within the Constitution of India. When it is not ready to abide by the consensus, how can it be allowed to govern? It may be eager to rule India but this eagerness should be accompanied by the realisation of the Supreme Truth. (DV Nov. 1, 1999 p.5: "*Kalyan Singh proves power of caste*").

We are ready to discuss the modalities of working out the arrangement of power-sharing if the rulers show the willingness to admit the Supreme Truth in the interest of India's health and happiness.

Why BJP attracts SC/ST/BCs: Meanwhile, our people may be wondering why BJP, the party of the "Sacred Brahmins", attracts SC/ST/BCs? If BJP is anti-Dalit and pro-upper caste, why then the original inhabitants are rushing to the pure Aryan party?

This is because the BJP knows that without the support of the SC/ST/BCs, who constitute over 65% of India's population, it cannot come to power. So, it resorted to its famous *hindutva* trick of playing upon the social (caste) and religious (anti-Muslim) contradictions.

Congress crushed Dalits: The Congress, the original brahminical party of India, never gave any chance to the SC/ST/BCs to emerge as leaders. Under the Congress even such veterans like Babu Jagjivan Ram, Devaraj Urs, Basavalingappa etc. suffered. No Dalit leader was allowed to come up.

Sangh Priya Gautam, a general secretary of the BJP, joined the BJP because the Congress never gave him a chance to come up but the BJP took him to Rajya Sabha. B.P. Maurya was repeatedly crushed.

46 Dalit MPs: So, all suppressed SC/ST/BC politicians rushed to BJP and became leaders.

> **New Delhi:** The Delhi unit of the BJP Anusuchit Jati Morcha on Oct.27 felicitated the newly-elected party MPs from the SC/STs. All the 46 SC/ST MPs including the Union Ministers, Satya Narayan Jatia, Bangaru Laxman, Munilal, Ram Chauhan, Jual Orao, Babulal Marandi and Phagan Singh Kulaste were present. BJP president Kushabau Thakre, told the meeting that BJP had increased its base among these communities. Of the 182 BJP MPs 46 belonged to SC/ST. (*Hindu* Oct.28, 1999).

Muslim-baiting: Kalyan Singh in UP, Uma Bharati in MP, Waghela in Gujarat could come up only because of the BJP.

All these people may publicly spit fire against Muslims but they are doing so to please the brahminical party leadership. But privately they are building up their "*caste identity*".

Waghela in Gujarat broke the party itself when his actions were challenged. The Congress could win a large number of seats only because of Waghela and not the Congress Party into which he came recently.

Kalyan Singh is about to break the party in UP if he is removed.

Tribal belt going saffron: The entire tribal belt (Jharkhand) in the heart of India is turning saffron because BJP gave free hand to the Tribals and groomed their leadership.

The SC/ST/BCs are crushed, broken people. They want somebody to love them, somebody to recognise them, somebody to understand that they too have the self-respect.

Barking dogs: They are like that innocent street dog which goes to any home that throws a piece of bread. It wags its tail and even licks their hand. But the moment you shout at it and throw a stone it will stop coming to your house.

BJP in its mad quest for power might have deceived these innocent, good-hearted SC/ST/BCs and groomed them as barking and biting dogs. No doubt, the "Sacred Brahmins" have instigated these innocent people to demolish Babri Masjid, kill an Australian missionary, Staines, in Orissa. Yes, they did all this. Our

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people did bark and bite Muslims and Christians but at only at the instigation of Hindu nazis. By themselves, they hate none. How can they hate Muslims and Christians who are blood brothers?

SC/ST/BCs don't hate Muslims or Christians. They did it because they got a chance to come up in BJP. Kalyan Singh or Vaghela had not even a ghost of chance to come up in upper caste-dominated UP and Gujarat.

The BJP having come to power twice with the help of SC/ST/BCs should now graduate into a higher class by devising steps to retain the love and affection of these innocent SC/ST/BCs.

Identity, not *hindutva:* The BJP may think they have *hinduised* the SC/ST/BCs. No. To the SC/ST/BCs their *identity* is more important than Hinduism. The BJP brand of Hinduism has offered them a safe platform to build their respective "*jati identity*". This is the secret of the saffron surge.

Not one SC/ST/BC *jati* will give up its identity. The moment the BJP tries to destroy the identity and ride rough shod over them there will be wholesale revolt. Waghela did it and Kalyan Singh is doing it. Uma Bharati is clear about it.

How then BJP can build "Hindu unity" when *jati* and tribal **identity** are getting strengthened? Did we not say: "Strengthen every *jati*, brahminism will wither away?" (DV Edit Dec.16, 1993).

BJP dilemma: The BJP is facing this serious dilemma today. While it was under the mistaken impression that "Hindu unity" was growing and the brahminical leadership was getting stronger under BJP the situation was the exact opposite.

The different castes and subcastes were getting strengthened in the guise of "Hindu unity". And this illusive "Hindu unity" will not help the *vaidiks* to retain their leadership once the individual identities are strengthened. Kalyan Singh has made this point loud and clear.

Vajpayee and his *vaidik* coterie are thoroughly mistaken if they think that the *vaidiks* are on the upward swing. No.

The SC/ST/BCs are flocking to BJP to strengthen their "identity" and not the *hindutva*. A caste or tribe will never, ever give up its **identity**.

The *vaidiks* can no doubt rule India for some more time if they realise this fact and allow our people to strengthen their identity.

How to govern India: And once the **identity** of each and every caste and tribe is strengthened Hinduism will be automatically dead. The *vaidiks* know it and that is why they are desperately resorting to all sorts of tricks including seeking of foreign support to impose their *vaidik* dictatorship by giving it a sweet sounding spiritual name.

Such tricks cannot last long because the rush to strengthen **identity** is getting intensified day by day.

That is why we are putting forward the power-sharing formula in the interest of the country's health and happiness.

BJP has come to power and Vajpayee is re-elected PM. But that is not the end of the road. BJP must start governing India. Are they interested in governing India and assuring its health and happiness? Then they will have to listen to us. ■

Karnataka example: caste replaces parties

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Political parties are gradually dying. Caste is taking over its place. Because the oppressed people have realised that the Aryan upper castes became strong and rulers by strengthening their castes. Not only that. After becoming rulers, they have been using their "national" political parties to deceive the oppressed *jatis* and destroy their **identity**.

So, the deprived *jatis* (SC/ST/BCs) have started realising that they can protect themselves only by strengthening their *jati*.

At last the realisation has come that if a deprived section wants justice, it is possible only by strengthening its *jati*.

The Karnataka Govt. headed by a Vokkaliga (S.M. Krishna) remembered this point while forming the ministry.

> The caste composition of the ministry is: Lingayats 8, Vokkaligas 6 (including chief Minister), Brahmins 2, Scheduled Castes 7, Scheduled Tribes 1, Muslims 5, Christian 1, Bunt 1, Kodava 1, Reddy Vokkaliga 1, Maratha 1 and other Backward Classes 8.

The SC/ST/BCs are under-represented in his ministry. All the more, the realisation that one's caste alone can assure protection to a person is a great march forward. ■

How long DV can run as a one-man show ?

V.T. RAJSHEKAR

*The health of **Dalit Voice** also reflects the health of India. Both are weak. Nay. Struggling to exist.*

Everybody knows that India is just existing, not living. It neither commands respect abroad nor assures the health and happiness of its people.

But that is not the case with the DV. It may be weak and struggling to exist but it commands respect overseas and has earned the love of its readers and well-wishers at home.

But can a journal sustain on mere love and best wishes? This is the question we are confronted with as DV completes 18 years of publication and steps into the 19th. Actually DV is 20 as for one long year we had been publishing DV for "private circulation only" before we received the RNI official nod.

***Double celebration:** This year we have two events to celebrate. No.1, DV is entering the 19th year of publication. No.2, it is also the anniversary of **"DV's second long jump from Bangalore to Delhi"**. (DV Nov.1, 1998 p.5). The actual date of our arrival in Delhi was Oct.6, 1998 and the first issue from Delhi was dated Nov.1, 1998 (Vol. 17 No.23).*

It may be a double celebration but we have nothing to celebrate. Actually it is a daily struggle, endless struggle. Delhi is a difficult city - not like Bangalore where we can get things done easy and with efficiency. Here it is delay, inefficiency, expensive and fight at every stage.

Readers from all parts of India and even outside daily come to us to unburden their problems. We listen to them and wherever possible try to solve them, apart from giving publicity to their problems. But to whom shall we tell our problems? There is none in this world.

If we go on listing our difficulties we can fill the whole DV. But we never tell it to others. We silently weep. And after "converting our blood into sweat", to repeat what we said once in DV, we get only abuses and curses. That too from those who have been having long association with us.

***"Media Center":** We came to Delhi hoping to launch a "Media Centre" of our own. All the words in our vocabulary are exhausted. So we have stopped talking about it. If the suffering, persecuted nationalities are not interested in saving themselves from slavery, what can we do?*

The ideas that we produced in DV are read from cover to cover and digested word by word by the Enemy which is so vigilant, watchful, alert.

***Muslim failure:** But our people for whose benefit these ideas are produced are not interested in it. First of all they have no access to our ideas. And then those who have read DV, forget and sleep. What a tragedy.*

The Enemy oppressor immensely benefits from our ideas but our people have either not heard of our ideas or having heard they are callous about it. What a tragedy. The tragedy of DV is also the tragedy of India.

The "religious minorities" (Muslim/ Christian/Sikh) because of their revolutionary religion are an awakened people. We thought at least they would make use of us. Even they have failed because the elites among them have gone with their Aryan blood relations. The rest of the "minorities" are like the Dalits — neither living nor dead.

As the DV enters the 19th year, this is our actual state of affairs. The health of DV reflects the health of India.

***Hope in masses:** But we have immense faith and hope in the masses of India — SC/ST/BCs and Muslim/Christian/Sikhs. It is they who broke this already **"Broken mirror"** (DV Edit Nov.1, 1999: **"Verdict on election: Broken mirror further breaks proving DV right on caste identity"**). They may not read DV but they get the ideas of DV, quickly grasp it and turn ideas into action.*

***Getting tired:** We are extremely over-worked, feeling tired, the back broken. It is physically impossible for us to carry so much of burden. It is only the intoxicating mission of Babasaheb that is making us run and run. It is our duty. And it is this commitment that keeps us running.*

And if the hearts of our family members do not melt and the objective of our shifting to Delhi is not fulfilled, what is the point in continuing this thankless job?

Babasaheb also wept at the fag end of his life for having been let down by the "educated" sections of his community. We have to weep even earlier.

You can take it from us that a majority of the existing English dailies and periodicals will die soon. DV is the journal of the future. But our people cannot understand even this simple fact.

Nobody has kept a journal of the oppressed running so long and that too producing such visible results. Our family members do admit this fact. Praising us in plenty. Intentions may be good. But mere good intentions are not enough to produce a live-wire journal like DV. How long can it run as a one-man show?

Aryans rejoice as Bahujans die in lakhs in Orissa

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: What happened to the much-advertised Hindu kindness, compassion, non-violence, tolerence when cyclone devastated the coastal Orissa and killed thousands if not lakhs of people? Did the Aryan upper castes rush to Orissa and exhibit their kindness? A decade back or so a similar tragedy struck coastal Andhra Pradesh. Except Mother Teresa's Christian women none went there. Hindu organisations are there in plenty, one richer than other. But they did not go for two reasons: (1) The Hindu belief in *karma* says people die because they are destined to die. Nobody can save them. (2) The other reason for their hesitation is they don't know the *jati* of the dead bodies. How to touch the body?

Population reduced: Under Hinduism, charity goes with *jati*. It begins with their *jati* and ends with their *jati*. The people who died in Orissa do not belong to the Aryan *savarna jatis*. There is one more point. The upper castes say that in an over-populated country like India such calamities are welcome to reduce the population. Because of all these reasons the Hindu heart did not melt, the milk of kindness did not pour out on the Orissa tragedy. That is why we say India is not a "nation". In a "nation" people suffer together. Here there is no co-suffering. What happened to the pot-bellied Puri Pujaris? The Puri temple is on the east coast. Did Jagannath spare them? The reason for the total collousness is the people who died are all our people — not Aryans.

What happened to our high profile NGOs? Where have they all gone? The Medha Patkars? The Menaks? We have the experience of Andhra cyclone and the Latur earthquake. Neither the govt. nor the NGOs, nor the Hindu Good Samaritans bothered about these tragedies. Orissa is no exception.

Rather, you will find the Hindu vultures eating off the funds given by the govt. and foreign donors. These people are good at eating.

Till the time of writing this (Nov.6, 1999) even the dead bodies are not cleared, not to speak of relief operations. On the other hand, Aryans are busy preparing for the Diwali festival. They love fun, feasting. Orissa is forgotten. ■

CAN DALITS THINK ?

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Yesterday:

The "others" thought that we Dalits cannot think. Our past has been unkined to us, the present lukewarm and the future? The creamy part of the society eluded our presence to that extent that even the ugliest faces turned their back towards us. Much worse, the rewards we got from the past is remarkable - the self-incurred inferiority complex. We were like the early Christian Catechumens, hidden underground yet zealous to be Christians. The human dignity meant Greek to us. Our faces tasted the mud of the society.

Can Dalits think? Most of our forefathers failed to even ask this question. They were not to blame. The bitter past accounts for the failure. Many of us did "think", rather this way, "may be it is a social crime to be Dalits". that was yesterday.

Today?

*Down fell the Brahman's statue. The manuscript of Manu flew to the world of fantasy. We can think now. "To hell with misery when we are miserable together", we repeat the old Indian saying and say to our co-Dalits, "come on, let us come up in life". However, besides economic facilities that we look for, social recognition and ultimately self-acceptance that we strive for, there is one more thing lacking in us, the aspect of **thinking**. Thinking to challenge those who thought that we thought not.*

What do I mean by "Think"?

*Why? Has been the mental inquiry of those whom we label as great leaders of Dalits today. They are illumining our status thrqugh their **magnum opus** because they began to think the whats and whys of our status. Thinking illumines our mind, which ultimately holds our hands and leads us ahead.*

*Why suffering? Was the beginning of Budha's thinking. Why sin and salvation? Was the beginning of Jesus. **Why**? Again remained the question of Dr. Ambedkar. The sole purpose of the magazines and write-ups and the books by our people like **Dalit Voice** etc. is nothing but a key to open our **think** home. Yes. We can think. Think far better than those who thought that we think not.*

***Thinking** is the mother of opportunities, fiancee of dreams, lap of tomorrow's child, etc. Therefore, it must be the target for the mental darts of Dalits.*

Brahminical sabotage of Sikh history: Guru Nanak called Khatri

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While writing his historic book, *Buddha & His Dhamma*, Dr. Ambedkar had gone through the Budhist literature and found many things inconsistent which were against the original thoughts of Budha. So, he warned his Budhist followers:

> "One has therefore to be very careful in accepting what is said in Budhist canonical literature as being the word of Buddha. There is however one test which is available. If there is any thing which could be said with confidence it is: He was nothing if not rational, if not logical. Anything therefore which is rational and logical, other things being equal may be taken to be the word of Buddha". (*Buddha & His Dhamma* p. 254-55).

The same yardstick is applicable to Guru Nanak also. Anything which is not rational and logical cannot be accepted as the thoughts of Guru Nanak.

Failure of intellectuals: Guru Nanak rejected the Vedas, Smritis, rituals, customs, the social system of graded inequality, sacred thread, gods, even the Sanskrit, the language of Brahmins.

Still Guru Nanak is being described as:

> 1. A Khatri or Kshatri, 2. He had caste considerations, 3. brahminical symbol: "*ekam or ek onkar*", has been made part of Sikhism, 4. Ram repeatedly found in Sikh literature.

No Sikh intellectual had dared to think and separate these brahminical elements from the Sikh history as did by Babasaheb in the *Buddha & His Dhamma*.

Unless these charges against Guru Nanak are refuted it will be very difficult to separate Sikhism from Hinduism. Sikhism is not only not Hindu but against Hindus. Hence it is separate and must be protected at any cost from Hindu nazi sabotage.

Nanak was Teli: (1) In spite of complete rejection of brahminism, Guru Nanak is being depicted as a Khatri by Hindu and Sikh historians. But he was not a Hindu (Aryan) Khatri or Kshatri but a non-Aryan indigenous personality. This is not hypothetical but based on historical evidences. They are:

> (i) As per Hindu literature, Brahmin leader Parasuram exterminated all Kshatriyas from "this earth". (ii) The other Kshatriyas, so-called Rajputs, were created by performing *hom* of fire on Mount Abu, as said by Guru Gobind Singh. Most of the historians also believe that Rajputs are the descendants of Kshatriyas. Guru Nanak was not the son of foreigners, created by *hom* of fire. (iii) No Brahmin or Kshatriya ever opposed the Aryans from the beginning till date. A Brahmin and a Kshatriya can tolerate anything but they cannot tolerate social equality. Guru Nanak laid the foundation of his religion on liberty, equality and fraternity. (iv) According to Manu, the name of a Brahmin should be a symbol of happiness (Sharma), Kshatriya name should be a symbol of authority (Raja), Vaishya name should be denoted by Gupta (gifts) and Sudras name should be a symbol of Das (slavery). When we go through the names of Sikh Gurus we find their names as Amar Das, Ram Das, Govind Das. The word "Das" is also the ethnic **identity** of indigenous people whom the Brahmins called "Sudra". So, Nanak was not Aryan.
>
> **(v) Bala and Mardana were the close associates of Guru Nanak. *Janam Sakhi* written by Bala shows that Guru Nanak was a "Teli" by caste. Teli caste does not fall under the Kshatriya.**

These evidences clearly prove that Guru Nanak was not Aryan (Kshatriya) but a Dravidian.

Was Guru Nanak a casteist: (2) This is another serious allegation levelled against the Guru.

"The German traveller, Baran Hugel, writing three hundred years later says that Sikh worship one god, abhor images and reject caste at least in theory. Nanak married a Khatri girl and chosen a Khatri as his successor". Such an allegation against Guru Nanak is not correct. The reality is something different:

> "Guru Nanak had two sons, Laxman Das and Srichand. He also had two faithful disciples, Lehna (depicted as Kshatriya) and Buddha (a Jat). Lehna was 2 1/2 years senior to Budha. Lehna was neither a relative of Guru Nanak nor a member of his family. If Nanak had a caste consideration in his mind, he would have appointed his son as his successor. He appointed Lehna as his successor not due to caste consideration but he kept his seniority in consideration."

Brahma marries daughter: *Ekom* or *ek onkar* is a brahminical term. *Om* really stands for Brahmin. The Brahmin is Brahma, the so-called creator of universe as per the Hindu philosophy. This Brahma is a blot on all other Hindu gods because he married his own daughter Sarswati.

The god of Guru Nanak was not *ekom* or *ek onkar* but we find this name in Sikh literature as a part of Sikh history.

> "The *Hukam Nama* of Guru Govind Singh addressed to Sangat Banur (Near Rajpura, Punjab, in 1698), published in the *Sikh Review* Jan.1973, p.17-26

given in Sikh history of Hari Ram Gupta p.345 also starts with *ek om* or *ek onkar*."

Ram in Sikhism: This *Hukam Nama* is inconsistent with the philosophy of Guru Nanak. The god of Guru Nanak was not *ekom* or *ek onkar*. It was *Akal Purukh, Ajuni, Satnam* etc. He cannot be represented as Brahma, Ram or Krishna. A Hindu god always takes birth to protect the Brahmins, cow and devtas. But the god of Guru Nanak is not. It is *Ajuni*.

Therefore, I request Sikh intellectuals to think and review *ekom or ek onkar*. It may be a misinterpretation because the *Guru Granth* script was not developed at the time of Guru Nanak. It was created by Guru Angad, which he taught to Buddha, through whom it was passed to masses or *sangat*.

Ram was a Hindu god. But we find Ram repeatedly in Sikhism. When Guru Nanak completely rejected the Brahmins and their gods, then how the Ram secured a place in Sikhism? Hindu historians argue that the Ram of Guru Nanak is different from the Ram of the Hindu. In spite of clear direction by Guru Nanak that *Akal Purukh* cannot be represented as Ram or Krishna, Ragi's of gurdwaras take the name of Ram repeatedly.

Sikhism is a separate religion but this Ram interpolated into is the mischief of upper caste converts into Sikhism. This clearly proves the Aryan sabotage of Sikh history.

I therefore, request honest Sikh intellectuals to think about such mischiefs and separate these elements from Sikh history and save Sikhism from being swallowed by brahminism. ■

Sikh *Pandas* threatening DV Editor

AJIT JUJJHAR, JORAVAR & FATEH OF ANANDPUR SAHIB - 140 118

This refers to DV Sept.16, 1999 p.6: "*The cry of a Sikh youth for human rights*", by Sarbajit Singh and Mithbain Singh from Jammu. Both should know that less than 15% Aryans (Hindus) are sincere to their scriptures which do not sanction equality, liberty and fraternity to non-*Vaidiks*, specially the over 85% non-Hindus (SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians/Sikhs). The Sikhs are today neither a political nor a military power. They played into the hands of Aryans. The Sikh leadership has not learnt any lesson from the past events. But, on the other hand, the leadership got totally brahminised, co-opted and corrupted. A few vital aspects of Sikh literature were distorted out of shape. The "Spirit of Sikhism" got buried within less than 300 years (1699 AD to 1972 AD). However, the religion of Sikhism **exists** like Budhism, Jainism etc. Such anti-Guru Sikh *Pandas* have become parasites responsible for "Blue Star Operation" and the Sikh massacre in Delhi in Oct-Nov. 1984. The blunders committed in military, political fields before and after 1947 are being camouflaged by putting the blame upon Nirankaris, Kookas/Namadharies, Jatt/Jats, Dalit etc. In fact, this Sikh leadership is anti-human and anti-Guru Gobind Singh itself. Whereas, our Editor is spreading the mission of the 10th master very correctly and honestly. Instead of honouring him, these Sikh *pandas* like Principal Gurdial Singh (DV Oct.1, 1999 p.7) are threatening him. Sardar Mithbain Singh is appreciated for helping our Editor in the publication of *Dalit Voice* in Punjabi/Gurumukhi script. ■

Nazi hate philosophy forced Pandits to migrate from Kashmir

SHOUKAT HUSSAIN, RAM BAGH BELA, SRINAGAR - 190 015

A day before *Shivratri*, I boarded Malva Express at Jammu railway station. After few minutes a Kashmiri Pandit (Brahmin) youth with his sister and her two kids entered my compartment. The youth was going to Delhi to drop his sister there and wanted to rush to celebrate *Shivratri*, a Hindu festival, at his home next day in Jammu. He came straight to me confirming that I was a Kashmiri Muslim. He asked two other passengers to exchange their seats so that he and his sister could sit with me. They came and occupied the seats next to me. After sitting for a while the Pandit youth stepped out of the train and told me that since I was there to accompany his sister he need not travel with her. I was a total stranger. Still he trusted me merely because I was a Kashmiri Muslim. He did not trust any other passenger in the compartment although all of them happened to be Hindus.

This is not the only instance of trust that a Kashmiri Pandit reposes in a Kashmiri Muslim. Every day we come across many such instances

in which a Kashmiri Pandit is found to be more confident in the company of Kashmiri Muslim than his co-religionists from India.

Hindu nazis divided humans: But all this is experienced in the individual behaviour of Kashmiri Pandits. In such cases they act on the basis of dictates of their conscience and their experience.

But collectively they behave exactly the opposite guided by the dictates of late Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, a former Hindu nazi leader. It was he who asked them to shed their dress, replace *pheron* with *sari* and teach their children Hindi instead of Urdu. This made them aliens within their own land and created a gap between them and their neighbours. Kashmiri Pandit women no more resemble *Himal* and *Arnimal.*(legendary Kashmiri Pandit women).

Pandit Prem Nath Bazaz, the only genius among them and a person ahead of his times, did ask his *jati* people not to follow such a disastrous path. There was no one to heed his sane advice. Kashmiri Pandits conspired against their own leader and he was expelled from the state by Sheikh Abdullah. The Kashmiri Pandits got further alienated because of land reforms.

UP Muslims lose lands: In Kashmir, land was exclusively with the Pandits just as it was with Muslims in UP. The 20th century experienced a process of social churning which tore apart the hegemony of some elite classes. Both Kashmiri Pandits and Muslim zamindars of UP lost their lands. Instead of reconciling with the realities, they tried to block the march of history. The Muslim zamindars of UP migrated to Pakistan. Moulana Azad like Prem Nath Bazaz persuaded his community not to follow this path. No one responded.

The Kashmiri Pandits like the UP zamindars were not ready to digest the elevation of those whom they exploited for centuries. They were also under the illusion that their distant co-religionists would provide them an alternative green pasture for exploitation. They too used the tool of religion against a societal change and after failing in this pursuit, resorted to migration.

The present turbulence was not the beginning and the end of Kashmiri Pandit problem. Right from 1947 they have been migrating to various Indian states. Pamposh Colony of Delhi and Subash Nagar of Jammu came into existence long before the eruption of the ongoing militancy. The migration of the 90s was the climax of this process. It was a quest for greener pastures on the part of the former landlords of Kashmir.

The Kashmiri Brahmins did not digest emergence of Muslim middle class and were not ready to rub shoulders with those whom they have been taking for a ride for centuries. The ongoing turbulence provided them only with a pretext to migrate en masse.

Some of the Pandits no doubt became victims of the militancy in its early phase but they were not the only ones to suffer. Muslims also suffered a lot and continue to get killed in scores even now. But they did not resort to mass migration. Even Dogra shopkeepers and employees continue to live peacefully in the valley. Same is the case with Hindu labourers from Bihar.

Other groups of Hindus do not have the type of problems suffered by Pandits. Dogras, for example, being by and large an exploited group too benefited from the socio-economic changes of the past 50 years. They don't harbour notions of being a privileged group unlike the Pandits. It was easy for them to adjust with the realities of this area.

Mohajirs of Pakistan: Days have gone when some classes could claim monopoly over high positions. Elites of yester-years are facing the competition in every part of the world. The Pandits and Muslim zamindars of UP on account of peculiar complexion of their societies tried to give a religious colour to this social transformation. Both these groups belonged to exploiting classes while those whom they exploited belonged to a different religious group. It was easy for them to portray economic reforms carried out against their interests as an agenda of communalism. After failing to do it both these groups migrated in search of greener pastures.

Mohajirs of Pakistan are facing the music of their blunder. They are being made to come to terms with the realities of this era in their dreamland Pakistan. The Pandits, I am sure, will be made to reconcile with the forces of history in their dreamland Hindustan.

Loss of identity: Mohajirs being a large ethnic group having sizable presence on both sides of the border could maintain their identity and existence irrespective of this situation.

The Pandits are numerically an insignificant group. They are crazy about opting alien life styles. This will lead them nowhere except to their extinction as a community.

Every culture and **identity** needs an environment for its survival. For the existence of the Kashmiri Pandit **identity** it is only the Kashmiri Muslim society which can provide such an environment. Economic benefits and doles (*mund fund* in Kashmiri) are not going to help them. They may continue the traits of parasitic lifestyle to which exploiting communities usually get addicted to but cannot guarantee the community's survival. I often feel sorry for this state of affairs but what others can do when the community itself has chosen the path of suicide? ■

DV April 16, 1998 p11: "*A Dalit answers why only Kashmiri Pandits are targetted*", Naresh Bhagat. ■

Muslim masses deceived from fighting Dalit oppression

VINOD AHMED, BOOK ROOM, OPP. M.I.T., MANIPAL, UDIPI DT., KARNATAKA - 576 119

This refers to DV Edit of Oct.1, 1999: "*Islam will turn revolutionary with Dalit-Muslim unity: Backward Muslims forced to demand separate quota*".

As *Dalit Voice* rightly puts it, Islam is the world's most revolutionary religion. The very pivot of Islam, *La Ilaha Hi Allah,* is a revolutionary proclamation which first rejects all lords and patrons in the society, emphasizing the destruction of all idols which comes in the name of power, caste, class, economy or even religious hierarchy.

Unfortunately it is this very foundation of Islam, which has been destroyed by the elite in the garb of interpretation and their volumes of books on islamology.

But the root of the mischief lies somewhere else. There have been three mischief's which played their way into the history of Islam: *Bahaism, Qadiyanism* and finally the biggest mischief which came in the name of monotheism but totally destroyed Islam from within, that is *wahabism.*

Wahabism is not the name of any organization or a discipline. It is a virus. The extent of the influence of *wahabism* on any organization or the group can be measured by the damage done by this viral infection. The symptom of this disease can be diagnosed by finding out the following:

1. Does the person/organisation have contacts with common man?
2. Does his Islamic ideology restrict him to just prayers, rituals, and building huge mosques.
3. Does he confine his false gods to only idol worship and *dargas*?
4. Does his discussion always lead him to unimportant things like beard, cap, length of his pants etc.
5. How much averse is he to the words like *jihad, hijra*?

Wahabism, hence, is always with the rulers, rich, educated and comfort-loving Muslim.

Politics is removed from Islam. *Jihad* which actually means liberation, revolution, and fighting against oppressors in all communities, now in *wahabi* terminology only means fighting against fellow Muslims.

Sacrifice is now reduced to occasional contribution to the mosque in the name of *zakat* and attending weekly *istemaas.*

Sufism brought Islam to India: Sufism, which brought Islam to India through its selfless and sacrificing nature, was discarded by the elite Muslim as an innovation.

By calling the Dalits as *mushriks* or *kafirs*, these Wahabis deceived the Muslims from fighting against the biggest and the oldest oppression of all times — Dalit oppression.

The real Muslims comprising 95% of the Muslim population are kept away from the mainstream and are reduced to beggars, loafers, and thieves with all other vices. They have lost hope in finding solace in Wahabi mosques, which have carpets and chandeliers as ornaments.

Most of them live in slums along with their Dalit brothers unable to fulfill their day-to-day need, leave alone eudcation. Books on Islam are often just a tool to propagate their evil designs. Anti-Muslim riots bring suffering to these very Muslim and Dalit people who unleash their frustrations on each other, while these "*Wahabi* Aryans" conduct "communal harmony", "Hindu-Muslim unity" programmes in their AC rooms. These "Wahabi-Aryan" combine come out of their palaces only to consolidate their vote banks through their own agenda of voting the best, moral and honest candidate who is always another Brahmin oppressor.

Finally, if any leader emerges as a liberator, he is termed as a "fundamentalist" or an "extremist" to be thrown into jails in the name of inhuman TADA.

Like the *vaidiks* of India, the *Wahabis* are a living curse to Islam. No solutions can be offered since the solution is not in writing or in lecturing about it, rather, in Islam as a movement, as an activism. ■

New English monthly

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Editor: Tulsi Dass Langeh

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First issue (Oct. 1999) has editorial on Kargil war.

Write to:

Plot No. 43, Resham Ghar Colony,
Jammu Tawi - 180 001

Letters to Editor

Arun Ram Talekar, Ordnance Factory, Varangaon, Q.No. 43/H II Type, Jalgaon dt., MS - 425 308: I am a new subscriber of DV thrilled by your "*caste identity*" thesis. I have completed my BA and computer diploma. I belong to the Dhobi caste (washerman). I don't know anything about the origin or history of my caste. Hence my interest in the "*caste identity*" movement which is necessary to trace my roots and recover my lost pride. I want literature on Dhobi history and my *jati* organisations. In Maharahstra, the Dhobi caste is under OBC but in other parts of the country Dhobis are under the SCs. Because of this we have suffered. Dhobis are worse than Dalits in all respects. In Assam, Bihar, HP, Karnataka, MP, Manipur-Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, UP, W. Bengal, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Delhi the Dhobis come under the SC. I want to organise the Dhobis in MS so that we are put under the SCs.

*Our "**caste identity**" thesis is meant exactly for such numerically small and weaker **jatis** who are not able to mobilise and get political power because they have neither the strength of numbers nor any historical records. Not only that. They are scattered in all the villages with one or two houses in each village. Such castes have become not only socially and educationally weak but also physically emaciated. There are thousands of such small and weak **jatis** which cannot see the light of the day without organising themselves through the "**caste identity**" movement. Once Brother Talekar becomes an active member of the DV family, he will directly get all the support from our members. Meanwhile, he should study all our books and back issues of DV to prepare himself intellectually — **EDITOR**.*

M.I. Krishnankutty, Asst. Director of Postal Services (retd), Manalur-Trichur - 680 617: The Trichur dt. conference of the SC/ST Employees Organisation was held on Oct.19 and 20. K.P. Prabhakaran presided, Tickoram Meena, IAS, inaugurated the conference. The next day, A. Hemachandran, IPS, Suptd. of Police, distributed prizes to students from SC/ST.

Dr. Guruswami Siddhar, president, Devendra Kula Vellalar Sangham, 10/2, Nalvar Nagar, Bharathiar University PO, Coimbatore - 641 046: Thank you for publishing (DV Oct.1, 1999 p.18) the Letter of D. Xavier Gnanaraj who has criticized me for "worshipping" our ancestors, the great men and women of Mallars. Perhaps he thinks that because he is a converted Christian he has to search for his **identity** in Christianity and in Jerusalem. The problem with the Devendra Christians is when it comes to social **identity** they will be Christians but when it comes to reservations they will be with the Devendras. Thereby they enjoy the benefits of both the religions with a small twist of their tongue. Among Mallars or Devendras, over 90% are Saivaites and Vaishnavities (he may not like the term Hindu which comprises both). The rest are Muslims and Christians. They are all believers in god. Before the Aryans entered (1000 BC), the indigenous people here were having ancestor worship as their religion. Mallar or DKV were the rulers of India then. The people were worshipping the Malla kings and queens (Muruga or Skanda, Siva or Rudra, Thirumal or Vishnu, Parvati, Devendra or Vendhan). The Aryans stole our gods and gave different names to them. Muruga became Skanda or Karthikeya, Siva became Rudra, Thirumal became Vishnu and Vendhan became Devendra. The Hindu religion is the religion of the DKVs. The Madurai Aadheenam (Saivaite centre) says in a book published recently that out of the 63 Saiva Nayanmaars, 18 were DKVs. All the Tamil literature written some 2,000 years ago state that the Chera, Chola, Pandiya Kings and Murugan, Thirumal, Devendra belong to the DKV caste. "*Caste identity*" will be strong and durable only when you know your history and culture and fight to protect and practice them. People like Gnanaraj who have fled from here and adopted a different faith alien to the DKV have no right to denounce the culture of the sons of the soil. Our roots are right here in India in our customs and practices, religious or otherwise. Only these will protect our **identity** and give us the social status that is due to us.

N.S. Chellappa, Valampatti, Kila Iral PO, Ettayapuram Tq, Tuticorin dt., TN: In DV Oct.1, 1999 (p.8), the Jathedar of Akal Takht, Puran Singh, is quoted as saying that the Sikhs are descendants of Lava and Kusha (discarded sons of Rama). This is 100% correct. King Dasaratha and his four sons belong to Sakkiar (Untouchable) community. DV often says 95% of the Sikhs are converts from Untouchables. So, there is no harm in saying that the Sikhs are the descendents of Lava and Kusha. I have the *Kamba Ramayana* which says that Ravana, the king of Lanka, was called *Asur* by the Aryans because the Asuras fought the *Suras* (Aryans). Lanka is being ruled by the Sinhala Budhists who came from Kushinara city in Bihar where Budha died. But the Sinhalese claim they are the original inhabitants of Lanka. In Lanka, a war is going on between the Sinhalese and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Tigers. These Sinhalas are Aryans getting support from White Western Aryans and also India's

Aryan brahminical rulers. The root cause of all trouble in Lanka is the Aryan mischief.

Vijay Bangotra, State General Secretary, Budha Club Student Front, Jammu PO, J&K: SC/STs together form about a third of India's population. Muslims form over 15% and the Backward Castes form another 35%. SC/STs and also BCs have been subjected to untold atrocities, denied education, made to live on crumbs thrown to them, treated worse than slaves for centuries. The reservation policy is a constitutional remedy to install SC/ST/BCs on the pedestal of dignity and self-respect. But the upper castes consider reservation as charity. The Supreme Court supported the upper caste demand and struck down reservation in super-speciality courses in medical and engineering colleges. The Supreme Court took such anti-social step because there is no SC/ST/BC judge on its bench. The newly-elected Parliament must correct this imbalance by amending the Constitution to see that reservations are taken out of the courts.

R.K. Balley, 233-Munirka Vihar, New Delhi - 110 067: After the death of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1956 the Dalit movement has gone through many ups and downs. The dream which Babasaheb saw could not be fulfilled because of internal differences and petty politics of the Dalit leaders. At the same time the leaders of the Republican Party, which Dr. Ambedkar founded for championing the cause of the Dalits, started fighting among themselves and caused further damage to the Dalit movement. Taking advantage of their internal differences, brahminical political parties lured many capable Dalit leaders who later on either joined the Congress or the BJP to protect their personal gains. Obviously, after joining the different brahminical political parties they had to speak their language and guard their interests. It is disheartening to know that no Dalit leader could match the calibre and stature of Dr. Ambedkar. Coming to the present Dalit movement, two Dalit leaders have emerged on the scene with bagfull of promises to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Ram Vilas Paswan sitting on the lap of V.P. Singh, a Thakur, formed the Dalit Sena and fooled the innocent people and garnered votes. Even during his tenure as the Railway Minister, the reservation quota for the SC/ST was left unfilled. Kanshi Ram went a step forward. Sitting on the lap of Muslims, he took the whole Dalit movement away from the right path. At present, seven out of 14 MPs in his BSP are non-SCs. How can the SC/ST trust these brahminised Dalits for any social change? To counter- attack the brahminical propaganda, Kanshi Ram spoke of launching a Dalit TV channel some years ago. But he never did it. Even Mayawati now campaigns for *sarv samaj*. Not the Bahujan Samaj. Mayawati no longer begins her speech at public meetings asking all upper castes to leave the venue. What does all this indicate? Out of sheer ignorance, it is found that the SC/STs welcome any Tom, Dick and Harry and put garlands round their neck whosoever come to them with the name of Dr. Ambedkar. Similarly in matters of religion they follow the brahminical superstitions. They fear disclosing their **identity** in public. The Dalit masses should accept the reality and fight the anti-social brahminical forces for their self-respect and dignity. If we want to seriously emancipate ourselves from brahminism, we have to follow Budhism. We should not allow our children to go to Hindu temples, worship their false cement or stone gods/goddess.

Gurnam Singh Muktsar, 12-Guru Angad Nagar, Muktsar, Punjab - 152 026: Dr. Velu Annamalai may please note that DV has been following the constructive and creative path continuously. We Dalits are so happy with DV and its brave Editor. Nobody can stop our Editor from his revolutionary work to liberate the SC/ST/BCs from the clutches of *manuwad*. Our Editor gets the sole credit for working so hard to put the word "**Dalit**" on the world map. How can Dr. Velu Annamalai say that our Editor is on the "*Pay roll of Hindu nazis?*" (DV Oct. 16, 1999 p.10). If he thinks that V.T. Rajshekar is close to the Hindu nazis he should furnish proofs so that we here can investigate and take action. If the Editor is getting money to serve *brahmanwad*, our Saviour, Dr. Babasaheb, was also the target of similar attack from Hindus. Babasaheb was called a "stooge of English rulers". Our Editor is requested not to bother about such insinuations. We recognise that DV has done tremendous service to the Dalit community in the past 20 years. This is too long a period . If the lawyers among the SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians/Sikhs are faithful to their social interests, they should offer free legal service to protect our Editor. If Dr. Velu Annamalai is a sincere well wisher of Dalits he would not have made such a serious charge against our Editor who was magnanimous enough even to publish such a spurious charge. Dr. Velu should not confuse and misguide the readers of DV. Since the past 20 years we have been reading it with our mind and heart in it. Yes, if the Editor advocates a new idea which goes against the Dalit revolution, he can take a serious note of it. He can also give his critical views so that the readers could know the good or bad of it. V.T. Rajshekar can never be a hated by the Dalits of India. He is a Ravana and Hiranyaksha for Aryans and their stooges. If some people like Dr. Velu come to attack our Editor, we in

large numbers are here to stand by him. If V.T. Rajshekar becomes a happy man, it is not a bad thing. After all, we all want to be happy. Because, our happiness has been stolen by the Aryan invaders. We along with our great brother V.T. Rajshekar are in search of that happiness which rightly belongs to us — over 85% of the indigenous people.

Dr. Jawahar I.S, Dale View, Irumpil, Neyyattinkara, Trivandrum: We the SC/ST/BCs and Muslim/Christian/ Sikhs are Indians but not Hindus. Despite all our common ethnicity, culture, religious past, race, blood etc., we remain a divided lot. Being a people with distinct **identity** separate from the upper castes (Aryans), we need a common name which binds us all, having the smell of our native soil. The term "Dalit" is good. But it is not accepted by the BCs. Many of our thoughts fail because when we say we are not Hindu then what are we? Unless we give an answer to this question our thoughts will not materialise for want of a common name and **identity**. This land where we are born is called India. If this land is India, its own people are naturally Indians. We being the indigenous people are thus Indians and both our religion and culture should also be Indian. The upper castes (Aryans) are foreign invaders and naturally not Indians. Hinduism is the religion brought by the Aryans. So, we Indians are not Hindus and Hindus are not genuine Indians. So, only the upper castes are Hindus. Hindu scriptures accept only four *varnas* — Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Shudra — as human beings. The rest of the Indians are called Asuras, Rakshasas, two-legged animals, monkeys, Nagas, Dasyus etc. in their scriptures. It was because we Indians were following a different religion and had a different culture. We were denied entry into their temples and made Untouchables to prevent mixing. They maintained the **identity** and purity of their race, religion and culture by keeping us out. The Brahmin calls himself *devata*. Hindu scriptures are full of stories of *devatas* fighting and enslaving *Asuras* — we Indians. We Indians (Asuras, Nagas and Rakshasas) are, therefore, not Hindu. How can we become members of their brahminical religion when its very objective is our destruction? Can we find a single piece of Hindu scripture supporting us? Dr. Ambedkar has said all this in his books, *Riddles of Hinduism*, *Who are the Untouchables* and *Who are the Shudras*. Till recently, we Indians were not at all considered Hindus. Brahminical forces started calling us Hindu only recently to silence us in the name of religion and convert the micro-minority Aryans into a majority religion for purposes of catching our votes. See how the *hinduised* Dalits and BCs are fighting each other to protect their own enemy — brahminical culture — destroying their own **identity**. An Indian who thinks himself to be a Hindu finally loses all power of revolt. He competes with others to protect the *vaidiks*. Hinduism makes the SC/ST/BCs cowards. Only non-Hindu religions are revolutionary. All the socio-political benefits we Indians enjoy today are directly or indirectly contributions of the non-Hindu religions only. If there was no Budhism; Islam, Christianity and Sikhism, India would have been a jungle raj. Even though the *vaidiks* have corrupted our Indian religion, it still persists in our remote villages and among the tribals. A detailed study is essential and has to be collected in books. Whether one may practice it or not does not matter. But a clear picture of our Indian religion is essential to strengthen our **identity**. It is because of the absence of our religious **identity** with a name, we put on the borrowed coat — "Hindu" — which is nothing but brahminism, a wolf in lamb's skin. By pushing forward the term "Indian" we can differentiate ourselves from the Aryans, the Hindu. This will solve all our social, cultural, political and religious hurdles in our search for **identity** and unity. This will help us escape from the problems created by the confusing term Hinduism to deceive us. The term Indian is more patriotic against the oppressive Hindu pseudo-patriotism. Indian is the only term which gives us a pan-Indian **identity**. Please declare: "We are not Hindus but Indians", our religion is Indian, culture is Indian, nationality is Indian. We are Indians. If we identify as Indians, the separation from Hinduism will be natural in social, political, cultural, religious, racial and patriotic fronts. The fight is yet to come between Indians and Hindus. I demand the urgent attention of social scientists, Christian researchers, Dalit thinkers, Backward Caste leaders, politicians, social engineers and ideologues across the world to this subject. The minorities must stop saying their forefathers were Hindus. They should declare the fact they were not Hindus but Indians. Only those who identify as upper castes among minorities had a Hindu background. Asserting our **identity** as Indian is the only answer to fight Hindu nazism. Our Editor must start writing in this direction.

Anil Rangari, Press Colony, Shahdol, MP - 484 001: This refers to the DV Editorial of July 16, 1999: "*Convert SC/ST Emp. Confederation into a parallel govt.: Dalits must get ready for war on reservation*". After rejecting the separate electorate to Dalits, BSO is continuously attacking our human rights (reservations). No reserved MP/MLA raised his voice against this. At the right time, our Editor has made the

Dalit employees conscious. The All-India Confederation of SC/ST Organisations must be strengthened. It must launch agitation, *gherao, dharna*, demonstration before Parliament, all state legislatures and even Supreme Court and High Courts. Our employees must go on a warpath. If our reserved MP/MLAs refuse to listen they too must be punished. We must donate at least one day's salary every month to fight the coming death of our society.

Dr. S.P. Sumanakshar, President, Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy, New Delhi - 110 009: Dr. Dharam Veer, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Personnel and Admn. Kerala Govt., Trivandrum, and a noted Hindi Dalit writer, was felicitated here on Oct.11 on being awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth House Visiting Fellowship of the Oxford University, England. A large number of Dalit writers were present at the Constitution Club including Mata Prasad, ex-Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and *Dalit Voice* Editor V.T. Rajshekar. Dharam Veer is a native of UP and belongs to the Kerala cadre of IAS. He will be in Oxford for one year. Meanwhile, we are glad to inform that Dalit literature made a mark at the 6th World Hindi Conference, UK, held at London from Sept.14 to 18, 1999. Dalit literature in Hindi was the first topic and the conference began with its discussion on the 1st day itself. Nearly 500 delegates from all parts of the world participated in this World Hindi Conference which accepted the role of the Dalit literature in Dalit awakening. Dr. S.P. Sumanakshar led a team of 15 Dalit writers. (See also p.16).

M.N. Ansari, PO Box 1797, Bangalore - 560 017: In the Editorial of Oct.1, you have mentioned that the big business house of Wipro is owned by a Muslim. This is not correct. The owner of Wipro group is Rustam Premji, a Parsi, and not a Muslim.

M. Venkataswamy, Republican Party of India, No.93/3, 2nd Cross, 7th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011: We are holding a national seminar on "judicial terrorism" and its impact on reservation at Woodlands Hotel, here on Nov.21, 1999. You are requested to attend being a crusader against this "judicial terrorism". Meanwhile, our party (RPI-Ramdas Athawale) has decided to hold a demonstration against the Supreme Court in Delhi on Dec.10 and against all high courts in state capitals on Nov.15. Dalits all over India are requested to join our war against this "judicial terrorism."

Sudesh M.R, c/o Dooth Books, PO: Etawanakkaat, Ernakulam, Kerala - 682 502: I am writing this in response to your report, "*Dalit Ezhilmalai crisis.*" (DV Sept.16, 1999 p.14). You have asked the No.2 in the DV Editorial team to resume the Tamil edition of DV and build the Paraiahs into a powerful "nation". You also described him as a "dedicated, honest Ambedkarite" and a product of DV. May be true. But one thing has been forgotten that more than anything he is a *pucca* politician as he himself has proved it, undoubtedly, while he was denied ticket in the election. He became a member in a Hindu nazi govt. and now joined the company of the *Bangalore Papatti* forgetting all what he had said earlier through DV itself. Each and every time our Editor is forced to defend him. Politicians are more interested in their personal glory and achievements but fail to be revolutionaries. Hence expecting more from them will disappoint us ultimately. For years, DV has been propagating the thoughts of Babasaheb that political revolution must be preceded by social and religious (cultural) revolutions. But instead of working for such a revolution two representatives of DV have jumped into politics. So much so, the Tamil and Kannada editions of DV died. Still, you go on urging Ezhilmalai to resume *Dalit Kural* without even making an inquiry about the contributions made by Ezhilmalai. Barring V. Prabhakaran, none has written even 20 articles in DV on their respective state's socio-politico-cultural activities and developments from 1991 to 1999. That means most of the DV reps. are not eligible to have their names printed on the cover page. This is the case of the close associates of DV. Then how can we enter "Dr. Ambedkar Century" with such leaders? They destroy the very credibility of DV.

G. Sundaram, 66-Soosai Nagar, Opp. Fatima College, Madurai - 625 018: It is very shameful that Dalit Ezhilmalai has resigned from the PMK because he was denied the ticket to contest from Chidambaram. The PMK chief said the people of the Chidambaram constituency did not like him. How did the people lose faith in him within a year? How can PMK deceive and neglect a person who served the party for so long? Dalit Ezhilmalai has embraced the corrupt *Bangalore Papatti*. PMK chief Ramadoss talks of only his *jati,* Vanniars. Dr. Krishnaswamy raises his voice only for the Pallars. Who is there to speak for the Paraiahs and strengthen their *jati?* Dalit Ezhilmalai must listen to your advice and take up this responsibility. The Paraiah *jati* today is leaderless, none to guide them. They are slaves of the upper castes in all the villages of Tamil Nadu. Dalit Ezhilmalai is a DV product and has the ability to lead the Paraiahs. To organise this people, he needs the media. So, he must listen to you and resume *Dalit Kural*, the Tamil edition of DV (DV Sept.16, 1999). The Paraiahs are in search of a leader. Will Ezhilmalai provide that?

Ram Khobragade, Advocate, "Aashirwad", Dr.

Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Ballarpur - 442 701: The latest judgment of the Supreme Court that SC/ST employees "cannot continue to claim seniority over their general category colleagues as a matter of right", reflects the changing outlook and perspective of the judiciary of this country in the changing socio-political scenario and impact of the upper caste ethos. The judgment delivered by a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice A.S. Anand, Justice K. Venkataswamy, Justice M. Jagannatha Rao is another big blow to the reservation policy within 2 months time. The most important point to be noted in this context is that this has coincided with the BJP victory. Earlier, the Aug.13, 1999 judgment of the Supreme Court in which it ruled that "keeping in view the national interest, the criteria for admission to specialised branches of higher education i.e. engineering and medical (post graduate courses) should be merit and not reservation". That was also the ruling of a five-judge constitution bench. Elaborating the salient features of the judgment, the bench also headed by Chief justice held that:

> "Articles 16(4) and 16(4)(a) of the Constitution do not confer any fundamental rights nor do they impose any constitutional duties, but are only in the nature of enabling provisions vesting a discretion in the state to consider providing reservations if the circumstances so warranted".
>
> The Apex Court also held that: "roster point" promotees (reserved category) could not count their seniority in the promoted category from "the date of their continuous officiation" in the promoted post vis-a-vis the general category candidates who were senior to them in the lower category and who were later promoted. On the other hand, a senior general category candidate at the lower level, if he reaches the promotional level later but before the further promotion of the reserved candidate, will have to be treated as senior at the promotional level, to the reserved candidate even if the reserved candidate was earlier promoted to the level".

These two latest judgments of the Supreme Court within a span of two months will have very wide-ranging and far-reaching repercussion on the very concept of social justice which has become the darling concept of all political parties, including the BJP. However, nobody knows if their concept of social justice is one and the same as outlined in our Constitution or its opposite enunciated by the Supreme Court. The Aug.13, verdict barring SC/ST students from joining super-speciality courses in medical and engineering (PG courses), was the first step taken by the Supreme Court to stop our people seeking higher education. In other words, the Supreme Court is singing the *Manusmriti* tune in the name of "merit". In the second judgment, the judiciary halted the march of our people on the ladder of service hierarchy. What may be the motive of the Supreme Court to rule against reservation in admission to the institutions of higher learning as well as in the matter of promotion in the services? For the past few years there has been continuous attack on the reservation policy by the upper castes. Jawahar Lal Nehru and even his grandson, Rajiv Gandhi, were against reservation. The reality is that these deprived sections have started asserting their power through the ballot box. This has upset the social equilibrium. The cause is the reservation policy. The SC/ST/BCs woke up and started asserting because of reservation and upper castes suffered a great setback. They were in search of an opportunity through which they could halt our march. BJP leader Govindacharya did not tell a lie when he observed that Vajpayee was only their mask. The inching ahead of the upper castes in all walks of life through co-operation, compromise, conciliation, controversy and finally through conspiracy has paid them very rich dividend. The impact of this strategy was very much visible in the 1992 judgment of the Supreme Court in Mandal case. The two latest judgments of the Supreme Court are also indicative of the trend and direction the wind will blow in the coming days. "Beware Bahujans. your days are numbered". This is the message of the judiciary. ■

Dr. Ambedkar Award to Runoko Rashidi

Dr. S.P. SUMANAKSHAR, PRESIDENT, BHARATIYA DALIT SAHITYA AKADEMI, 233- TAGORE PARK, MODEL TOWN, DELHI - 110 009

We have selected a distinguished Black historian Runoko Rashidi, the American representative of *Dalit Voice*, for the "Dr. Ambedkar Distinguished Service Award-1999".

Rashidi recently led a delegation of African-American writers to India.

The Award will be presented at the 15th national conference of the Akadmi here on Dec.5, 1999 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium.

If Rashidi is not able to come, the Award will be received by the Editor of *Dalit Voice*, V.T. Rajshekar. The conference will continue on Dec.6 at the Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.

Privatising insurance is yet another *vaidik* bid to enslave Dalits

NAVEED HUSSAIN.H, 3539-CARTER HILL RD., APT-C211, MONTGOMERY, AL-36111, USA

This article is written after having several rounds of discussions with many Americans, immigrants from other countries and especially the Black American Muslims. I also did read some important and valuable literature in American newspapers and watched on TV the debate between warring groups on medical insurance. I will try whatever best I can do within my capacity from here to further the cause of the Dalits and other oppressed people in India.

Another conspiracy is being hatched by the West in collusion with the *brahamanwadi* aliens in India to rob the working people of whatever little benefits or crumbs they used to get. The Western capitalist forces want to thrust insurance down the throats of the Indians as well. They have experience spanning around 100 years to do the job peacefully and systematically with a degree of fineness that people will soon start relishing this as well.

Already efforts are under way by the evil forces pressurising the govt. to systematically cut down and stop govt.-funded health care and usher in insurance.

It is irresponsibility on part of a govt. to delegate the management of the health care to private insurance companies and we need to fight this at all cost.

It is easier to fight this at the budding stage in India than it would be when this grows into a full-fledged thorn bush. Our people should not be mislead by false promises of politicians even if they give assurances that they will not bring in insurace and start making preparations now to fight the menace of insurance. Already privatization and insurance has become a great success in America making the rich richer and the poor more poor.

New Delhi (Oct. 21, 1999, *UNI*): Assocham president K.P. Singh has welcomed the priority accorded to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill for passage in the current session of Parliament. In a statement here today he said "the swift step would, no doubt give positive signals to the foreign investors and the govt. should be firm in not getting browbeaten by the proposed protest marches by the trade unions and must handle them firmly. Singh said there was no gain saying the fact that at a time when the country was in dire need of long-term funds for investment in infrastructure, information technology and other sectors, it would be most unwise to keep huge funds idle that can be garnered after liberalisation of insurance sector."

Liberalisation for whom, the rich (Aryans) and the Jews who own the multinational companies to a great extent. It is like letting a man-eater or money-eater loose on the population. Employment of the people with these money engulfing rich people is not the answer to our problems (who will be any way working for a low salary with them). Salary jumps are not a sign to be happy about in India where there is an associated jump in prices (inflation). People need to become entrepreneurs instead of becoming slave of the West or the Aryans who will make them workaholic (when they refuse alcohol) and even educated people are too busy and will hardly find time to concentrate on social issues (whether financial or moral).

Today the capitalist forces of the West own more than 80% of the world's wealth in their hands, the greatest portion being shared by the Jews who are now friends and allies of the brahminical forces.

The capitalist forces here started seducing people with one dollar insurance premium per month (in India they may start of with Re.1 insurance) and promise benefits running into thousands or lakhs. They managed to woo people here with such propaganda and people fell prey unsuspectingly to their evil machinations. Initially there seems to have been some resistance and hesitation among the people here but all have been successfully brought under subjugation and finally forced into buying insurance somehow or other. The capitalist brains planned and engineered everything well to cut off all escape routes for the people here to fall into their trap. Using their powerful lobbies they brought the govt.and its political *chamchas* into discouraging govt.-funded health care for the people here in U.S. This left people at the mercy of the big moneylenders (many of them Jews) who then gave loans on interest making themselves rich and also advising them to buy insurance. The insurance companies also broke all resistance from even the thinking people by ressuring them that their employer or the govt. would pay the insurance premiums and that they do not have to bother about anything.

Once the resistance broke, people in large numbers, easily **and unconciously** fell prey to the insurance companies and did not object the failure of govt.-funded health programs that could have been made available to every citizen. The US Govt.under the control of these money barons

started paying insurance premiums to these privately owned "caretakers" of the people. Once the society came under their grip, the insurance companies carried out their next part of the plan and increased the premiums to make profits for their ownself. Thus they started eating heavily into the taxpayers money and people's earnings with hardly any benefits reaching the poor or the sick when they need it the most.

FRAUD & TRICKS

The private companies also initially paid the insurance for their employees as it was very small and affordable but with passage of time they have become wary of such a scheme. Now many companies will not pay health insurance premiums for the families though they continue to pay for the worker. This they mangage by slashing the workers salary down.

Recently when there was around 10% hike on premiums (paid by the Govt. of Alabama to private insurance companies) the govt. of Alabama was left with no options but to deny promotions and benefits to its employees and also go in for under-staffing. Private companies and business that used to pay insurance premiums for their employees just lay off employees or cut down the benefits sharply.

NO GOVT. CONTROL

It was the year 2000 bug in the computers owned by the capitalists that offered some relief to some software engineers, not all of them. The companies pumped in millions recruiting and training even lay men to fix the problems for the last ten years but this trend has now sharply declined.

There was also so much insurance fraud, which continues to this day, but through computerization and modernization and from experience they have brought this to manageable levels and now have enough experience to make insurance a practical reality in India.

All this fraud and insurance overhead adds up to the cost of health care in US which has been steadily rising over the years with the insurance companies increasing the premiums to such high levels that it is not possible for many Americans to afford health care today. The rising cost of medicines is not the only excuse. One also has to pay to fill the bellies of these insurance companies with high profits as well.

Around 50% of the children here in Alabama do not have insurance and they suffer because their parents cannot afford the premiums. Our people in India are optimistic that there will be some sort of govt. control over these vital issues and so also the Americans felt here initially. The politicians do make such promises and help people fall a prey to insurance. Once people fall slaves to the rich capitalists and get used to paying for insurance, the govt. will then follow a policy of non-alignment — that is they do not support either the capitalists or the citizens who fall a prey to the capitalists. These politicians are then praised and generously rewarded by the rich for their policy of "non-alignment" with the poor. Our brahminical rulers in Delhi are also well known for their policy of "non-alignment" and double-standards.

ACCIDENT INJURIES

The advertisements of insurance companies are very rosy as they magnify one side of the branch to appear as a big tree giving lot of shade. What is not advertised is how this so-called big tree is shallow with hardly few branches and how it can collapse on the head of the people who come beneath it for shade and protection.

The insurance premiums increase with age and when the man reaches 40 years or a state where he is ill in young age they increase the insurance to such a level that he is unable to pay the premium and legally loses to claim the "benefits" of insurance.

Only those people are likely to benefit who pay insurance the first month and fall seriously sick the next month.

Even in such cases medical benefits have been denied to many under the pretext of pre-existing condition. If it is an accident a person suffers, then the motorist involved in the accident pays for the injured directly or indirectly through another auto insurance company. In short the greedy Western capitalists would like to collect premiums (their bimonthly *haftas*) and walk away with that.

Just increasing the premiums by few or even a 100 dollars is sufficient to blow a person away from the health care benefits. It's just these few hundred dollars which a person cannot afford to pay that makes him lose benefits running into thousands. Insurance companies are here to make profits and are not seriously concerned about giving any health care benefits to the citizens though they may advertise to the contrary.

They are going to launch another such scheme in India and they know how to program people to accept joyfully and fall and suffer in it joyfully as many Americans and immigrant workers do here in the US. Normally under the "umbrella of insurance" the healthy people are supposed to subsidize the health care of the sick people.

However things have turned out here in such a way that a large

part of this subsidy goes off as profits to the capitalists who want to privatize everything under their care. In other words, privatizing the hard earned income of other pople.

OLD ARE KILLED

The insurance system is exploitative by nature, encourages corruption and is worse than borrowing of loans on interest, which is another great evil. There may be few insurance companies under loss but these are mere exceptions and insurance companies in general earn revenue running into millions every month.

The situation is more pathetic with the old who had paid insurance all life long. Once they get old and sick, their earnings go down and the insurance premiums go sky high profits. This is how they cut down expenditure and become more efficient. The social security benefits to the old and the poor is another big hoax and does not easily come within the reach of majority of the suffering. The age limits for the old has been raised so that the old people continue to remain "young" and do not get benefits. A poor person is left with no income but if he is fortunate enough to own a house has to mortgage his house to the rich zamindars (moneylenders) to pay taxes to the govt. for almost nothing. He/she also has to sell his home if necessary to pay his medical bills and is likely to become eligible for some benefit from the govt. when he comes to the street or under the influence of under-world dons driven by fear of poverty or hunger pangs. This is where a person decides to become suicidal or a criminal aiding and abetting various crimes.

The west and particularly America has no excuse of not taking care of the people for its is the most rich and prosperous country and also has a strong and efficient tax collection system, the IRS from which people cannot easily escape. An average American pays taxes through his nose. Around 50% or more of my income will be lost because of taxes, insurance premiums and other hidden expenses which a person is obliged to pay even after paying insurance.

US today is richer than the "oil rich sheiks" of Gulf countries. Thanks to the foolishness and stupidity of our Muslim rulers there.

ISLAM CRITICISED

I do not deny other reasons for the sufferings of the Americans and the immigrants here but the factors I mentioned in this article are worth taking note of and just cannot be ignored. America has the highest suicide rate, heart attacks, psychiatric problems, other stress related illnesses and people commit suicide when they go banrupt and are unable to pay bills, come under frustration and harassment from the agents of the money-lenders. If they must escape the harassment of collection agencies they have to kill themselves working overtime. Companies in general advertise a rosy picture of eight hours of work per day but they pay so less that a person rushes for part time jobs to make ends meet and pay off debts, interests etc. to the capitalist forces.

America today is composed of alcoholics, workaholics or sexholics. The Jewish people run this country here and control everything like the alien Brahmins who invaded and occupied India. Politicians are mere *chamachas* in their hands.

The only threat the capitalistic forces here face is from Islam which discourages interest money lending and encourages charity while inspiring people for *jihad*, a war to fight injustice and oppression free from introxication of sex, drugs and alcohol. Every attempt is made in the media to denigrate Islam and keep people intoxicated and antagonized against Islam by consistent unrelenting smear campaign.

PRIVATE PRISONS

People are programmed during entertainment by very subtle ways against the Muslims. This is the prejudice of the western media against Islam and the Muslims.

The next major threat is privatization of our security and other resources. Due to growing and unmanageable level of prison population the US Govt. is even considering the proposal of privatizing the prisons here. Now the citizens may have to pay taxes to these privately owned companies for the protection of criminals or be prepared to face the consequences.

A day is not far off in India were the *Brahmana Jati Party* (BJP) may even privatise the police, the army or even parliament to anti- national forces to make money and share the booty with them. These brahminical alien invaders though settled in India for a long time were never faithful to our country and have every now and then supported other invaders.

MEDIA FOOLS DALITS

Islam spread in India because the Dalits could no longer tolerate the brahminical atrocities and needed a self-respect and identity, which Islam provided them with. The Aryans are well aware of this but their arrogance and fear of losing the wealth confiscated from the Dalits, continues to inspire them with hatred against the Muslims.

Today, it is no more of Mahmud Ghazni's but it is the multinational companies invading the Indian Market with no opportunity for

educated Dalits to set up their own industry or to plan their own future. With privatization the crumb benefits available to the Dalits and the Backward Castes will be lost and this includes the reservation benefits.

I did give copies of *Dalit Voice* to the Indian Dalits and some Americans here. In case of former they were not very impressed by the style of presentation of *Dalit Voice* and the strong but true words used by the Editor. They have examples of very good Brahmin friends of whom they think to be not as bad as *Dalit Voice* talks about and that all these problems, and exploitation by *brahminism* is a thing of the past. This is how the media has fooled even the educated people or probably they are too kind hearted and soft to understand that *brahminism* could be such a great evil even in the present day times.

I do also have very good Brahmin friends and we do discuss lots of things in common but these are mere exceptions and these are people who are far away from the ideology of *brahminism*. The Indian Dalits/Backward Castes here in US are very busy building their careers to lead comfortable lives and I am going to have hard time trying to convince them that its is the *brahminism* that we oppose more than the Brahmin himself as a person or a human being. These people have to get rid of alien brahminism to return to humanism and we will not be antagonised against them in any way.

BLACKS LIKE D.V.

We need to kill brahminism not the Brahmin himself. This is our first priority.

On the other hand, the Black Americans are quite impressed by the *Dalit Voice* and they find striking similarities to their own suffering and one of them also agreed to subscribe for *Dalit Voice*. I request the Editor to put the Dalit history and the true history of Indian Muslims free from brahminical prejudice on the Internet so it can be preserved and the truth will be there for all in the world to see. The truth can never be destroyed and the creator has blessed us with means of securing what we need to secure. There is more to be done on increasing our communication with the outside world. That will be the death knell to the brahminical and the capitalist forces.

NEED FOR MEDIA

Nothing is going to work unless we improve our communication and we have our own strong media. The Editor is 150% right in what he has said about having a strong media. Just look at the craze the capitalist forces here have generated worldwide and how they have fools the people about the health care benefits through ads in magazines, newspapers and door to door correspondence.

The insurance companies here are nothing but drama companies just like the drama company of Medha Patkar in India. They have successfully managed to fool the people into believing that buying insurance is the one and only way for securing the peoples future and the doors to other alternatives seem to have been closed on the people for ever. This is the power of having the monopoly over the media and continuous drumming of this concept every now and then into the people's mind.

Though US is rich and prosperous all its wealth and resources remain only in the hands of a small percentage of people while majority continue to suffer.

In India, the sufferings are even more. Both uneducted and educated Dalits are desperate trying to find a means of survival and many of them just flee changing their passports, their profession, their resumes and even their names to land in other countries. Many of them even landed in poor Third World countries. Has India really gone backward to that extent or who is it that is draining away our wealth and vast resources? Corruption is not the only excuse, as many meritorious, educated and Backward Caste/Dalits still are not able to find jobs in private companies and are deliberately kept out for one reason or the other from top positions to which they will be well suited.

Many of my friends and relatives ask me as to why I immigrated or fled to US when I so strongly criticize their materialistic and capitalistic ideology. May be the readers also ask this question. The reason is quite obvious, for people who can see. The majority of West is composed of Christians who are not brahminical by nature and hence on a relative scale the sufferings are less here. At least there is recognition for hard work and merit here and one can benefit significantly if one does not come in the way of capitalists and does not fall ill and also is prepared to be a workholic. However, being workaholic helps only a small section of educated people in specialized professions such as doctors (in medicine) and few software engineers, hand full of lawyers and the successful businessmen of course.

This is one of the ailments of living in a capitalistic society but still it is far better when compared to living in a brahinically occupied India(BOI) or brahminically occupied Kashimr (BOK). These brahminical aliens are the psuedo-Hindus (not true Hindustanis) who have been exploiting and deceiving our people for years by sporting innocent manners and more recently by pointing their fingers to Muslims for all their problems. ■

"Caste identity" discourages conversion

ANIL RANGARI, PRESS COLONY, SHAHDOL - 484 001

Advocates of "*caste identity*" thesis say that other religions also have castes and practise casteism. They also say that religion does not unite people. Such an argument discourges conversion. Does it mean that conversion is useless and harmful? Is qutting Hinduism useless and harmful? Should Dalits remain Hindu? What is the intention of DV saying that religion does not unite people? It is true there is no absolute unity in every religion. Babasaheb said that "If you want to organise yourself, change your religion..." Was Babasaheb wrong? Why DV is discouraging the conversion movement? ■

Religion does not unite are Babasaheb's words - not that of DV

Brother Anil Rangari is a conscious member of the DV family and yet he commits the mistake of accusing us of saying that "religion does not unite people".

These are not our words but that of Babasaheb himself. Please re-read our report, ***"Babasaheb: Religion does not bind people but creates only understanding"****, DV Aug.16, 1997 p.10, in which we had quoted Babasaheb from his books,* ***W&S*** *Vol.9, pp.185-186 and Vol.5, p. 398:-*

"The second fallacy of the Congress lies in its attempt to prove that where there is a common religion social union must be presumed... The pity of the matter is that the Congress is so completely enamoured of its argument based on religion as an unifying factor, that it has failed to realise that there is no concommittance between the two and that there are cases where there is no separation although religions are separate, that there are cases where separation exists in spite of a common religion..." (W&S Vol.9, pp.185-186).

"Religion can help to produce justice within a community. Religion cannot produce justice between communities.... The call of nation and the call of community has proved more powerful than the call of religion for justice". (W&S Vol. 5, p. 398).

Religion did not unite the Muslims, Christians, Jews, Budhists, Jains, Sikhs or anybody for that matter. All over the world the fighting and violence that is going is only between followers of the same religion.

Sikhs offer the best proof that religion does not unite. Buta Singh is a Sikh but always goes with Dalits, that too with Valmikis. Why the Sikhs are disowning him? Because he is an Untouchable.

Caste is a racial identity and religion is an acquired identity.

Babasaheb's Budhism may not bring unity and peace among the oppressed communities but certainly creates an atmosphere to understand each other and develops a sense of morality to feel one with all the oppressed and deprived.

And that is what Babasaheb too has said: "Religion is only a circumstance from which unity or separation may be inferred". (W&S Vol.9 p.185).

*The above-mentioned report in DV (1997) has cleared all doubts on religion. And yet Anil Rangari goes on accusing us of discouraging conversion. We want Dalits to quit Hinduism and embrace any egalitarian religion of their choice, preferably Budhism. Our readers are requested not to misquote us — **EDITOR.***

India tops in corruption

Washington: The Berlin-based anti-corruption watchdog, Transparency International, has ranked India and Pakistan among the most corrupt countries of the world for the second time in a row. India scored 2.9 out of 10, the same as last year, while Pakistan slipped even further from last year's score of 2.7 to 2.2, according to Transparency International's fifth annual survey released on Tuesday. (*Asian Age* Oct.28, 1999) ■

Vajpayee as "Bulldog Brahmin"

London: The *Independent* daily on Oct.4 described the BJP as the "political arm of a family of militant Hindu organisations that have a broadly neo-fascist hue". It also described Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as a "bulldog Brahmin with Churchill's touch". (*Asian Age*, Oct.8, 1999). ■

How BSP used "caste identity" to become a big political force

MANJOOR GOPALAN, KANAKKARY PO, KERALA - 686 632

This refers to the DV Editorial of Aug. 16, 1999 "*A Dalit jati in TN proves power of caste identity: Caste-based parties will be future rulers of India*".

Tamil Nadu is the best example to prove the efficacy of "*caste identity*" thesis of our editor.

But what a tragedy that even a Tamil and a Devendra like Dr. Velu Annamalai is not able to understand and appreciate this thesis upheld by the whole of his *jati* people. It is his ignorance that makes him say that our "*Editor is on nazi pay roll.*" (DV Oct.16, 1999 p.10).

The Vanniyars and Devendra Kula Vellalars (DKVs), the two important *jatis* of TN, reveal the success story of the caste-based political parties. The splendid achievements of the these castes in the Parliament election 1998 tell the story of miraculous success of "caste identity" thesis.

Vanniyar success: The Backward Caste Vanniyars forming 15% of the TN population elected four MPs headed by Dalit Ezhilmalai, who became the Union Health Minister. They could succeed in the election due to caste consciousness which led to caste consolidation and caste-based political power. The success of Vanniyars proves that political power is not a concession of anybody but is captured by united effort. They stood solidly under the leadership of Dr. Ramadoss and seized political power.

The DKVs who inhabit the Southern districts of TN and led by Dr. Krishnaswamy caused defeat of Dr. Arunachalam, a Dalit stooge of upper castes. Besides, the DKVs defeated at least half a dozen of the DMK-TMC combine in the election. The success of caste-based politics of these two castes has an important lesson to teach the Bahujans not only in TN but also in the whole country.

The *jati* organisations of these two *jatis* have paved the way for their caste consolidation which forced them to unite under caste-based parties. The "*caste identity*" thesis stimulated the "low castes" of TN to form caste-based political parties.

Brahmastra against brahminism: They realise that caste-based political parties will be the future pattern of the country and future rulers of India. *Jati* is emerging as a "nation". The Editor has proved right.

Since both the Vanniyars and DKVs have followed the Editor's thesis they could capture the political power.

The "*caste identity*" thesis of our Editor has proved that it is a *brahmastra* to fight brahminism. Dr. Ramadoss, Dr. Krishnaswamy, MLA, Krishna Madiga in AP have used the strongest weapons of "caste identity" to defeat their enemies.

Kanshi Ram verdict: BSP supremo Kanshi Ram said "even to eliminate caste, you must take note of the caste". You cannot ignore caste. We may have the desire to create a casteless society. But it is not possible in the near future. Till such time, what we should do? Kanshi Ram said:

> "Till a casteless society is created, let me handle the caste. When Brahmins could use the caste for their benefit, why not I could use it for our benefit?... I decided to handle the caste to our benefit and deprive the Brahmins of its benefits".

(*Rulers alone can create casteless society*, booklet compiled by M. Gopinath and Pramod Kureel p.5).

How Mayawati become CM: Kanshi Ram said:

> "So long the beneficiaries are allowed to use caste, victims continued to suffer. If you want to put an end to it, you must learn to handle the caste to your benefit. You should not allow the Brahminical Social Order to take the benefits of caste. You should not ignore caste but you should take note of it. Today with the successful handling of caste, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has become the fourth national party in India". (Ibid p.10).

The BSP formed on April 14, 1984 is representing the Bahujans (SC/ST/BCs and minorities). The BSP is becoming powerful day by day. In the parliament election 1998 it got five seats in the Lok Sabha. The "*caste identity*" thesis has been followed by the leader of BSP for the first time in the history of India, a Dalit woman, Mayawati, became the Chief Minister of UP twice using the weapon of "*caste identity*".

Kanshi Ram said:

> "Hence, we started creating Bahujan Samaj Party by developing brotherhood among the 6,000 victimised castes. In the last 15 years - that too in the last 5 years - we could bring 600 castes i.e. 10% of the total number of castes.
>
> With 600 castes welded together, we are the fourth national party today. If we weld together another 400 castes and make it 1,000 castes, BSP becomes number one party of India." (Ibid p. 17).

Babasaheb Ambedkar said, "political power is the

master-key". Kanshi Ram has proved that the master key can be acquired by using the strongest weapon of "*caste identity*". During the regime of Mayawati in UP foundation was laid for Sahu Maharaj University in Kanpur in 1994 and Mahatma Phule University and Dr. Ambedkar University had been opened in 1996. She also took various steps to protect the interests of Bahujans.

How to become rulers: The stand taken by the BSP during the time of confidence vote of the Vajpayee Govt. led to the collapse of the govt. which ultimately paved the way for subsequent parliament election. BSP representing the Bahujans has become a strong political party to decide who will rule India, on what terms and for how long.

> "Across the country, the Dalits have begun to assert their **identity** and role in the polity. The Dalit parties and leaders no longer look to the mainstream parties for solace and succor and for doles and quotas. Instead, they have begun to demand their share of political power". (*Hindu* Aug.22, 1999).

We can acquire the master key of political power by handling the "jati identity" in proper manner. If we do not become rulers we will continue as slaves of upper castes and our problems will remain forever.

The complaint that the "*caste identity*" thesis is against Babasaheb's "Annihilation of Caste" is baseless and absurd. In the speech prepared by Babasaheb to be delivered at a meeting of the Hindus, at Lahore he had pointed out that the *Chaturvarna* system was destroying the Hindu society. He asked Hindus to annihilate the caste system prevailing in the Hindu society. He never asked us to destroy the ethnic *jati* identity of the downtrodden.

Regarding destruction of caste, Babasaheb said:

> "... you must not forget that if you wish to bring about a breach in the system then you have got to apply the dynamite to the Vedas and the Shastras which deny any part to reason, to Vedas and Shastras, which deny any part to morality. You must destroy the Religion of the Shrutis and the Smritis. Nothing will avail. This is my considered view of the matter". (*Annihilation of Caste*, p.71).

The Bahujans have to use the miracle of "*caste identity*" thesis to kill brahminism. Our Editor's thesis can be used to destroy casteism which divides the human beings. Our Editor said:

> "The Hindus will remain a house divided as long as the caste system is there. RSS leaders now and then express their fear that Hindus may be reduced to a minority in India. Their fear is genuine. When the Dalits and BCs realise their slavery under the Aryan invaders, the "Hindus" will be reduced to a minority. This is bound to happen soon. Already Dalits have declared they are not Hindus and never Hindus. So also the Sikhs. Jains have joined this list of non-Hindus". (DV March 1, 1997 p.22: "*Hindus admit Jains are not Hindus*").

Many more will say so soon. Backward Castes are fast realising this fact. The "Hindus will soon become a minority and perhaps only Brahmins will remain to be called Hindus". (*Why Godse Killed Gandhi?* p. 40-41).

In the Parliament election 1999 the miracle of "caste identity" thesis will stimulate the Bahujans of India to use their vote to send the Bahujan candidates to the Lok Sabha. ■

DV Nov.1, 1999 p.6: "*Secret of BSP success*". ■

Pope's visit used to fool Dalit Christians

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: *The Pope got a good reception when he came to Delhi on Nov.6, 1999. Hindu nazis who raised so much of dust earlier will continue to kick the church and at the same time continue to take full benefit of the Christian services.*

Dalit Christians, who are kept out of the Indian church, tell us that the whole thing was a well-rehearsed drama to fool the Dalit Christians who form over 85% of the Christian population and yet kept out of the church.

The Pope's visit came as a blessing to pour cold water on their burning anger. The loud anti-church noise raised by the Hindu nazis helped the racist church to draw the aggrieved Dalit Christians closer to the church.

DV warning not heeded: *The church leadership has nothing against India's rulers whose children are studying in all Christian convents. If the church is really angry with Aryan rulers they would have long back heeded the DV warning to stop admitting Aryan students into Christian educational institutions.*

Besides, the Pope is a White Western Aryan who have already joined hands with India's Aryan rulers.

Silence of Pope: *The silence of the Pope on the rampant racism inside India's church proves DV right. The drama will continue until the Dalit Christians throw out the Aryans from the church.*

V.T. Rajshekar: "Dalit Christians must take over church & declare Babasaheb as Messiah", DV Oct.16, 1999 p.19.

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