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TWO ESSENTIAL COMMITMENTS FOR WOMEN

Whilst a woman working in central government is entitled to maternity leave for 6 months, the entitlement for the women working in the unorganised sector provide for a leave with wages only for a period up to 12 weeks, that too without any monitoring mechanism being in place to check whether even this provision is being scrupulously observed or not. Many women return to work just after 72 hours of child birth as they neither get any financial assistance nor granted any paid leave with regard to their maternal entitlements.

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Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Humanity Awakened in the Splendour of Your Light

Kśāṇiker parash tava
Sariye dile sab jadātā
Āoke udbhāsita
Uthālo hoye mānavatā

Your fleeting touch
Removed all inertness.
Humanity awakened in the
Splendour of Your light.

Deshe deshe railo nā bheda
Ghuce gelo asmitā kleda
Purāṇ Korāṇ darshan o veda
Upaṇiṣad ekai devatā.

Gone were differences between nation and nation,
The filth of egotism vanished.
From Puranas^[1] to Koran to philosophies or Vedas^[2]
Only one God comes, overflowing.

Ajāṇā Pathik elo
Sābāy āpan kare nilo
Sār satya bujhiye dilo
Vishva priitir marma kathā.

The Unknown Traveler came,
And made everyone His own.
He explained the essence of truth,
Words from the core of the heart
Of universal love.

[1] Hindu scriptures created at the end of the Buddhist era.

[2] Ancient Hindu scriptures of the Aryans

(Translated from Bengali original)

Ongoing PBI Quest For Justice

As reported earlier, Met Lakda of Nuadih village was a campaigner against the liquor mafia in Sambalpur District. He was murdered on July 21st. At that time the Orissa team of Proutist Bloc, India swung into action and held a protest in the local government office demanding compensation to be given to his family and that the murderers and those who hired them should be brought to justice.

On September 2nd a rally was held by activists to pursue this cause of justice. Many rallied round for this cause including PBI Orissa. This case merely highlighted the fact that the rampant exploitation of tribal or indigenous people by liquor barons is an international problem. This plays a key role in keeping these people from revolting against exploitation.

PBI has been demanding not just justice for the Lakda family but to stop the general exploitation of adivasis of Orissa by the outside exploiters. The present campaign is but one battle in the fight to create a new Sambalpuri society based on social equality and economic rights of the local people over their own economy. PBI will continue in this quest for justice because as Dr. Martin Luther King said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

As reported by The Statesman

LAKDAMURDERACCUSED'SARRESTDEMANDED

Sambalpur, Orissa : Prominent activist and senior political leaders today sought immediate arrest of those behind the murder of well-known anti-liquor campaigner Met Lakda of Nuadih village.

Lakda, who was one of the frontline anti-liquor campaign leader of Kuchinada and Bamra areas, was murdered allegedly by liquor mafia on 21st July, 2014. Hundreds of members of outfits including Met Lakda Sangram Samity, Milita Nisha Nibarna Abhiyan and Odisha branch of Proutist Bloc India took part in a massive rally here today. Senior BJP leader Mr. Suresh Pujari and well known farmer leader Mr. Saroj too joined the agitators. Holding placards and banners and raising slogans, the processionists moved around the town before the rally culminated at the collector office where a public meeting was held.

"We will not let the contribution of Lakda go in vain in his absence. At the same time, we seek stringent punishment for all those responsible for his death", said Ms Pratiba Das, a known activist. She pointed out that Lakda has drawn the ire of the mafia for protesting against country distillery at Jarabaga under Bamra block and persuading people to stay away from liquor. Ms Das also sought adequate compensation for the bereaved family and a government job for the deceased's son. Dr. Kulamani Nayak and Prof. Adwaita Patra stressed on total prohibition in the state, which was seconded by BJP leader.



Morality and Spirituality Alone Create Unity

Shrii Shrii Ānandamūrti

Mana eva manuśyānām kāraṇam bandhamokśayoh.

[Mind alone is the cause for the bondage or emancipation of human beings.]

Thus, the mind is behind all our activities, whether we direct it towards worldly objects or towards Consciousness. No action is possible without the mind. The mind has infinite potentialities and controlling these infinite potentialities is sādhanā or spiritual practice.

Though the mind is very powerful it has one serious shortcoming. It cannot think of two objects concurrently. Whenever it thinks it has one single object. Nevertheless the speed of the mind's action is baffling. While concentrating on a particular work, we may also hear others talking about it. This is due to the fast-acting power of the mind, which leads us to believe that the thought currents of the mind are unbroken. For example, while witnessing the pictures in cinema, we also enjoy the dialogue. The activities of the mind can be understood by diligently applying the mind and we see that the mind can do only one thing at a time.

Therefore worldly acts and meditation on Consciousness cannot be done simultaneously. It is impossible that on one side humans will remain bound up with passion, anger, avarice, etc. and on the other, will worship Supreme Consciousness. The mind must be sanctified for the worship of Pure Consciousness. Apathy towards worldly objects through mental purification is not our goal. Living on this world we cannot be apathetic with regard to the world. Our object is to act, but our actions will be such that they will not bind us to the object. Many persons ask: Since both good and bad actions (done with ego) cause our spiritual bondage, then surely inactivity is to be preferred? No, this is not feasible. So long as we maintain our body we cannot be absolved from action. We must act, whether we will like it or not. Until death we will have to perform the act of respiration.

No attachment to worldly objects will be developed if we observe (the cardinal moral principles of) Yama and Niyama, since every item of Yama-Niyama is part of the Sādhanā (spiritual practice) of Consciousness through worldly deeds. Hence when you are able to perfectly observe the spiritual practice of Yama-Niyama, your mind becomes absorbed in Consciousness – the ultimate goal of this spiritual practice. For example, suppose a woman is extremely occupied in earning money. For her nothing remains in the world except money. In the same way for the aspirant who is absorbed in the practice of Yama-Niyama and dedicated to the attainment of Pure Consciousness, there is nothing but Consciousness. The life of the person devoted to earning money becomes like a desert because everything except money is alien. But the aspirants of the Supreme Consciousness cannot call anything alien since everything is Consciousness.

According to the beliefs of the human beings, Sādhanā is not practicable in normal life and it is necessary for an aspirant to sever connections with the home and members of the family. This is fallacious. How can a spiritual aspirant devote himself to attaining the Absolute when he cannot even support the four or five members of his family? A person is associated with a family right from birth. Every family is beset with one problem or another. If instead of solving the problems, you leave your home and live in solitude, will you then forget about these problems? Furthermore, while in solitude you will have to think for your food and clothes. Spiritual practice is possible only through this physical body, and for the sake of our spiritual practices, it is useless to create unnatural situations by forsaking the home. We can practise sādhanā by practising restraint in whichever situation we are placed. The only thing necessary for spiritual practice is an ardent desire for it.

We should strengthen ourselves by remaining in normal situations and endeavouring to become superhuman. By developing superhuman powers we can awaken the element of eternal humanity amongst us. This eternal human entity alone is Brahma. In order to attain this power, meanness must be shunned, because this is the sādhanā for the Infinite. Feelings of differentiation are a great impediment. The feelings that a particular person is a Muslim, another a Hindu, yet another a Brahman and the fourth a Vaishya come from mean thoughts. When every living being is a manifestation of that Supreme Consciousness, how can you know yourself, without shedding these differentiating feelings? No one is high and no one is low. Of course, according to one's virtues and vices one is happy, one is miserable, one is rich, someone is poor, one is a fool and another is erudite, but all are human beings.

Differentiating feelings are the principal obstacles in the path of sādhanā and an elevated position cannot be attained without annihilating them. Having created our ego and scattered innumerable toys around us, that Supreme Being has hidden Himself among them. When we come to see Him in all things created by Him, our ego gets lost. The feeling of unit "I" shall be merged in the Universal "I".