

REASONS TO EMBRACE GOD AND TO DEGRADE

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The world has witnessed loudest screams from the side of religious dogmas. The loudest violence is in the form of religion. What has been addressed as a guest in this paper is the fact that centuries have passed, and we haven't taken the refuge of God yet. We haven't taken the roof of God because the texts which reflects to us their intellectual dialogues concluding the way of life, is kept away from the public. Bhagavad Gita has been tagged as religious book which is to be only translated to us by pastors because of our lack of enthusiasm and indoctrinated mind. This is a smashing example of the Karl Marx theory explaining the control over proletariats through superstructure. The more man understands the true nature and reflection of the spiritual texts like Bhagavad Gita, the more man runs away from his religion. The paper seeks to unlock the text asking people to read Bhagavad Gita as a philosophy rather than mere spiritual text. Thus, concluding that the eyes are the one fooling and the great revelation is yet to descend as many years have deprived mankind of great strength and wisdom that remains locked within our great texts.

I. INTRODUCTION

The great Mirza Ghalib, a poet who believed in his God without ever visiting the mosque and drank even after his religious institution didn't permit him, once said, "I recently came across a learned and an experienced horse; that

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changed lot of religions. First he was with Kareem and then with Chelaram; later with Robert, and at last with Bhuvan Singh. No religion could make him run faster. No one turned him into an elephant, he remained a horse throughout.”

The rivers, the sun; the moon and the men, all have travelled in each other’s company since time immemorial. And in all ages, men have succeeded to rule over nature; to minimize the role of nature by giving religion a higher value than the rules of nature, and the theory evidences itself when great contributors like Socrates and Galileo were tagged traitors for speaking the truth to the power. Every century has its men who guide mortals towards the ultimate enlightenment, but the powerful rules the market.

The Big Bang theory created small bits of particles which created atoms, stars and further it got into planets and moons. *This universe that we know began in almost absolute simplicity, and it has been getting more complex for about fifteen billion years... It is moving towards some kind of ultimate complexity... An atom of hydrogen might not get there, or a leaf, or a man, or a planet might not get there,*¹ and that final complexity, some like to call it God, and some, ultimate complexity. A man, in this universe renders stability. To nations, the Constitution provides it, to son a father, and to soul, a superman, i.e. God. When man loses all hopes and is in great despair, when man is seeking a better world, when man has no being and when man fails in his exercise, it is the faith that serves him hope. This faith, to some is ‘will power’ and to some, the ultimate source of the will power, i.e. God.

The bridge between hope and despair and yet another hope is built up by the almighty. When a man is guided by unreasonable demands, he is guided by God who says “*He who has given up all desires and moves free from attachment, egoism and thirst for enjoyment attains peace.* (Chapter II, verse 71).”² This by many fanatics must be expressed as leaving the worldly pleasures and going for a pilgrimage, but if read as a great philosophy, it tells

¹ DAVID ROBERTS GREGORY, SHANTARAM, 480 (MARGOT ROSENBLUM ED., ABACUS 4TH REPRINT ED. 2011).

² THE BHAGAVAD GITA 48 (GITA PRESS, GORAKHPUR 36TH REPRINT ED. 2011).

us that even if the world is against you, even if your community and your family, which is your closest is against you, you still have to strive for universal good and the action. As it is explained in the text that action and knowledge is superior to any relation of a being, and a man should strive towards his action, his niche. That is why, even though there *were uncles, sons, nephews, grand-uncles, great grand-uncles, maternal uncles, father-in-law, grand nephews, brothers-in-law and other relations* (Chapter I, verses 33-34)³, Krishna asked Arjuna to fight the battle of Mahabharata because action is what keeps a man living and not even his kingdom.

*Religion evolved as a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe and grew as an organized system of beliefs that bound people to become a close-knit society.*⁴ Men, who do not believe in the existence of God, are in a state of utopia where they are ready to be the cause of every action that they do. But there certainly exists a herd of men who do have ups and downs in their life and during the great depression, it is the ultimate faith that they seek, and they call it God. Swami Vivekananda once addressed the court of the king of Alvar, where idol worship was ridiculed. He asked one of the ministers in the Court to spit on the picture of the King. And when the minister hesitated to spit, Vivekananda explained that the reason men worship God is because they have their emotions attached to it just like a minister has it for his king. In the same way, men establish a kind of discipline by worshiping and by fasting which has today got convoluted into the overpowering and restricting concept of religion.

Woefully, the hallucination that these rabble-rousers pass on is immortal. The identity of religion has been interchanged with that of a culture, where Hinduism existed even before the very Gods of the religion. Hinduism or any other religion has become more of a culture. Because in a religion one have a culmination point like Bhagavad Gita or Krishna who one could follow and following these philosophical entities one could do no harm to the society. It becomes a culture because it doesn't serve the purpose of humanity and way of life anymore. It then becomes a stringent law without any authentic

³ *Id.* at 28.

⁴ MANORAMA YEARBOOK 448 (MALAYALA MANORMA 48TH ED. 2013).

makers just like in Ireland where a dying woman would not be allowed abortion because the law of the land is Christianity, where the Church decides that aborting a child is sin. It has become a violent and a rotten faith where writers like Salman Rushdie are driven out of the country for their literary freedom (more popularly termed as blasphemy) which gives a choice to readers to have their own beliefs. The Church, the temples, which were to impart peace, imparts illusion. Religion is universal and it is these iconoclastic religions that make this world a bad place. And while one pens down his 'individual thoughts' on 'real religion', one also can't help resisting a lofty appreciation for those who manage to maintain a concept of religion that many of us voluntarily and blindly believe in, with not many questions raised over the past few centuries. *"The greatest harm comes from the fanatic. We may not doubt the sincerity of the fanatic but often he has the irresponsibility of a lunatic. The fanatic is the greatest enemy of mankind."*⁵

II. INDOCTRINATED OBLIGATIONS OF RELIGION

Owing to the meticulously indoctrinated ignorance of the truth behind this subject, many people who have only heard the name of the Bhagavad Gita, make this assertion that the book is intended only for monks and ascetics, and they refrain from placing the book for study before their children out of fear lest through knowledge of Gita the latter renounce their hearths and homes and turn ascetics themselves. But they should consider the fact that when Arjuna, due to infatuation, prepared himself to turn away from the duty of a Kshatriya and live on alms,⁶ Krishna, with his wise teachings not only made him fight the battle but prepared him to live the life of a householder throughout and perform his earthy duties. So how can the same Gita produce this diametrically opposite result?⁷ The irony hits the apex when we don't subscribe to such books because we have been taught by the society that it is a religious book. Well, it was never a religious book. It never did ask a mortal to pray. It taught mankind the mantra to a successful, content and peaceful personal, professional and social life like our popular

⁵ Kant Immanuel, What Is Enlightenment?, <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html> (Last visited Feb. 11, 2013).

⁶ GITA, *supra* note 2 at 06-7.

⁷ *Id.*

Rohit Sharma's and Shiv Kheras'. There texts are a great philosophy and not merely religious scriptures.

*Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed nonage. Nonage is the inability to use one's own understanding without another's guidance,*⁸ and nonage in religion is an imprisonment for space and imprisonment means years without a sunrise a sunset or a night sky...⁹ The world consists of 1.5 billion non-believers of God, as the third largest religion in the world.¹⁰ A world where becoming an atheist or agnostic has become a fashion, a public stunt on Facebook options of 'Religious beliefs'. The point here is not to criticize or ridicule them. The point is to disseminate and broadcast the true image of religion and then let people decide the medals of it.

Hindus are believed to attain heaven if they perform rituals and get luxurious life in next incarnation. Rituals like trying to make the black stone in the temple drink the milk, decorating Ganpati's idol with gold and diamond and immersing into the sea. The danger will impact the faith of believers and non-believers when the truth in these great philosophical books will be revealed. The Bhagavad Gita, the poem of the Hindu religion, the root of the derived religion, the sacred text of one billion people reads, "*Arjuna, those who are full of worldly desires and devoted to the letter of the Vedas, who look upon heaven as the supreme goal and argue that there is nothing beyond heaven, are unwise. They utter flowery speech recommending many rituals of various kinds for the attainment of pleasure and power with rebirth as their fruit. Those whose minds are carried away by such words, and who are deeply attached to pleasures and worldly power, cannot attain the determinate intellect concentrated on God* (Chapter II, verses 42-44)."¹¹ The rituals that many dogmas insist day in and day out were never prescribed by the very founders of 'religion'. Krishna is clearly saying that those who recommend rituals and bluntly follow Vedas and do it for the rebirth are living in a fool's paradise. Not replacing those

⁸ Kant Immanuel, What Is Enlightenment?, <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html> (Last visited Feb. 11, 2013).

⁹ ROBERTS, *supra* note 2 at 06-7.

¹⁰ MANORAMA YEARBOOK 448 (MALAYALA MANORMA 48TH ED. 2013).

¹¹ GITA, *supra* note 2 at 41-42.

fanatics, later on in the Bhagavad Gita asks the mortal body to prescribe to yoga and other such rituals. But what needs to be emphasized is that these are the options to attain peace, the peace of human mind, and yoga is one of the ways to attain it. A man, who is engrossed in his duties of action, is not devoid of yoga. But the truth of these statements will always be reduced by the market philosophy; the market fanatics. The heaven mentioned in the text relates to the happy ending that an Indian movie seeks.

Then there are 'Hindus' who believe that they will become kings in their next life if their actions are good and will become monkeys and other excruciating species if they do bad deeds and do not follow their family traditions. Arjuna, who was himself going to kill his relatives in the battle of Mahabharata, was being convinced by Krishna to fight and kill people. Arjuna says, "*Krishna, we hear that men who have lost their family traditions, dwell in hell for an indefinite period of time* (Chapter I, verse 44)."¹² He attempts to not fight the war because he believes that fighting will bring down his family traditions and killing his own relatives will hurt the family traditions and he will become an immortal citizen of hell. In reply to his confused state, Lord Krishna replies, "*Endowed with equanimity, one sheds in this life both good and evil. Therefore, strive for the practice of this Yoga of equanimity. Skill in action lies in the practice of this Yoga* (Chapter II, verse 50)."¹³ Here, Yoga is referred to the attainment of stability in the crisis of evenness of mind and rise above the pair of opposites. Krishna is asking Arjun to not be affected by the ups and downs of life because the actions of life, the 'resume' of a person does not decide its afterlife and he leaves all his certificates in the world itself after he dies.

The Bhagavad Gita also classifies the society according to the work that each one performs. *The four orders of society (viz., the Brahmana, the Kshatriya, the Vaisya and the Sudra), classifying them according to the Gunas predominant in each and apportioning corresponding duties to them...* (Chapter IV, verse 13)¹⁴. In the same way Plato through his dialogue with

¹² *Id.* at 30.

¹³ *Id.* at 43.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 61-62.

Socrates asserts that societies have a tripartite class structure corresponding to the 'appetite, spirit, reason' of the individual soul.

But how many of us know that the real reason behind this classification is the optimum and constructive utilisation of the predominant strengths of different individuals. Today the words 'Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra' are directly equated with caste - a stigma we have been fighting over the past few centuries. This is a manmade concept which is NOT prescribed by any God as bloated by the 'gurus and pandits'. And as remarked in the movie 'Oh My God', it is a business that works wonders in a "god fearing and NOT god loving country"

III. THE CONFEDERACY ACHIEVED

So the question that fights umpteenth battles in one's mind is that why for centuries together, we have lived and believed in a flawed theory termed as 'religion'? Who prescribed these theories? The Gods or the Master?

Well the moment one says masters, this very research papers becomes scandalous just as Karl Marx became a threat when he was banished from France for his radical ideas. Well by 'master' one refers to the people who benefit from the creation of this concept of religion, who consciously make an effort to nurture misinterpretations and universalise them. Complementing this and exposing its implication on the society, is Karl Marx's theory of the base and super-structure. Till now Newton's apple attracted the earth through the gravity force but Marx with his key and robot theory has brought our wheel of thought into motion asking us to find out the conspiracy behind every truth that has been made to exist. The conspiracy was revealed in his famous book 'Das Capital' where he tells us how it is the 'invisible forces' of the ruling class which he calls 'Base' that set up the stars for the proletariat, i.e. the working class. In simple terms, he has a theory where there were only three types of species that exists in the land of the man; the rich, their army and the poor. The rich is the base. Their army refers to the commanded people and their institutions that served the super structure and the poor men are the proletariats whose thoughts are

shaped by this base through super structure with a systematic intention of consolidating power. The blue ball turns red when the same country which is so religious has produced in their land the person who went against the state and proved to us that it is not God that has created 'hell' or 'heaven' but the man himself.

We see a direct contrast of this in the movie 'Oh My God' which gives reality its genuine shape but thanks to the superstructure for waving off it as 'commercial entertaining cinema'. It shows how the people are misled in the name of religion. The Bhagavad Gita which is known to be the religious text is not exactly religious but in itself a great philosophy. One would even term 'The monk who sold his Ferrari' or 'The Alchemist' a religious book. For the base, religion is a tool to control the masses. And religion here is what Marx calls 'the super structure'. The proletariats have no choice but to get trapped. Just like a hungry rat knows that the cheese is just bait but his appetite makes him a slave to the base.

*First, these guardians make their domestic cattle stupid and carefully prevent the docile creatures from taking a single step without the leading-strings to which they have fastened them. Then they show them the danger that would threaten them if they should try to walk by themselves.*¹⁵ The other school of thought is explained by Immanuel Kant, who proposes that nonage is the self-imposed restriction and *laziness and cowardice are the reasons why such a large part of mankind gladly remain minors all their lives, long after nature has freed them from external guidance.*¹⁶ According to him, man himself is responsible in getting misled because he finds it easy to be led by people throughout their life than exercise his own choice.

The point therefore is that, for centuries great revealers of the ultimate truth have been termed as dissenters and banished by the state, systematically consolidating the power of the herder. But these years have also deprived mankind of great strength and wisdom that remains locked within our great texts. There is an urgent need to unlock it with the key not of faith but of

¹⁵ Kant Immanuel, What Is Enlightenment?, <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html> (Last visited Feb. 11, 2013).

¹⁶ *Id.*

doubt and then imbibe the new empowering wisdom that has gone negated over the past few centuries for reasons unknown.

IV. CONCLUSION

Caesar non supra grammaticos;¹⁷ Where Caesar refers to the pastor, who has no bigger rank in the society than an individual. There exists a poem, and the majority seems to be running on the basis of this poem from centuries. Those poems are the religious scriptures; the text which are kept away from the society in order to rule the very society. The truth exists deep inside us. We need to help ourselves believe in our intellect and interpret these scriptures in each one's way. The world will be a better place if filled with intellect and interpretations rather than stagnant and misleading pastors. Scriptures like Bhagavad Gita should be taught in school as fictions rather than as religious books and then it is to each one's discretion as to take it as a religious book or a literary text. Just like Salman Rushdie is misunderstood by the mass, even the spiritual texts share the same fate. The debate of not believing these texts should be upheld without any hesitation, but the tag of religious books should first be removed from its nature. Only then will the world step towards the ultimate enlightenment, which the atheist calls the happy end, and the devotionals, the path to reach God.

¹⁷ *Id.*