

September 03, 2003

HH Swami Dayanand Saraswatiji,
USA

Dear Swamiji,

Shri Jaishree Gopal, Chairman, NavyaŚāstrā, has been in touch with me on how to spread the cardinal message of Vedas and Gita i.e. equality of all Hindus by birth; and, gender equality. Recently, in my personal capacity, I penned four articles which are displayed on Sify.com at <http://sify.com/news/othernews/fullstory.php?id=13171234&vsv=579>¹

I am glad to learn from Shri J. Gopal that you are going to organise a meeting of Acharyas to discuss concerns facing Sanatan Dharma. In my humble opinion, the biggest problem the Hindu Samaj has been facing over last one thousand years is the continuous decline in percentage of Hindu population; and, the root cause in my view is our deviation from the original teachings of Vedas and Gita.

Out of 414 mantra-drasta risies of Rigveda about 30 are lady risies (risikas) implying gender equality that Hindu women are not to be discriminated nor to be prevented from gaining excellence. So, Hindu women have equal access to and equal claim over Vedas and Gita. But, ignoring this very fact, some Acharyas discriminate against women quoting secondary sources. Can one supersede Vedas by subsidiary literature?

We have been either burning our widows and/or discouraging their remarriages. This is one of the major reasons for falling percentage of Hindus. Some Acharyas look down upon remarriage of Hindu widows whereas Vedas sanction widow remarriage vide RV(X.40.2), RV (X.18.8- 9), AV(IX.5.27-28), and AV (XVIII.3.1-4).

Though many Acharyas lament and some actively oppose proselytization/conversion of Hindus into other religions but they ignore that it is they who by misinterpretations of Vedas and Gita create fertile grounds for conversion activities of preachers of other religions. Many ignorant people quote RV (X.90.12) as Rig Vedic authority to justify birth based casteism

¹Sanskrit texts of slokas quoted in my articles do not appear in Sify.com due to some technical difficulty.

and consequent fragmentation of Hindu Samaj into four main castes at fratricidal war with each other. Whereas, as explained in detail in my articles RV(X.90) preaches total equality of all four professional classes. In a healthy person, mouth does not claim to be superior to legs, arms do not claim any superiority over legs, arms do not function independently of head (Parkinson??s disease) etc. as each part of body is identical and is functionally dependent on each other. No part of body is inferior or superior to any other part of the body; each dependent on the other; each complementary to the other, each supporting the other in a healthy person (Purusa). Thus, Purus Sukta commands that none of the four classes is inferior or superior to other; and, each is dependent on the other for healthy survival. A Virat Purusa is created only when four professions work in as close harmony as four limbs of a healthy person. Thus, Purus Sukta, in my opinion, emphasises complementary role, supplementing each other. By throwing Sudras out of villages, followers of Manusmriti amputated Hinduism and made it crippled and invalid. In Gita also there is no birth based caste as Lord Krishna says “Karmani pravibhaktani” (18.41). Lord Krishna does not say “Janmani pravibhaktani”

सं गच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम् ।

देवा भागं यथा पूर्वे संजानाना उपासते ॥ २ ॥ ऋ.वे. १० १११

समानो मन्त्रः समितिः स्मानि समानम् सनः सह चित्तम् एषाम् ।

समानम् मन्त्रम् अभि मन्त्रये वः मानेन वो हविषा जुहोमि ॥ ३ ॥ ऋ.वे. १० १११

समानी व आकूतिः समाना हृदयानि वः ।

समानम् अस्तु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासति ॥ ४ ॥ ऋ.वे. १० १११

समानी प्रपा सह वोऽन्नभागः समाने योवत्रे सह वो युनज्मि ।

सम्यङ्ङोऽग्निं सपर्यतारा नाभिमिवाभितः ॥ ६ ॥ अथ.वे. ३ ३०

Thus, the central command of the fifteen harmony seeking Vedic richas and ten profession not hereditary Vedic richas (detailed in my articles) is that all Hindus are totally equal by birth, of one bunch, share same water and food, worship together united in same temple, common are the prayers, common be the purpose, common be thoughts, united like spokes of a wheel, common be oblation, friendly towards each others, etc. etc. One becomes a warrior (Rajnya), Brahman (educated ones) or rishi, not by birth but by his efforts/training (karma) vide RV (X.125.5).

अ॒हमे॒व स्व॒यमि॒दं व॑दामि॒ जुष्टं॑ दे॒वेभि॑रु॒त मानु॑षेभिः ।

यं का॒मये॒ तंतमु॑ग्रं कृ॒णोमि॒ तं ब्र॑ह्माणं॒ तं ऋ॑षिं॒ तं सु॑मे॒धाम् ॥ ५ ॥ ऋ.वे. १० १२५

No one is superior by birth and no one is inferior by birth. In fact RV (V.60.5) reads ??No one is superior (ajvestasa) or inferior (akanishtasa). All are brothers (ete bhrataraha). All should strive for the interests of all and should progress collectively. (sowbhagaya sam va vridhuhu):

अ॒ज्ये॒ष्ठासो॒ अक॑नि॒ष्ठास॒ पु॒ते सं॒ भ्रा॒त॒रो वा॒वृ॒धुः सौ॒भ॒गाय॑ ।

यु॒वा पि॒ता स्व॒पा रू॒द्र ए॒षां सु॒दु॒घा पृ॒श्निः सु॒दि॒ना म॒रु॒द्भ्यः ॥ ५ ॥ ऋ॒वे. ५ ६०

Transgressing and flouting the above secondary literature has been used to dicide and fragment the Hindu Samaj from within into castes and subcastes; and, such a rotten social structure was created wherein only 3% of Hindu population was expected to go to war whereas in Islam and Christianity about 35% of population was eligible and made psychologically available/prepared to take on Kafirs and pagans. No wonder, therefore, Hindus were defeated by numerically small numbers of Turks, Mangols, Afghans Mughals, and even slave invaders. Millions of Hindus were butchers, their temples destroyed and theirwomen raped and sold asslaves in Kabul etc. Even in independent India, percentage of Hindus is falling!! History repeats itself if lessons of History are ignored in passive complacence. Should we not reappraise our socio-religious norms? Hinduism is the only religion which by ill-treatment of a section of its adherents encourages them to walk over to other religions so is Hindusm ! not on the path of auto-destruction? We must act fast to put it back on right path of organic growth.

Let us restore the primacy and supremacy of Vedas. Let us stop incorrect practice of superseding Vedas by secondary sources or commentaries as risi Veda Vyasa has himself instructed that Vedas are supreme and take precedence over everything:

श्रु॒तिस्मृ॒तिपु॒राणा॒नां वि॒रोधो॑ यत्र दृ॒श्यते॑ ।

तत्र श्रौ॒तं प्र॒माण॑न्तु तयो॒र्द्वे॒धे स्मृ॒तित्त्वि॒रा ॥ ४ ॥ म॒भा. १ ५

Acharya, above are my humble submissions in my individual and personal capacity. May I request you and your learned colleagues to help us restore original teachings of Vedas and Gita to all Hindus! In fact, Swamiji RV (X.191) commands bringing all Hindus under one banner. I shall highly appreciate your views and guidance.

Your sincerely,

(O.P. Gupta)

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