

We Meet Again

Good Morning! We meet again in the South Asian Hall of Shame where emotions overcome the mind; where history surrenders to demagoguery; where barbarism embraces barbarism. We should introduce ourselves:

Namaste. Since I represent the larger country, the older civilisation, and a secular democracy, I insist on being introduced first: I am a Hindu revivalist leader. I am determined to turn four thousand years of civilisation - built by Dravidians and Aryans; Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims; Huns, Persians, and Turks, a variety of Europeans and Christians - into a single code of Kali. We do not regard history as a subject of study, or of comprehending the past. We deploy it as weapon of war. Like ironsmiths, we beat and burn history to shape it into swords and lances.

For the Muslim-loving historians - like R.S. Shanna, Suraj Dhan, D.N. Jha, and that sneaky woman Romila Thapur - who were educated in the West and write fat books in English, I have no use whatsoever. As one of my colleagues, R.K. Malkani, told a visiting Pakistani, "there is no asthan in Hindustan for such historians." To them I prefer such deep savants of India as Joseph Tieffenthaler and Konrad Elst of whom you may not have heard because of the nefarious anti-Hindu conspiracy to suppress the truth. But to tell you the truth, I don't care much about reading history. I like inventing it, and making it. History is what people believe. And I know for sure that when masses march, monuments are destroyed, and people die, history is made.

My followers are the true sons of Indian soil. Most of them are hungry, homeless, illiterate, and angry over these minor deprivations. Their anger is lethal like gunpowder, and deserves to be channelled in the right directions. I have a talent and commitment to channelling it against the dalit, Sikhs, and, above all, the Muslims. That is why rich Hindu families, including Dalmia Ji and members of the Birla family which once supported that false Mahatma called Gandhi, now support us with money.

While I am on the subject of money, let me tell you frankly that we have made a lot of money also from selling to millions of yattris posters - historical posters, mind you, which show Muslim Kings slaying pundits and rajas, and destroying Hindu temples and gods - and religious trinkets at the sites, like Ram Janam Bhoomi in Ayodhya and the Krishna Janam Bhoomi in Mathura, where we have identified centuries-old Muslim monuments as birth-places of thousands year old Hindu gods. It is a profitable business when you add the temple collection, commissions from shop owners and food hawkers, and contributions from educated Indians abroad - engineers and doctors mostly - who, being separated from Mother India, feel a special attachment to the usurped birthplaces of our ancient gods.

Why then, you might ask, have we killed the goose that laid the golden eggs; why have we demolished the Babri mosque? That concerns, Sir jee, matters of power, credibility, and opportunity. One cannot go on flogging a dead horse forever. To demonstrate power and to have credibility, one has to have victory. The Babri battle started in 1946; we the BJP, VHP, Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal infused new life into it with the national shila puja in 1986 and the Ram Jyoti of 1990. How long could we go on without destroying the mosque? The time was ripe. As my colleague Gulab Parihar said at the demo, there was a "eunuch government" in Delhi. As for the Islamic countries, the UN and all that hee hee hee look at Bosnia. Who was going to stop kar seva?

Also, small businesses have to be closed, dear jee, to go on to bigger ones, especially when the opportunities are enormous. We have Mathura, not far from Delhi itself. Thanks to the few great Congresswallahs, like Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, a temple complex was already built there with Birlaji's money, next to the Idgah. Now we have built another temple, right smack in the belly of the mosque. That is our Krishna Janam Bhoomi. Yatris keep pouring. Pretty good business; also excellent political prospect.

What a shame that people have to enter the belly temple in Mathura from the back of the mosque built by the Moghul Aurangzeb. That has to be our next object of demolition. We have many more targets. Some colleagues have made a list of two thousand mosques. Then there is the Taj Mahal which, we have proof, belonged to a Hindu raja, and was expropriated by Shah Jahan to bury his wife. These Muslims! We also have powerful friends such as the Zionist colleague who published an article about the Taj Mahal in the New York Times. How can the Muslims fight both us and the Zionists? We shall get the Taj and call it Raj Mahal which is what it must have been called when Shah Jahan stole it.

Well, I was telling you about our followers. When their anger is aroused and hate of the Muslim is instilled in their hearts, they are really great. Brave; forward marching; ready to kill and be killed. Do you know, dear jee, that since we started the Pujan movement our followers have killed thousands of Muslims, and have themselves died in the hundreds - willingly, without complaining. And not one of us leaders was killed.

That takes political education, organisation. We are the best organised force in India. Look at our melas and Kar sevas! Each has been, like our historical inventions, an organisational masterpiece. We give our janta something to kill for and die for. They chant hymns in Sanskrit, hymns which bear messages of peace and love; but they do so without understanding and with hatred in their hearts. That's the power of myth and ritual which Hitler Sahib understood so well. We make them proud of our civilisation, and we make them fervently wish to wipe out at least a third of it.

Where will it stop? As I said, the official plans are top secret. My colleague Malkani Sahib (R.K. Malkani, RSS leader) told a so-called Pakistani scholar, that officially we insist now on only three mosques. But these things have a logic of their own. The truth is that about half of India's historical monuments are Muslim, stolen from Hindus or built on holy Hindu sites. They should all be reclaimed or demolished. Then, there are the Muslims themselves, India's most coddled minority, a thorn in our heart. They must be straightened up. The Sikh and dalit problems shall come later.

What are the consequences? You are asking too many questions, dear jee. I don't trust your sincerity. I am wondering if you might be circumcised. Okay, last question! My name? Name, says the Purana, suggests a state of mind. Call me Ayodhya.

Salaam Alaikum. Recent developments have diminished my role in politics. Therefore, I shall introduce myself only briefly. I live in an ironically named country which refuses, despite my best efforts, to conform fully to the highest ideals of Islam. As a result, things are not so good in my country. Petty thieves run around swinging both arms, wrists and all. Women march side by side of na mahram males demanding Western-inspired human rights, and against the Hadood ordinances which were imposed under General Zia Sahib Marhoom. Hijab is violated with impunity. Dupatta is recklessly worn, and sometimes audaciously slips down from women's head even on Pak TV.

Anti-Islam forces supported by the Indo-Jewish-American lobby are strident in any country, making the most outrageous demands of the government. Right now, they are protesting and blocking the issuance of national identity cards with religious affiliation of

owners. They say it will cost government lots of money. But what is money for if it cannot be spent on differentiating Muslim from non-Muslim in an Islamic state? They say it will lead to discrimination against minorities. But Islam protects minorities; so the word discrimination is not admissible in our context.

Our following is small, which is one reason why we do not do too well in elections unless they are organised properly by an IslamPasand dictator like Zia marhoom. But our organisation is excellent and it proves itself in times when there is crisis and public emotions are high. Our people are poor. Few are as homeless as your followers; but we have more illiterates than you do. Blood runs truly fast into their brains.

In crisis they are great; you should have seen them when the Americans attacked Makkah Sharif and they burned Americans with their embassy. You should have seen their sacrificing jazba when renegade Rushdie wrote his Satanic book. And just like you kafir leaders, we are smart. We are additionally self-sacrificing in that we let our followers attain shahadat. Ever heard of one of us Islamic leaders usurping this privilege from the common man? Wallah! there were the anti-Qadiani campaign, the Badr and Shams Jihad, the American Embassy affair, the Rushdie deaths, plus eleven years of victorious jihad in Afghanistan, and none of us attained shahadat.

Our detractors do nifag against us. Right now they are saying that we disgrace Islam in the name of Islam; that we gave Pakistan a bad name and we hurt the interests of Muslim brethren in India by arousing the people to burn temples and kill Hindus. That is a calumny and shows their ignorance of haqiqi Islam. Like Mahmud Ghaznavi marhoom, I am a but shikan, not a but farosh. Temples are to be demolished, as mosques are to be preserved, especially when badla has to be taken, and there is opportunity to mobilise masses.

Last but not least, mind you Janab, that in the moments of opportunity I am never alone, for sensitive politicians of all parties eagerly join me. What's my name? Under the circumstances, you may call me mouqa parast Somnathi.

EQBAL AHMAD [Dawn: 13th December, 1992]