

10. Hate

'Hate' Campaign Exposed

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The Problem:

Honorable Prime Minister

Vajpayee's statement that "RSS is a cultural organization" ironically seems to be much more true now than ever before. Yes, RSS promotes culture, but only culture of violence and hatred. Acts of violence unleashed by the Sangh Parivar are only symptomatic of its deep-rooted spiritual bankruptcy. It is a blessing for the minorities that the true Hinduism continues to be as accommodating and tolerant as ever. The strategy followed by the Sangh Parivar and its allies is simple: Mislead and misinform people, distort the tenets of history, and create fear psychosis in the minority communities. Self-proclaimed scholars of the Bible among the Hindu fundamentalist have taken the cudgel to

champion the cause of Hinduism. Does Hinduism need them at all?

If Hinduism survived for so many centuries these communal forces are only blocking its natural development. True, they are digging their own grave, but we want Hinduism to be there. But the Hin-

duism even Christians and Muslims vouch for is that which respects

the helpless, torching the Holy Books, attacking the Churches, and killing the priests.

Their ideology of "Hate thy Neighbour" is crystal clear. The methodology they use is scientific. A lot of research simultaneously goes on to find out the loopholes in the Church doctrines and practices. Fundamentalist scholars are working on a war footing in the research institutes to study the missionary literature and their style of functioning. Programmes are chalked out meticulously to check the growth of missionary activities. In the process the innocent are killed in the crossfire. All modern sophisticated tools and techniques are at their disposal to further their vested interest. One of the main methods to meet their end is the 'hate' campaign through provocative statements and literature, and malicious propaganda

against the minorities. The sinister designs of the Hindutva forces lie exposed even as the Government finds ISI hands in the recent attacks on the churches and missionary institutions.

In 1980s a caricature appeared in one of the dailies of Ranchi in

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Press Release

Man & cow eaters deserve death.

Swamy Shri Parashuram has refuted the demand of protection by Christians (THT 8th June). They are killers and robbers, who could not tolerate even the travel of Gandhi in the First Class compartment. They can remember the killings of school principal and Graham Stains, but they can not remember the killings of thousands of army men and Riyangs of Mizoram. Wherever they reach, they enslave and plunder the native inhabitants of the land like red Indians of USA. No sooner they got majority, they robbed and killed Fizians and UNO. their protege. is conniving. They got divided Bharat and got killed millions of innocents by Muslims in 1947. No sooner they got majority in Nagaland, Meghalay and Mizoram states of Bharat they eliminated the native tribes of these states. These cow and man eaters are residing in Bharat to establish the kingdom of Jesus. They are buying time. No sooner they would get majority, they would eliminate Bharat name from world map. Aryans can tolerate these Christians but they can not even allow Aryans to survive. The fact can be verified by the verses of Bible John/ Chapter 6 / Verse 53 & Bible-Luke/ Chapter 19 / Verse 27.

Yours etc, (Parashuram)

and tolerates all humanity irrespective of their cultural and religious affiliations. Hindutva is not Hinduism; it is only an aberration of Hinduism. Thankfully, only a handful of fundamental, intolerant elements indulge in activities of arson and rioting, burning the innocent, raping

South Bihar where a pedestrian was shown falling in a manhole in the main road. There were a couple of other manholes and from one of them waved a hand with a caption "the foreign hand". Earlier it was a 'fashion' to accuse the foreign hand for every political disturbance. Now there is a shift in the Hindutva methodology. Accusation of the foreign hand has now become a 'strategy' to further the evil designs of the Hindutva forces.

It is not necessary for all the attacks to be preplanned but the lethargy and the 'doublespeak' of the Government has allowed an atmosphere to prevail where Hindutva forces, hand-in-glove with the criminal and anti-social elements are on prowl, waiting for the prey. They are confident of protection by the powers that be.

What is saddening is the hate campaign by the Sangh Parivar against the Christian minority is escalating. For the time being campaign against Muslims has taken a back seat. This is obviously a tacit retreat. Lots of hate literatures are available teaching, preaching and spreading hatred and violence. The present article attempts to expose only a bit of the whole truth.

Hate Literature:

Hasan Suroor in his article "Christian MPs allege 'hate' campaign" (*The Hindu*, May 10, 2000) reports about the objectionable literatures attacking Christian missionaries. Apparently, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro sent some of these to the Union Home Minister Mr. L.K.Advani urging him to get the

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Press Release

Churches attacked in self defence.

Swamy Shri Parashuram has congratulated Aryans for doing their moral duty by attacking the cow and man eater Christians who are residing in Bharat to establish the kingdom of Jesus. Aryans can tolerate these Christians but they can not allow Aryans to survive. The fact can be verified by the following extracts,

Bible John/ Chapter 6 / Verse 53.

Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

Bible-Luke/ Chapter 19 / Verse 27.

"But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them bring them here and kill them in front of me."

The Christians, no sooner got majority slew, burnt alive, hounded out the Riyangs of Mizoram and are running parallel Government of NSCN in Nagaland. They threw Gandhi out of first class compartment in Africa and plundered Indians in Fiji. RSS and Atal Govt. did nothing against these humbugs. Aryans would meet the fate like Riyangs unless they eliminate Christians.

Yours etc., (Parashuram)

State Government to confiscate them. Saroor mentions three pamphlets. The first one titled "Seva ki aad mein, Church ka shadyantra" ("A Church conspiracy in the name of public service") is authored by Dr. Ravindra Aggarwal and printed courtesy "Hindu Manch Delhi". The author alleges a conspiracy to turn Arunachal into a "Christian majority" State. He speaks of foreign money pouring into Christian missionary institutions. He, among other inflammatory statements, compares Christian missionary zeal for proselytization with Hitler's fascism. In the same way, the pamphlet "Church ka deshdrohi chehra" (the anti-national face of the Church), issued by "Hindu Jagran Manch, Delhi" alleges that

under the pretext of serving the people, Christian missionaries have been converting "innocent people". The Manch also misquotes Gandhiji as saying that if he had his way he would have banned conversions. The third pamphlet titled "Isaayion ko Mahatma Gandhi ki khuli Chunauti" (Gandhi's open challenge to Christians), is issued from "Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Gujarat" using Gandhi's name. The Parishad charges the missionaries of a plot to destroy Hindu culture. All this campaign against the Christian minority is intended to discredit it from its contribution to education, social justice, unity, har-

mony, understanding, forgiveness and tolerance in the country. Not only the allegations are not exaggerated there is an attempt by the Hindutva to divide Indian society into small factions of language, religion, class, community and race.

The RSS mouthpiece 'Panchjanya' (21 March 1982, New Delhi) with special issue on "Veer Vanvasi" carries many articles trying to poison innocent minds. The date of publication shows that hate campaign is not a recent phenomenon but a long-term goal which started long ago and which is bearing fruit now resulting in rampant attacks on Christians.

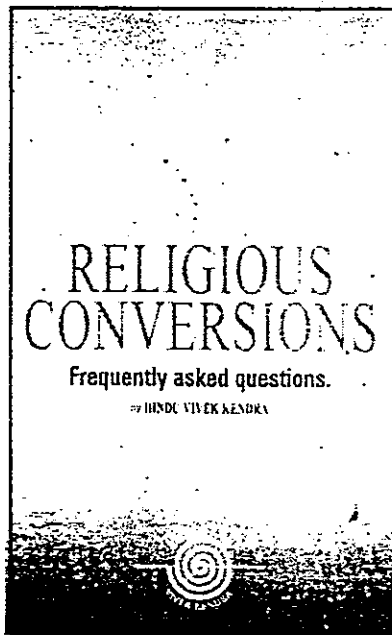
A clear example of unscrupulous lie is the misinformation tha

adivasis are Hindus. Bhanu Pratap Shukl's stance that Vanvasi society is no different from Hindu society is a distortion of historical truth. To call the adivasis as 'Vanvasi', to my mind, is a negation of their traditional historicity. It is an insult to the autochthons to be branded as 'forest-dwellers' who have been the original settlers of the land. Author's simplistic approach and ignorance is shown when he argues that Vanvasis are Hindus because the former like their Hindu brethren worship trees, stones and snakes. The learned author misinforms the reader that missionaries in connivance with the British were responsible for unimaginable atrocities and exploitation of the Vanvasis. He holds them responsible for the ruthless elimination of men, women and children. He emphasizes that the missionaries conspired to convert Vanvasis and thus to divert them away from the national mainstream. The biased author forgets conveniently that it is the missionary education that has helped the adivasis to be part of the national mainstream.

The tribal freedom struggles against the British colonizers are projected as if tribes were up in arms against the missionaries. For instance, the murder of the missionary Will Cox in 1827 and two other Christian missionaries in 1855 by the Mishmi are interpreted as the tribal disillusionment with the missionaries. Similarly, Birsa Movement of 1895 is projected as directed to the missionaries without looking into the intricacies and complexities of the problem. Jatra Oraon and his movement in 1914 to fight foreign regime, is presented as his crusade against all the foreigners including the missionaries.

One should remember that though the pioneering missionaries were white skinned like the British colonisers, the former had fallen out with the rulers due to the latter's atrocities on the natives and their support to the exploiters.

Effort is being made now by the Hindutva forces to inculcate the spirit of false nationalism and anti-minoritism. There is a deliberate attempt to confuse nationalism with Hindutva. The implication is that if one claims to be a true national or Indian s/he should abhor Christians and Muslims alike. Hence, there



is no space for the latter in the imagination of the self-styled nationalists. Not that they had any part in the freedom movement. On the contrary, they even played a dubious role during the freedom struggle.

Those indulging in the hate campaign selectively pick up the references out of context to suit their purpose. In the same issue of 'Panchjanya', Taru Munda's article on Birsa Munda adds fuel to fire when his imagination puts words in the mouth of Birsa's

mother at his birth - "My Birsa will truly become Dharti Aba. Our own Raj will be established. These British, missionaries, and Germans will all be chased away." He goes on to say that Birsa's father converted to German mission due to poverty. But when Birsa went to the Lutheran Mission for education, he sensed "Christian conspiracy" and began hating the British and the missionaries. The author alleges that the missionaries threatened the tribals that their lands would not be snatched away from them if they converted to Christianity. It is a sheer lie, intended to mislead people of good will.

Efforts are also being made by the so-called Hindutva's Bible scholars to enter into the doctrinal issues of the Church. N.S. Rajaram's (1999) booklet "Christianity's Collapsing Empire and Its Designs in India" published by Hindu Writer's Forum (HWF), New Delhi, goes out of the way to prove not only the falsity of the divinity of Jesus but also the authenticity of the Bible as "God Inspired Book". Even the historicity of Jesus is doubted. Tenets of Christian faith in the book are taken out of context as usual, to prove that the practices of the Christians are superstitious. "The concept of virgin-born god-Jesus" the President, HWF, Mr. K.V. Paliwal, in the introduction says "is not original but borrowed from sun-worshipping sects." He goes on to say, "The sign of Cross is also not of Christian origin, and is no way related with crucifixion. The Cross was the sign of life in the pagan Symbolism." The author argues that it has now acquired special urgency to convert the Hindu population of India to Christianity following two ma-

major developments: (1) the rejection of Christianity by the West; and (2) the collapse of the doctrinal foundations of Christianity following the revelations of the dead Sea Scrolls. He concludes, "Jesus Christ as described in the Gospel never existed." According to him, Jesus was only a personification of people's expectations. He opines that this "implies a massive deception on the part of the Church to serve its priesthood and the theocratic empire that foes with it in the name of serving Jesus." My purpose of this article is not to respond to such allegations as it would require a serious study of the formation of the Bible and also a lot of space. Mere lifting of bits and pieces from here and there as Rajaram has done will only confuse the readers. The only thing we can say at this juncture is that the self-styled scholar is not competent to make scholarly comments on the Bible. His interpretations are prejudiced, concocted and motivated.

The same author in another booklet titled "Christianity's Scramble for India and the failure of the Secular Elite" (1999), examines the activities of Christian institutions and the resulting reaction in India. His aim in the book is to highlight the fact that Christian institutions are engaged mainly in economic and political activities while invoking God and Christ. The author once again seems to be ignorant of the contributions made by the Church to the progress of India through education, social and economic development, religious and political consciousness. Rajaram makes a blunder of compartmentalizing institutions such as society, religion, politics, economy, and so on, in the context of India.

The hate campaign goes on endlessly. In yet another publication "Goa Se Isai Dharmantarân ka amanushi Prarambh" (Inhuman Be-



Fr. Christudas - A victim of hate campaign

ginning of Christian Conversion from Goa), published by 'Sanskriti Raksha Manch', it is stated that in India in the year 2000 there is a project to convert 200 Districts, 200 races, 50 linguistic groups and 50 big cities. According to their report there are 1,18,250 missionaries and 65,000 nuns working in India to achieve their target. They say, there is a plan to build nine lakh Churches in India. The style of conversion, it is stated that (1) Movements like women liberation, Dalit liberation, poor-liberation are encouraged through Liberation Theology. As a result there is divisiveness in the country. (2) Adoption of the external customs of the Hindu traditions by Catholic Ashrams. For instance, use of saffron clothes, arati, prasad, bhajan, religious dance, etc.,

misguide people, and illiterate Hindus are made to worship Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. (3) Under the pretext of healing the sick, the blind, the lame, thousands of people are gathered and influenced by Christianity. (4) Denigrating the Hindu gods and goddesses. For instance, "Ram papi hai" (Ram is a sinner), "Krishna chor hai" (Krishna is a thief), "Kunti vyavicharini hai" (Kunti is adulterous), etc. All this is nothing but anti-Christian propaganda. The Church with all its limitations is committed to the cause of the Dalits, Tribals, Women, Children, and Unorganized Labour. This hurts Hindutva forces as its economic and political interests are at stake. The allegation of denigrating the Hindu temples and deities is totally false.

According to a report in 'The Statesman' (Tuesday, May 2000), the Vishva Samvad Kendra, a RSS backed organization has published and distributed a book projecting the "menace" of Christianity. The book titles "Worldwide Conspiracy of Christianity" authored by Adish Kumar projects Christian religion as "anti-human" which specifically threatens Hinduism. In my humble opinion, it is yet another politically motivated and malicious plan to infuse anti-Christian feelings in the minds of people. The Bible is prone to misinterpretation and misuse by the vested interests. Nevertheless, it upholds the pro-life values and dignity of human beings as persons and not as objects. The sacred book of the Christians has to be comprehended in the context of the Second Vatican

Council and other theological developments.

The controversial book "Holy Vedas and Holy Bible: A Comparative Study" by Kanayalal M. Talreja, makes the mistake of lifting extracts from the Bible and the Vedas without taking into consideration the social, political, economic and cultural milieu of the people when the sacred books were formed. In what we can call atrocious comparison by the author, one can sense the ethnocentric and myopic attitude of the Hindutva as if truth is their monopoly. The low level of scholarship lists from the Bible obscene episodes, intolerance, inhuman sacrifice, jealous and vindictive God, on the one hand, and high level of moral code of conduct, fraternity, non-violence, and benevolent god of the Vedas, on the other. If the Hindutva forces so much cherish the above-mentioned tenets of Hinduism, let them practice even one percent of what it.

"Evangelization 2000 or Politics of Subversion" by P. Parameswaran (1999), in fact, politicizes the whole issue of conversion. There is, in my opinion, gross misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the Christian jargons such as, 'evangelization', 'harvest', 'mission', and so on. In the words of the author "the last decade of the second millennium is announced as the 'Decade of Evangelization' and is known by different names in over fifty languages: for example, 'Decade of Evangelism', 'Decade of Harvest', 'Decade of Decision', 'Universal decade of Evangelization', 'Decade of world Mission', 'Evangelization 2000', 'Tero Noor 2000' and so forth. The author seems to be prejudiced about the Church's 'hidden agenda', which he argues, has powerful overtones.

In my opinion, the church does have its limitations but has not indulged in subversive politics as alleged by the Hindutva's writer.

Championing the Culture of Violence:

Hundreds of cheaply available books, booklets, pamphlets, documents and handouts are being printed day in and day out. The only aim of all of them is to poison the minds of the Indians, to misinform the public, to bring division among people in the name of caste and creed. Christian Missionaries are held responsible for tribal movements for self-assertion. Christian Minorities are branded as anti-nationals and outside the national mainstream. Tribals are identified with Hindus. They surely have an eye on the vote-bank: Turning the tribes against the Christian minority serves their purpose best. 'Gharwapsi' (Reconversion) programme is meant to divert the attention of the country from the issues of violence, exploitation and oppression of the poor by the rich. Christian Minority at present is unable to cope with the hate campaign. It is on the defensive. Unfortunately public opinion against them is created. Learned university professors, students are also under the impression that all tribal Christians are forcefully converted to Christianity. What they read in the newspapers and hear in the fiery speeches is taken to be true. Most of the clergy is dormant. Christians are not educated to face the challenges. Too much of spiritualisation prevents them from taking to streets to counter the menace of the Hindutva forces. Meanwhile continues the strategy of RSS: approach the disgruntled elements in the Church apart from giving a call for "moratorium on conversion"

and create problems in the Church-related institutions. Kanron damera priests' murder case, Dumka's naked parading incident, are clear examples of preplanned disruption in the activities of the Church. Church-run schools are the heart of the Missions. Hindutva forces have strategically attacked the roots where it hurts most.

The themes of the widely circulated Hindutva literature against can thus be summed up: (i) missionaries' involvement in mass conversions by incentives, deceit, allurements, coercion, (ii) denigration of Hindu deities and Scriptures, (iii) atrocities and torture of Hindus by Christians, (iv) misinformation on events involving Christians, (v) tribals being branded as 'Hindus' and 'Vanvasis'. The thrust of the entire propaganda is to create an atmosphere of hatred and abhorrence towards Christian minority. When the common innocent man first hears of the false allegation labeled against Christians by the Hindutva forces there is a shock and disbelief. Unfortunately, repeated accusations and defensive attitude of the Church help the allegations to sink in the subconscious. Consequently, even some of the sympathizers of the Christian minority take those allegations to be true. The strategy of Hindutva forces pays off - in the looting, rioting, raping, desecration of the Holy Books and sacred places, in the beating and killing of the priests and nuns, and of course, in the bombing of the Churches. The perpetrators of the 'culture of violence and hatred' ceaselessly continue their campaign with a missionary zeal. Why not? Promotion of 'their' culture must go on, cultural organization as they are.