

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||



THE CURSE OF TRADITION



Humanity is enslaved by age-old traditions and customs. One has to perform several rituals and make offerings even against one's own conscience because they have been going on for a long time. Though the world has seen many social revolutions, so far none has been successful in redeeming the people of the curse of old traditions and customs in any country. Political systems have changed, science has come to a stage of near perfection but majority of people, however highly educated they may be, are still following the same old ritualistic routine of their community. Even on auspicious days, say on Navratri or Dussehra, in many parts of the world, thousands of innocent goats, buffaloes etc. are sacrificed to invoke the blessings of Kali or Shiva.

How absurd it is on the part of the religious priests, the devotees with blind faith and even the government who continue to permit this kind of slaughter in holy temples which are supposed to have an atmosphere of purity, peace and non-violence! Human sacrifices also take place secretly at several places. God Shiva or goddess Kali cannot really be called God or a goddess if violence in any form is connected with their names. How can a father, or a mother and that too holy and divine, accept the sacrifice of their own children? Such unbecoming and violent rituals, in the names of deities or gods and goddesses, are totally wrong.

It is therefore, a matter of great insult and disrespect to such gods and goddesses to carry out killings of the innocent animals before their idols as if they demanded them. In fact, killing any living being entitles one to be called a demon according to the religious lexicon. No god or goddess will ever be pleased by such acts. On the other hand, the flesh and blood of animals, have made the people of this country, who are supposed to belong to the holy land of Ramkrishna and Vivekanand, Aurobindo and Tagore, Gandhi and Tilak, so inhuman and violent that not a single day passes without wilful murders and other

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atrocities.

To transform the violent and vicious human beings into non-violent, vice-less deities, God Father Shiva and His divine progeny, the mothers of Bharat (known by the names of Durga, Amba, Kali etc.) have always asked for the renunciation of vices like ego, sex-lust, anger, greed, arrogance, attachment etc. as sacrifices and offerings from their children to reward with ever-healthy, ever-wealthy and ever-happy lives. The vices had brought all ruin and catastrophe to them. They never asked for any sacrifice of human beings or animals to satiate them. People must be made to learn a lesson from the past, that such acts are the cause of horrible violence in our country. It is such vices that have brought about so much ruin and catastrophe. Such horrible sacrifices must be discouraged.

Some of the root causes of India's poverty are outdated, old and false beliefs of the devotion (*Bhakti*) cult. India which was once a golden sparrow became a pauper because of wasting more of her wealth on unnecessary rituals, sacrifices and *Yagyas* (in which tons upon tons of excellent consumable grains/ghee etc. are made to be consumed by fire), mythological books and pictures, unwanted innumerable temples etc. The worship of some of the imaginary gods and goddesses consumes crores and crores of rupees every year like the birthday celebrations or anniversaries, wedding festivals and funeral ceremonies of doll-like gods. Most of the people in this country are so poor that they cannot afford a nutritious square meal a day. And if this wastage of the hard-earned money of Indians is to continue, the nation will never be able to stand on its own feet. We

should find out some other way of spending money to raise the standard of character of the people. Government should not help with money in such celebrations since that is public money meant for the uplift of the people. Government should advise such institutions and sectarian organisations not to waste money on sheer pomp and splendour. None is going to become like Shri Sita and Shri Rama by merely staging their story in which fictitious characters like Ravans are also introduced.

It is high time that the Government encouraged public opinion to put a stop to such wastage. Instead, the Government should organise some spiritual educational centres in India to help uplift the culture and character in India, which will be a vital step in raising India as a world power in high character. ●

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