



Gandhi and Ambedkar - Human Development Politics and Religion

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Abstract: A careful study of the lives of Gandhiji and Dr.Ambedkar invariably leads one to a paradoxical conclusion that both their views on human development and politics and religion are almost the same. Apparently they are opposite poles. But internally and inherently they are two wings of a visionary bird. They were equally worried about future India, in other words, post independent India. To achieve their objects both sacrificed their lives. They endeavored to uplift the common man and the rural poor. Each is great in his own may.

Key words: Gandhi, Ambedkar, Human Development, Politics, Religion

Introduction

Dr.Ambedkar had a scientific outlook whereas Gandhiji had a moral outlook. Ambedkar is an authority in social sciences, economics, public finance and planning. So much so his views appeared to be progressive. As a labour leader, he knew the rural and urban economy and how to balance them. Gandhiji knew that our country mostly lives in villages and therefore, he wanted the villages to be developed in such a way that they would become self-sufficient. In Gandhiji's words his concept can be termed as "Gram Swaraj".

Narration

According to him we have to weave our own cloth, have our own washer-men, our own carpenters and our own ploughs and bullocks, bullock carts and we have to till our own lands so that each man will have his assured income to live on. He was against industrialization. Gandhiji thought that if handlooms were replaced by power looms and textile

industries, ploughs and bullocks were replaced by tractors, bullock carts are replaced by tractor-trailers, lorries and buses and in a word manual labour was replaced by machine, the rural public and the artisans would be thrown out and from their traditional and customary jobs and thereby; become beggars. But Ambedkar's view as different. He thought that after industrial revolution and renaissance European countries and Northern America had tremendously progressed where as India remained as it was and therefore alone with rural development, industrialisation should also simultaneously take place. Each was right in his own way, because there are both merits and demerits in each one's view.

Gandhiji and Dr.Ambedkar wished that Indian Nation as a whole should develop economically, politically and socially. The benefits of liberty, equality and fraternity should be felt and enjoyed by all. But what are means? Ambedkar was of the view that unless political power is equally distributed the poorer sections in the country would not



achieve economic equality and social status. For this Ambedkar fought for separate electorates or at least reservation for socially undeveloped people called Dalits. Gandhiji from the beginning was antagonistic for separate electorates because it would hinder social and national integration. There is great force in Gandhiji's statement which Dr. Ambedkar was not unaware of. That is why Ambedkar (of course reluctantly) agreed or rather was forced to agree for reservations up to ten years in the first instance. It may be observed here that if Gandhiji is partly a politician and partly a saint, Dr. Ambedkar is a scientific politician or a political philosopher.

Obviously, coming to the views of Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar on religion, Gandhiji is a Hindu religionist where as Dr. Ambedkar is a Buddhist. Gandhiji supported Hindu religion and caste system. Ambedkar was an enemy to Hindu Religion. He is a hater of Hindu philosophy. About Bhagavad Geetha Ambedkar said, "It is an irresponsible book on ethics, a compromise of all errors." Ambedkar wanted protestant Hinduism, regeneration of Hinduism. That is why he openly burnt "Manu Dharma Shastra" and gave a new code to Hindus and earned the name, "A Modern Manu" as his biographer Dhananjay Keer termed it. Gandhiji's views on religion are narrow where as Ambedkar's views are broad and universal. Buddhism is contrary to Hinduism. Ambedkar observes that Hinduism teaches inequality because of its caste system but Buddhism teaches equality. However, strangely both Ambedkar and Gandhiji condemned untouchability and strove for its abolition. The only difference between them is the former wanted annihilation

of caste and the latter wanted reformation of the caste. Great people think alike but act differently.

Reference books

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