

# THE SILENT EXPLOSION

## 'Poonyabhoomi' of Bharata Does It!

Not only Freedom v Slavery but Truth, Love,  
Humility v Falsehood, Hatred, Arrogance

By NAVALMANEK

Burma, North and South Korea, China, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Greece, Uganda, Libya, Chile, Haiti, Portugal, Spain.....the list can go on and on. These are the countries which were crushed under the boots of the tyranny, most of them after the second world war. A large majority of the nations round the globe today have lost their freedom either to foreign powers or mostly to native despots. Out of this long list, Greece had the easiest escape. Yet it took her almost ten years to regain its freedom. Portugal and Spain are slowly but surely moving towards democracy. But this could happen there only after the deaths of the two tyrants — Salazar and Franco.

But our India is not an ordinary country. It is a "Poonyabhoomi" where the "poonya" of her saints and sages belonging to all religions still glows with splendour and radiance. The divine power which radiates from the guileless hearts and sufferings of millions and millions of our poor, dumb, hapless, illiterate and half-clad countrymen, is still refulgent. This is why we could get rid of the tyranny which came to us in the name of "Emergency" within twenty months.

The world is baffled. The best of

the political pundits are astounded. How could this unusual phenomenon happen? How come the poor and ignorant masses of India could brush aside the temptations and the threats of the tyrants and silently and peacefully throw them out of power? The answer is simple enough: the Divine Grace of God.

Now that we have regained our liberty and our new Government is busy grappling with one thousand and one gigantic problems, we should avoid the temptation of a post-mortem. "What next?" is more important. Yet it is essential that we all Indians, and particularly we, the Parsis, once and for all understand the real issues of this election.

I regret to say that according to my observations — and I of course may be wrong — a portion of our Parsi Community either could not or did not care to understand this revolution. It may be that as they were not directly affected, they did not take the trouble of finding out the truth about the "Emergency". It may be that they were carried away by the "discipline and order" propaganda of the tyrants. They might have thought that it was all mere "politics" — a word which

they generally dislike due to their inherent honesty.

Of course, the intellectuals and the knowledgeable members of our community did understand the real issues involved. They issued a public appeal too. Many of them like Shri A. D. Gorwala, and the new Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Soli Sorabjee actively fought against the oppression.

### SHAMELESS RAPE OF THE GLORIOUS INDIAN CULTURE

During the short election campaign, the tyrants insisted that the real issues was Stability versus Chaos. That was plain hogwash. The basic issue cer- Wrong, Morality V. Ruthless Ex- more than that the really fundamental issue of the elections was Right V Wrong, Morality Vs. Ruthless Ex- pediciency.

Never before in the long history of our nation did we come across such a dark and dreadful period as that of the twenty months of this so-called "Emergency." Never before, the moral standards and ethical values of a proud and upright people were so successfully shattered to dust by its own elected rulers. What happened in our motherland during these days of nightmare was nothing short of a shameless rape of the glorious Indian Culture. Our rulers stifled the very soul of our nation.

This is not hyperbole. This is what **exactly** happened in India. This is precisely what this writer intends to show in this article.

What is Indian Culture? It is the way of life which is based on the religious commandments, the eternal

values and the majesty of the moral law. It comes down to us from ages, centuries and generations. It is reflected in the lives and teachings of our prophets, saints, sages and other true leaders of humanity belonging to all religions and all times.

In our times, Mahatma Gandhi was one such leader. Even the tyrants swore by him during the elections! Therefore, Gandhiji and his teachings can be a safe guide for us for the purpose of this article.

### TRUTH—THE BIGGEST CASUALTY

What was Gandhi's basic philosophy of life? To him, **Truth is God**. "I am but a seeker after truth", he wrote in the **Young India** (17-6-1926). "I claim to be a votary of truth from my childhood.....My prayerful search gave me the revealing maxim **Truth is God**", he wrote in the **Harijan** (9-8-1942).

During the fateful twenty months, the truth was the biggest casualty. It was totally and ruthlessly suppressed by the Government whose official

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### SUDREH-KUSHTI

(Continued from page 4)

earth and on us. Here again, I talked to you about carbon-dating to fix up in you the concept of such **outward** energy-flow. Ultra-physical and spiritual will be understood better if physical is grasped first.

And when we enter, in the next issue, into the chapters of Kirleen Photography and Chinese art of acupuncture, you will appreciate more my taking you in the field of carbon-dating.



## THE POET.....

Where the mind is without fear  
and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been  
broken up into fragments by narrow  
domestic walls;

Where words come out from  
the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches  
its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of re-  
ason has not lost its way into the  
dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward  
by thee into ever-widening thought  
and action;

**Into that heaven of freedom,  
my Father, let my country  
awake.**

— Tagore, *Gitanjali*-35

emblem carried the words **Satyameva jayate!** Lies, more lies and nothing but the lies were dished out to us day after day. Nobody believed anybody, and try as you might the truth could never be found.

Our Hindu scriptures teach us the concept of **Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram**. Holy **Koran** says: "Allah is Truth" (22|62). Our religions and our culture teach us that the truth is at the base of all virtues. Take it away and the virtues crash down.

Zoroastrianism has a beautiful concept of Truth. Truth is seven coloured. Truth is all Powerful Ahura Mazda Himself. Truth is the pure reflection of the Divine Mind (Vohu Mano). Truth is the Order and Beauty (Ashavahista).

Truth is the Strength and Power (Khsathra Vairya). Truth is Humility and Service (Spenta Armaiti). Truth is Perfection, Immortality and 'Mukti' (Haurvatat-Ameretat).

And in this Holy Land of the Saints and sages, how effectively everything good and decent and just and truthful crashed down and how the vices came to surface and enveloped the entire Government and the ruling party's machinery, is recent history. Says Lord Krishna in **Gita** "Common people copy whatever high-placed men do" (3|21). Can you then blame a district medical officer or a city Police constable for committing "atrocities"? Who set the standards? Who issued the orders? Who fixed the targets?

## WHERE WAS LOVE?

To Gandhiji, **Love** too was **God** (Young India —11-10-28). Truth and Love combined made the "Moral Law" in the "Supremacy" of which he staunchly believed.

Where had the Love gone all these twenty months? There was brute hate, once again generating at the top. Otherwise, would anyone believe that in our Motherland, a selfless leader of great integrity and purity would, in the cover of darkness, be arrested and thrown into a jail? What is more, would his request for giving him the company of a fellow human being be so unceremoniously turned down? What have we come to? We live in the land where Gandhiji, Vivekananda, Dadabhoy, Tilak and Nehru walked in our time!! — Mind! In **our** time. But did they? Was it all a dream?

Gandhiji told us: "Where there is love there is life; where there is hatred

there is destruction" (*Young India* — 5-5-20).

### THE FEAR GRIP

Of Gandhiji, it is said that he raised us out of dust and made us real men. How? He taught us **fearlessness**. A nation of cowards could never achieve anything.

But during these dark days fear gripped the nation. Friends stopped talking with one another. A word that so-and-so was under watch of the MISA hounds was enough to isolate him. Even brothers avoided brothers. A new class of untouchables was created. Many lived in the fear of the midnight knock. Many doors were in fact knocked. What happened afterwards has already become a dark chapter of India's history. It is one long sordid tale of brutal tortures, untold sufferings and horrible humiliations.

### ARROGANCE

Our Culture also teaches us the virtue of **Humility**. Gandhiji disliked all sorts of arrogance, and most of all the arrogance of unrestrained power.

During the twenty months, we experienced nothing but naked exhibition of horrifying arrogance on the part of our rulers and their minirs. There were Bansi Lals and Om Mehtas at every level. There was also a Gokhale asking our Judges to behave, and every other day threatening them with unpleasant "consequences."

But arrogance blinds a person to realities. "The instruments for the quest of Truth", Gandhiji said, would "appear quite impossible to an arrogant person" (*Autobiography* —

Page 6). He, therefore, called us to cultivate "an abundant sense of humility" (*Young India* — 31-12-31). Today, experiencing total defeat, our then rulers are amazed and astounded. It is their arrogance which has cheated them.

### "SECRECY, A SIN" — GANDHIJI

To Gandhiji, his life was an open book. Even thoughts should not be kept secret. He wrote: "I have to regard secrecy as a sin" (*Young India* — 20-12-20). During the emergency, secrecy was the major weapon of our rulers. Unlike Gandhiji, they had a lot to hide.

### DISCIPLINE — FROM WITHIN

One has only to read the book 'Self-restraint vs Self-indulgence' to realise

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## .....AND THE POLITICIAN

The India of my dreams is a community in which every individual, every resource is dedicated to serving the weak—a community dedicated to antodaya, to the well-being of the least and the weakest.

It is a community in which individuals are valued for their humanity—a community in which the right of every individual to act according to his conscience is recognised and respected by all.

It is a community in which different views contend peacefully, in which disagreements are settled in a civilised manner. It is a community in which fellow men persuade each other, not bluegdon each other.

It is a community in which all have work—work which affords them a decent living and which fulfils them. It is a community in which each individual has enough to develop his creative potential to the maximum, in which everyone who toils with his hands has a share in owning and a say in managing the factory or farm in which he toils. It is a community in which all have equal opportunities—a community in which the strong, the majorities themselves recognise the handicaps of the weak, of the minorities and go out of their way to assure them preferential facilities so that their historical handicaps are removed.

— Jayprakash Narayan

what importance Gandhiji attached to self-control. To him, discipline came from within. It could not be forced down the throat. Compare it with the discipline advocated by our rulers during the twenty months. It was the “discipline of the grave” as Morarjibhai repeatedly said. It was a discipline of fear and tyranny for the people and unrestrained and callous indulgence for themselves.

### THE END AND THE MEANS

Finally, I come to a very basic norm of the Indian Culture containing the highest principle of goodness: the purity of the end, and the purity of the means to achieve it. The end never justifies the means. Gandhi's wrote in *the Young India* (17-7-74); “**They say, ‘means are after all means’.** I would

say **‘means are after all everything.’ As the means, so the end.**” When in the *Gita*, Lord Krishna asks us to do our duty and to leave the fruits of our action to Him, He in fact puts all the emphasis on the purity of means. He even wants us to forget the ends! But that was to attain the Kingdom of heaven.

In the Emergency Kingdom, anything was fair enough to achieve imaginary good ends. The real and the only end was to remain in power at any costs. Take away the people's right to life and liberty, — you want to give them stability and order. Destroy the rule of law, — you want them to be disciplined. **Blunt the efficacy of the Courts and ridicule the Judges, — you want to give the people true justice.**

Treat the poor villagers the way a Municipal Corporation's field staff treat

stray dogs, — you want them to have a happy family. Gag newspapers, journals and all the media of mass communication — you want the citizens to be correctly informed. Do not allow them to quote Gandhi, Tagore or Nehru, — you do not want the people to be influenced by out-of-date ideas. Show the anti-people persons like Mrinal, Madhu, Verghese, Kuldip, Durga and Sunder Rajan their proper places, — you want the real patriots like Sanjay, Bansi, Sham Lal, Mahavir, Hussain and Khushwant Singh to thrive.

**Deface and defile the Constitution, — you want to make it more effective.** Terrorise the members of Parliament, — you want them to represent and serve the people in a much better way. Give a free hand to the industrialists regarding lock-outs and lay-offs, — you want to safeguard the interest of the poor workers. Take away from the poor people their trade union rights, close down their avenues for seeking justice through their elected representatives in the legislatures, or through the courts of justice or public appeals through newspapers, — after all you want to serve the down-trodden.

Suspend democracy and snatch away all rights and freedoms of the citizens, — you want to defend poor democracy from the viles of traitors like Jaya Prakash Narayan and Morarjibhai and rascals like B. G. Verghese and A. D. Gorwala.

Rush through a legislation immunising the P. M. with retrospective effect from all actions, good or bad, — you want the integrity and repute of the nation's Leader to be preserved. Throw the successful litigant of the Allahabad High Court into jail, —you

want to teach him a lesson for his dirty anti-national mischief. And finally, reduce our countrymen to the position of serfs, minions and pygmies, —you want them to be "proud" citizens of a "strong, stable and united India", which the world will behold with awe and admiration. Jai Hind!

Yes, as I said earlier, during the twenty months, anything was fair enough in the power-game of our rulers, Expediency overruled mortality. All the principles for which Gandhiji lived and died were thrown to wolves. The nobility of Nehru was nowhere to be experienced. Yet our rulers went on swearing by their names. They attacked the opposition parties for "betraying" Gandhiji. Yes, Acharya Kripalani and Jaya Prakash Narain do not follow the Mahatma . . . . .

Even hypocrisy should have its limits. But then, you can't help hypocrisy. Even Gandhiji had to concede: "Unfortunately, there is no remedy against hypocrisy" (**Harijan — 8-3-33**). When Mahatma Gandhi had no remedy, how could our tyrants find one? The only remedy was an operation by the people which was successful — in killing the patient.



It was the dawn of Navroz, the 21st March 1977, and this Land of 'Rishi's and 'Mooni's sang the words of Shelly :

"I dreamed that as I wandered  
by the way,  
Bare winter suddenly was  
changed to spring".

Let us pray that may the dream be transmitted to reality, and let us play our part . . . . .