



From the Editor:

A community magazine is not quite journalism alone. A community magazine must create for its members a platform to articulate their feelings. Internet as a cheap medium offers this possibility. Here is a piece received from a brilliant young thinker of the community, which I reproduce verbatim:

"In our last conversation, you inspired me to be articulate. Producing an article requires a steady flow of thoughts and a constant mood. I do have trouble being articulate as I am subjected to such a huge rush of thoughts mixed with emotions that they largely go incoherent and then I have some sort of mood disorder that sweeps away my attention to constant new flows and I end up at a singularity with all those thoughts lumped up together in incoherence. In spite of that I have tried to glue those rushing thoughts into one discipline and have written an essay that may not be relevant as a publishing material but which may help you with suggesting me as to where should I streamline myself. I am pretty sure it won't be impressive for a man like you but at least it can help you to tingle my thought process which I severely need, to cultivate the art of writing topical, because I feel that I write only in the light of imaginations and assumptions made upon those topics. Going by the facts will come as I grow into a well read person, which I am trying to. And I do expect a feedback from you."

Editor's suggestion to budding writers: 1. Good reading habit leads to command over language. 2. There is no need to be in a hurry to write everything in one piece. There will always be time for the writer to express his remaining ideas in his future write-ups. 3. Every revision of the work by its author will lead to its betterment as a work of quality. 4. Maximum trimming of the write-up should be done by the author himself. 5. The presumption of author should be that the reader is very intelligent and he need not be explained the detailed process of how the idea was generated in author's mind or how the reader should go about understanding the ideas of the author (a common mistake by new writers which helps them write lengthy) 6. And finally, a writer should never take non-publishing of his article seriously. The publishers of magazines and newspapers have many reasons for not accommodating a particular write-up, without any reference to its quality.

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The Nemesis of Bihar

What is true of Bihar may not be any less true for the rest of India. But Bihar gives us an easy opening to look straight into the subject-matter. As Biharis get a beating in Bombay (I don't relish writing Mumabi), we in Bihar are drawn into questions we had never attempted to answer. The questions relate to the essential weaknesses of the Indian society whose much accentuated face can be seen within the bounds of Bihar. India as we know today was assiduously knit by the British, and was also not built in a day. The constitutional growth of India is a historical rarity and a piece of unparalleled human ingenuity, whose credit entirely goes to the British national genius. In 1947, India as a political entity was constitutionally and legally more marvelously poised than even Great Britain, whose colony it was. An institution must be examined with reference to the challenges it is able to face successfully and the record of British India, helping a tattered and superstitious set of disparate peoples, move along several indicators of progress simultaneously, must be treated as one of a piece.

Bihar was one of the best administered States of British India in 1947. But the forebodings of things to come in Independent India had already come in 1946 through the anti-Muslim riots. If the constitutional history of India is extrapolated beyond 1947, we get a picture of the remarkably consistent downside. Our ability to feel happier by comparing ourselves with lesser neighbors must be dismissed instantaneously because it is India that is Bharat, which was the inheritor of the British constitutional legacy. India alone has to answer for this historical downside.

Followed by the Bihar riots of 1946, there used to be regular bouts of anti-Muslim riots in Bihar leading to the culmination of the trend in Bhagalpur. Constitutional deterioration was a consistent feature in all this 'progress'; police was rabidly communal which helped it to become rapaciously corrupt, because the cover of religion is the best to deflect questions of probity in public life. In the name of governance nothing is left now in Bihar (despite the heroic stance of Nitish Kumar lately), so its economic backwardness was the next logical thing to happen. The net result: not one able-bodied (*include, able-minded*) man can look forward to a life in Bihar. The largest town of Patna in Bihar resembles the biggest village on earth. Students make a beeline for other states, so do the jobseekers. Local leadership everywhere has gone into the hands of mafia-types, nurtured by the Police Stations and DMS/ SPs. The pride of running large number of trains Ex-Patna is one in kind of the pride in sending a large number of competitors for government jobs from Bihar – both sure-shot indicators of Bihar's utter inability to provide for its burgeoning population. But the effect of Bihar's backwardness (add at this point the massive populations of the Central and Eastern parts of UP for the purpose of this analysis) is far-reaching. The Bihari/ Bhaya bashing seen in other parts of India is a direct result of this phenomenon whose roots lie in the slow but sure destruction of the constitutional processes that had been put in place by the British to govern a political entity called India - singularly a product of the British genius. If India has to survive as it exists today, we have to pick-up the thread of constitutionality from where the British had left. Criminality cannot sustain this complex system. Instead of running into pathos let us Biharis start all over again from the pre-1946 riot situation of Bihar with all its implications. – BaKhabar Research

To find a fault is easy,
to do better may be
difficult.

If your eyes are sweet you will like all the people of the world.
But if your tongue is sweet all the people of the world will like
you.

A Prescription for Muslims

(Najam Gilani: najamgilani@yahoo.co.in)

Islam like every other religion of the world preaches peace, tolerance, amity. If there is one thing, which can be termed as the biggest contributor towards the expansion of Islam it is "Tolerance". Tolerance not out of compulsion but out of choice. Tolerance not as a strategic tool but as an inherent character.

Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H) never forced his beloved uncle (Abu Talib) into accepting the religion in which he believed in. The biggest supporter of Prophet Mohammad died as a non-believer. If he wished he could have forced him, but then it wouldn't have been in sync with the teachings of Islam-Religion which he was preaching about. In the seven hundred years of Muslim rule in Christian Spain, Muslim have never attempted to convert any of the Jews and Christians living there. It was the tolerance for other believes and choice which led them to co-exists peacefully. Contrary to this after the siege of Spain in 1492 the Christian rulers forcibly converted the entire Muslim Population (Hardly any muslim will be found in present day Spain) It was not the Muslims who started the war in the name of religion. In the year 1092 the Christians ruthlessly attacked the Muslim population of Jerusalem and gave it the name of "Crusade". Similarly Muslims have ruled undivided India for almost seven hundred years and with complete tolerance-had the Muslim rulers of those times been intolerant, history of this sub continent would have been completely different.

Now cut to circa 2008.Things have completely turned around. The most tolerant of the religion now gets labelled as the propagator of violence. The bitter reality is that many a times they are getting targeted under secular governments. For instance: UK, US, India. But the question is ----Why only Muslim gets targeted all the time?

Where does the problem lie - with the community or with the society? But what exactly is the problem with the Muslims? The major problem is that we don't think that there exists any problem within us. The majority of us feel (actually believe) that the problem lies with everyone else except us - Hindus, Christians or the respective governments of their countries.

The difference between Muslim terrorists and other terrorists is, that except Muslims, none of them have fought in the name of 'religion'. The thing that is depressingly unique about Muslims is their ability to do everything in the name of Allah - Allah has become a justification tool to justify the entire irrelevant act. If some Muslim group is dissatisfied with their local social justice system, it will fight it out with government/society in the name of "Allah". Some Sultan wanting to issue some tough order to control his people will do so in the name of Allah by asking the Imam of the Masjid to issue a Fatwa (It used to happen in Ottoman Empire). Some radical Muslim souls displeased with the advancement of society will wage a war in the name of "Allah". Some ideologically committed Muslim men will fight for uniformity in society in the name of "Allah". Some ultra conservative Maulana saheb not happy with the progressive mentality of someone will condemn him to death in the name of "Allah" (Which case is this? - Ed). Some parasitic Muslim youth not interested in slogging to earn a living for himself and his family will find a escape route by assuming that his joblessness and poverty are the consequence of the will of "Allah" - 'Jo Allah ki marzi'. The reality is that Muslims are misusing their own Mazhab and in the process they are giving others the same chance as well.

Muslim problem is unique. There is amazing unanimity among its followers globally in terms of thinking approach. Unlike Vatican, there is no single centralized authority to preach and propagate to the >>

Contributed by Md Enam Khan

جناب الحاج ہارون رشید صاحبؒ

ماہ ۲۰۰۰ء میں کچھ ایسی کہانیاں اس دار فانی سے کوچ کر گئیں جن کا ہم انہیں ممتاز شخصیات میں ایک اردو ٹریک کے مترادف قرار دے سکتے ہیں۔ جناب الحاج ہارون رشید صاحب کی بھی جی جن کا ۲۳ مارچ کو اہل الصبا نے اپنے جی کھینک میں انتقال ہو گیا۔ انا اللہ والیہ راہعون۔ اے اعلیٰ مہربان! تہذیب و تمدن کی نامہ نگار کے دل و لالہ ہاں چلا گیا جہاں سے لوٹ کر اس جہاں فانی میں کوئی نہیں آتا۔

دعویٰ تھی جو کرا تھ گی آفتاب کے

جناب ہارون رشید صاحب ۳۱ مئی ۱۹۲۲ء کو اپنے آبائی وطن اسی ضلع جہان آباد ہارون رشید صاحب نے۔ ابتدائی تعلیم مقامی اسکول میں حاصل کی۔ پھر پٹنہ یونیورسٹی سے بی اے اور ہارون رشید سے بی اے کی اساتذہ پائی۔ قیصر سے فرانت کے بعد لائف انٹرنیشنل کارپوریشن کی ملازمت اختیار کی۔ پھر جرتی کرتے ہوئے برافٹنجر کے عہدے پر فائز ہوئے۔ پچھن سے ہی ان کے دل میں قومی و علاقائی خدمت کا جذبہ موجزن تھا۔ اس لئے ملی اداروں اور تنظیموں کے پروگراموں میں شریک کرنے لگے۔ اور اپنی ذہانت و وظائف کی وجہ سے بہت جلد سیاسی حلقوں میں اپنی شناخت پائی۔ وہ زمانہ ترقی کا تھا اور آپ کی عمر ۲۰ سال کے قریب تھی۔ چنانچہ ترقی کا آزادی میں بڑھ چڑھ کر کھیلنے لگے۔ اور کانگریس کے سیاسی حلقوں میں اکثر شریک ہونے لگے۔ اس زمانہ میں کانگریس کی سیاسی قوت بڑی مضبوط و مستحکم تھی اس لئے اس پارٹی سے وابستہ ہو گئے اور ۱۹۲۳ء سے کانگریس کے سرگرم ممبر رہے۔ چونکہ ان میں بڑی تنظیمی صلاحیت تھی اس کی وجہ سے پارٹی میں ان کا وزن و تسلیم کیا جانے لگا۔ ۱۹۲۳ء میں مذہبی ولسانی اقلیتی کمیشن کا وائس چیرمین اور ۱۹۸۸ء میں اقلیتی کمیشن کا چیرمین بنایا گیا

مرحوم ہارون رشید صاحب اور نیشنل گائیڈ کا چھاپہ ملتا تھا۔ سیاسی و سماجی اور معاشرتی موضوعات پر بہت عمدہ لکھا کرتے تھے۔ انہوں نے ہفت نامہ سے ایک اخبار نکالنا شروع کیا جو اپنی حلقوں میں خاصا مقبول ہوا۔ ۱۹۶۳ء سے ۱۹۶۸ء تک امرتسر ہنزہ ہندوؤں کے بھی مدیر رہے۔ آپ اردو کی خدمت اور فروغ کے لئے ہمیشہ سرگرم رہے۔ ہارون رشید صاحب کو دور دوری پر کاروبار کا زہن کا درجہ ملنے میں بڑی حد وجہ تھی۔ اس کے لئے ہارون رشید صاحب کی ذرا باہمی ذرا باہمی اور مدد و ہمدردی اور ان سے گفت و شنید کی اس سلسلہ میں اردو دست حضرت کی تحریک میں شامل رہے اور ان لوگوں کے ساتھ ہارون رشید صاحب کی گفت و شنید کا دورہ کیا۔ جس میں انہیں بڑی حد تک کامیابی ملی۔ پٹنہ کے اردو رجسٹرار کے قریب آپ کی قریبیوں کو بھی فرمائش نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔

مرحوم نے اپنی ساری زندگی قوم و ملت کی ترقی اور قومی و سماجی خدمت میں صرف کیا وہ کانگریس میں بڑی ذہنی باہمی سے فرج کرتے تھے۔ جس کی بہت سی مثالیں ہماری یادداشت میں ہیں۔ ان کا مسلک ہی انسانیت کی خدمت کا تھا۔ کسی طبقہ اور فرقہ کا آدمی کیوں نہ ہو ہر ایک کو راز داری کے ساتھ ان کی معاملہ عدالت کرتے تھے۔ بیانیات و مہمان نوازی میں تو یکے کے زمانہ تھے بزرگوں اہم شخصوں دوستوں اور عزیزوں کو گلے پلانے میں بڑی فرحت محسوس کرتے تھے۔ ان میں بہت ہی خوبیاں اور صلاحیتیں تھیں۔ ان میں سب سے بڑی صلاحیت تھی کہ وہ ایک بے ضرر انسان تھے۔ کسی کو نقصان پہنچانے کی ان میں صلاحیت ہی نہ تھی اور ایک نہ کسی سے ہارائش نہ تھی اور نہ دل میں کینہ رکھتے تھے۔ ہارون رشید صاحب کو نوازی تھی اور ان کے دل نوازی تھی۔ اللہ انہیں رحمت کاملہ سے نوازے۔ آمین

وہ بہت سے ممتاز عہدوں پر فائز رہے۔ ہارون رشید صاحب کو اردو لائبریری کے جنرل سکرٹری، انجمن ترقی اردو، ہمارے صدر و پروفیسر کے لائف سکرٹری، علمی مجلس ہارون رشید صاحب کے سینئر ممبر اور سٹیٹ کے کنکریٹ سٹیٹ سے بااثر ثابت ہوئے۔ ایک دفعہ میں نے ان سے اپنے چند اشعار سنائے کہ ان کے چہرے پر مسکراہٹ قہر کرنے لگی پھر خالص لہجے میں اشعار سنائے

دُن میں جہاں غمبت جلائیں جوچے جوچے ہیں انہیں میں ان کو ملائیں اندر ہر اقصیٰ کا بڑھ کر ملائیں رشید آج آؤ گھر و گائیں

خری: مولانا رضوان احمد ندوی۔ فاضل دارالعلوم دیوبند۔ امارت شریعہ پٹنہ۔ ۸۱۸۳۔ ۹۳۳۱۸۰۰

TAMADDUN, TASAWWUF, SHARIAT, KALAAM
BUTAAN-E-AJAM KAY PUJARI TAMAM
HAQEEQAT KHURAFAT MAIN KHO GAYI
YE UMMAT RIWAYAAT MAIN KHO GAYI
IQBAL ®

Always be a little kinder than necessary.

*I wish to follow the Straight Path?
Holy Prophet replied, "Do good to others for Allah's sake".*

Muslims, spread across the globe; therefore the unanimity of thought and approach is much more surprising (Any guess, why? -Ed). Globally, Muslims believe that they are in some kind of threat and under siege. Common feeling *among them all*, is, that there is an enemy who is working against them. *Present day Muslims are not very accommodating in nature*. Muslims who are living in the Christian world find it extremely uncomfortable to live with them. Reason - They have all sort of dirty habits. They eat pork, they use tissue in loo, they drink wine, vodka and beer, they do all those strip tease and pole dance, and their women are completely comfortable with the naked body in public place - everything entirely different from us. Muslims who are living in the Muslim world (Mid East) find it extremely uncomfortable that they are living besides their arch-rival - Yahoo! They have everything similar to us but God has condemned them in His book, therefore they should be condemned all their life. The other reason for Mid East anger with Yahoo! is their occupation of Palestine and the subsequent war of 1967 in which the Arab World was forced to taste the dust. (There is a theory. If you torment a group un-relentlessly to the point of hopelessness, the members of the group will break-down to the extent of hating themselves and admiring the tormentor. This trait of humans had given rise to slavery. The views of the author are symptomatic of this syndrome - Ed).

Muslims of India don't trust the Hindu Majority. The first reason of distrust is the faith. We are people of Musallam Imaan - complete faith - whereas they don't have any. They are idol worshippers and can worship anything. They worship cow and we relish its meat. These are the major differences and there is hardly anything similar which can lay the seed of trust. (Most reluctantly I allow this passage if only to uphold the right of expression. Far too many words have been thrust by the author in the mouths of far too many men without obviously feeling the need to take their concurrence - Ed).

These are the divisions within the society they live in. There is also a massive division within the community - be that based on sects, castes or ideology. The pious, religious and the conservatives have complete contempt for liberals and progressively (sic) minded Muslims *and its vice versa*. (What kind of liberal does one claim to be, to nurture contempt? Of course the slip of eagerness for acceptance by the greener side is showing up- Ed). Please note the common factor here - distrust of each other.

But why do Muslims crib and feel so uncomfortable with others? The reason is that Muslims have always lived in Muslim kingdom. It was the Muslim Kingdom in Arab, Spain, Baghdad, Istanbul, Hindustan and now there is none. But then if there is none, then who have replaced them? Well Christians, Jews and Hindus have replaced them. (Historically inaccurate - Ed). This realization makes Muslims extremely uncomfortable. But the solution is to get over from the hangover of history. It's the vision of future, not the memory of past that can possibly inspire us. Debris of palace can only provide pain not the pleasure.



Yeoman Work of Bihar Anjuman

(Md Enam Khan: enam200@rediffmail.com)

The devastating effect of flood (2008) in the northern part of Bihar is fresh in our memories. True to its creed, Bihar Anjuman stood to the occasion by organizing massive relief funding. Bihar Anjuman's appeal to contribute generously towards the rehabilitation of flood-devastated people of Bihar had its desired effect and a respectable sum of Rs.38,89,365/- could be raised for the purpose through the various Chapters of Bihar Anjuman, spread all over the world. The collection was handed over to the reputed organization of Imarat Sharia Patna, for further disbursement and utilization through their agencies.

At the physical plane too, the NGO wing of Bihar Anjuman, which goes by the name of 'RAHBAR' embarked upon establishing a relief camp in Williams School of Supaul, the worst affected region, under the over-all supervision of Mr. Jawed Ahmad, General Secretary of RAHBAR. Starting from 15th September till the end of Ramadhan, they provided Iftar and Suhoor directly to the people whose number went on to increase from 100 on the first day to more than 200 on the 4th day. The details of their work can be seen at www.biharanjuman.org/flood_relief_2008_rahbar.htm

Is India poor, who says? Ask Swiss banks!

Dishonest Industrialists, scandalous politicians and corrupt IAS, IRS and IPS officers and other bureaucrats and technocrats have deposited in foreign banks, a sum of about \$ 1500 billion, which have been misappropriated by them from India. This amount is about 13 times larger than the country's foreign debt. With this amount, 45 crore poor people can get Rs. 1, 00,000 each. This huge amount has been obviously looted from the people of India by exploiting and betraying them. Swiss Banking Association Report, 2006 details bank deposits in the territory of Switzerland by nationals of following countries. This may be the picture of deposits in Swiss banks only. What about other international banks?

India -- \$1,456 billion, Russia -- \$ 470 billion, UK -- \$390 billion, Ukraine - \$100 billion, China --\$ 96 billion.

Once this huge amount of black money and property comes back to India, the entire foreign debt can be repaid in 24 hours. After paying the entire foreign debt, we will have surplus amount, almost 12 times larger than the foreign debt. If this surplus amount is invested in earning interest, the amount of interest will be more than the annual budget of the Central government. So even if all the taxes are abolished, then also the Central government will be able to maintain the country very comfortably. >>

*A friend is a person
you gift yourself.*

*Happiness is not something you have in your
hands; it is something you can carry in your heart.*

Faith based Ecology

(Dr. Mukhtar Alam: ceasig@gmail.com)

Changes in the climate with rise in the temperature of earth, change in rainfall patterns etc. are caused due to emission of gases, that is raising the temperature of earth as the amount of green house gases generated is much more than the capacity of the green cover for absorbing.

The summit meeting of the Group of Eight industrialised countries (G8) held in Germany in the month of June 2007 agreed to launch new initiatives for collective action by both rich nations and fast-growing developing countries to combat climate change. In its Fourth Assessment Report, the IPCC, the international body that has the task of weighing scientific evidence on climate change, pointed to definitive evidence that global atmospheric concentration of key greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide had "increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750".

An ecologically safe national strategy/ development paradigm can be considered containing the following features:

1. Marketing of ecologically safe consumption, production, leisure use patterns
2. Discouraging ecologically hostile consumption and production patterns
3. Promotion of neighborhood trade and education and discouraging ecologically hostile trade and education.
4. Ecologically sustainable agriculture
5. Promotion of ecologically sustainable transport systems
6. Faith based measures for transformation of leisure use pattern
7. Promotion and protection of ecologically sustainable habitats
8. Ecologically safe interest free and debt free finance system
9. Ecologically safe models of success

Faith based responses appear to be more effective, and they do not need to be promoted being already there. Such responses are common and they just need to be utilized towards ecological wellbeing at the personal, community, social, national and global levels

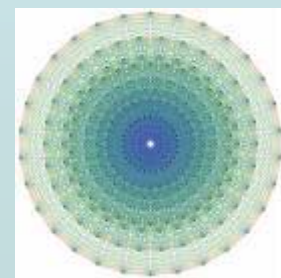
Prayer five times a day for transforming leisure use pattern, and recognizing that leisure use pattern is one of the key social engagements that consume most of the fossil fuel based services and utilities. Command for prayer is common across the religious texts though it appears most prominently practiced by men and women following the communications of Prophet Muhammad, believed to be the last messenger by Muslims. Men and women practicing prayer (salah in Arabic) do not visit dancing halls and bars as they are more concerned about praying in time. Prayer in the afternoon, after sunset and then prayer after dinner in the mosques makes the work easy. Prayer and remembrance for the Muslims are means of relaxation, stress-busting, socialization, and communion and so on. She/he concentrates on the essential matters in the neighborhood and cares for them as commanded through the messengers. Secondly, they abstain from exhibitionist consumption following the command of Allah for not transgressing the bounds/limits set by Allah. For dressing, they believe that the best dress is that of piety determined by the extent to which they follow the commands of Allah. They abstain from adultery following the commands against the same as they believe in upholding the best standards of fealty. They seek forgiveness from Allah for the sinful deeds executed intentionally or unintentionally. Thus adoption of prayer five times a day works as a guard against all the socially harmful behaviors that have been prohibited in the holy books across the religions. They donate out of their sustenance to the poor following the commands for zakat, khairat, fitra and sadaqah. They do not waste and thus observe the best of the ideals communicated through the slogan of 'waste not. want not' >>

Some 80,000 people travel to Switzerland every year, of whom 25,000 travel very frequently. 'Obviously, these people won't be tourists. They must be traveling there for some other reason,' believes an official involved in tracking illegal money. And, clearly, he isn't referring to the commerce ministry bureaucrats who've been flitting in and out of Geneva ever since the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations went into a tailspin! What is even more depressing is that this ill-gotten wealth of India has been stashed away abroad into secret bank accounts located in some of the world's best known tax havens. And to that extent the Indian economy has been stripped of its wealth. Ordinary Indians may not be exactly aware of how such secret accounts operate and what are the rules and regulations that go on to govern such tax havens. However, one may well be aware of 'Swiss bank accounts,' the shorthand for murky dealings, secrecy and of course pilferage from developing countries into rich developed ones. In fact, some finance experts and economists believe the tax havens to be a conspiracy of the Western world against the poor countries. By allowing the proliferation of tax havens in the twentieth century, the Western world explicitly encouraged the movement of scarce capital from the developing countries to the rich.

In March 2005, the Tax Justice Network (TJN) published a research finding demonstrating that \$11.5 trillion of personal wealth was held offshore by rich individuals across the globe. The findings estimated that a large proportion of this wealth was managed from some 70 tax havens. Further, augmenting these studies of TJN, Raymond Baker -- in his widely celebrated book titled 'Capitalism's Achilles Heel: Dirty Money and how to renew the Free Market System' -- estimates that at least \$5 trillion have been shifted out of poorer countries to the West since the mid-1970

What is to be notable here is that most of the wealth of Indians parked in these tax havens in such places is central to the issue, not their low tax rates as the term 'tax havens' suggests. Remember Bofors, and how India could not trace the ultimate beneficiary of those transactions because of the secrecy associated with these bank accounts!!

(Note: This piece has been picked up from the internet. There is no way of knowing the truth because the power to investigate is held by those who are the very persons who need to be investigated. But seeing the rampant corruption around and the prima facie structure of the report, there is high probability of this report being true --Ed)



Hari Mirch

Agar kisi lakhpati ko takleef dena ho to sirf usko karorpati ke beech me le jao....woh apne aap dukhi ho jayega.....

By Seraj Akram

*Beware of the fury
of a patient man*

*Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds
discuss events. Small minds discuss people.*

They practice ecologically safe consumption and believe in moderation in all matters. The middle path communicated through the commands of Allah is best ensured through the adoption of compulsory prayers five times a day. Men and men following the commands in Shiv Sankalp Taru for remembrance of Ishwar are likely to have the similar best behavior patterns that are ecologically safe. Their average ecological footprints are likely to be very low. They ensure more and more pious behavior, and consumption and production patterns. Centre for Ecological Audit, Inclusion and Governance of which this writer is a functionary, would like to promote generation of more pious responses as they are directly linked to reduction in the emission of green house gases.



Unity in diversity

(Asma Khan <asma07khan@yahoo.com>)

'India is a secular democracy' we proudly say. Every Indian desires that the country should come on top of the world. We are simply overwhelmed with its every success and we get genuinely upset with its single failure.

But Mr. Raj Thackeray masquerading as a die-hard patriot is trying to divide the country in the name of region. The sentiment of Raj Thackeray's bandwagon on 'regionalism above nationalism' is condemnable to say the least. His tirade against the taxi drivers from Bihar or push-cart vendors from U.P, right to the Bachchans has affected the lives of the people living in the State. On the 19th of October, its target was north Indians appearing for Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) test. It seems he is unaware that railways do not recruit people on the basis of region. Is he unable to understand that these people are directly or indirectly serving Maharashtra and helping India to 'shine'? Placing the interest of one's region above that of the nation is a threat to the unity of the country. It reflects that Mr. Thackeray is unable to envision Maharashtra as a part of India.

MNS as the pocket organization of Raj Thackeray made hue and cry, when Amitabh Bachchan announced his intention to build a school for girls in U.P. If Mr. Bachchan opens a school in UP, is he not oxygenating the development process of the country?

Few days back, there was violence against the shopkeepers with Hindi sign boards and hoardings. They were forced to use Marathi instead of Hindi. Recently, Jaya Bachchan's unintentional remark on Hindi drew flaks from supporters of Raj. She apologized but Amitabh had to abstain from the premiere of his movie. There are certain known personalities who only use English for conversation. Why are they acceptable to the likes of Raj Thackeray?

Being sensible citizens of the country, we should be wary of this kind of dirty politics and should protest against these groups. The actions of narrow-minded politicians to garner votes have put the ordinary people's life at risk. Come on!! We are Indians. We want India to be developed. A country cannot progress with only one progressive state. To make India 'shine' we will have to be united as 'United We Stand and Divided We Fall'.

Indian Mujahideen

(Mirza Yawar Baig: <yawarbaig@gmail.com>)

The famous Indian poet Ghalib, writing about the trials and tribulations of 1857 wrote: 'Mushkilain itni padhin mujh par ke asaan ho gayin'. I guess we the people of India are fast reaching that stage, where we are developing the ability to read a headline about the deaths of innocents and walk away untouched in any way - except perhaps to be thankful that our own near and dear ones are safe. The issue however does not end with that. It does not end with 'getting used' to terror tactics. It ends by defeating those who employ the terror tactics.

Indian Mujahideen is a particularly oxymoronic name because it is a complete a contradiction of terms as one can make. People who set off bombs in public places resulting in the deaths of innocent Indian citizens are neither Indian nor Mujahideen. Their actions at once destroy both of their claims and place them outside the pale of both the Indian nationality and Islam.

The issue before us today I believe can be summarized in the maxim: Behavior that is rewarded is repeated. Be it the case of Pavlovian dogs or young children or grown-up adults, you get what you reward, you get what you pay for and you get what you approve of. I believe that these bombs are a symptom of the far more serious malaise of the national approval for terror, for the breaking of laws, for murder, for ignoring the welfare of others. We have become an extremely uncaring society and the results are there for all to see. Unfortunately when we don't care for anyone, no one cares for us. So in this vicious cycle, in the end we all will suffer - even those who walk away today breathing sighs of relief that it was not their turn. The law of averages works. One day it will be our turn. Just takes a little while.

Let me give you some recent examples of how we have rewarded murder, destroying the social fabric of society and have reinterpreted the law to make this possible: 1984:Sikh Massacre (where Sikhs were randomly slaughtered in Delhi and other parts of India), where more than 1000 Sikhs were murdered. Result? Jagdish Tytler and all his fellow politicians and the Congress party won the national election. Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister with one of the largest majorities ever. His comments, when at the Boat Club, he was informed about the killing of Sikhs, became famous: "When a mighty tree falls, it is only natural that the earth around it should shake a little." Those who were affected by the 'shaking of the earth', the widows of the Sikh martyrs are still awaiting justice. Rajiv Gandhi meanwhile is dead. Jagdish Tytler is alive and well. About this massacre of innocent Indians, Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1984_anti-Sikh_riots) reports:

On November 1, 1984, large mobs largely formed by supporters of the ruling Indian Congress party from suburbs of Delhi and bordering villages of Western Uttar Pradesh descended on eastern and central Delhi. Sultanpuri, Mangolpuri, Trilokpuri, and other Trans-Yamuna areas of Delhi were the worst affected. The mobs carried iron rods, knives, clubs, and combustible material, including kerosene. They used voters' lists to identify houses and business establishments owned by Sikhs one by one and of which the voters' lists were of course distributed to them by the politicians themselves. The mobsters swarmed into Sikh neighborhoods, arbitrarily killing any Sikh men they could find. Their shops and houses were ransacked and burned. In other incidents, armed mobs stopped buses and trains, in and around Delhi, pulling out Sikh passengers to be lynched or doused with kerosene and burnt. November 1, 1984 Several Congress leaders >>

The more arguments you win, the fewer friends you will have.

Love is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

A Debate on Debate

(Sadaf Shahbaz: sadaf_shahbaz@yahoo.com)

With the advent of interest in Islam, everybody seems to be keen to debate the Islamic issues. With special reference to the Muslims, I would like to know however, what debate is this? Do Muslims have a uniform notion of the word 'debate'? Let us examine.

Allah says "...We have not sent you as a guard over them. Your duty is but to convey (the Message)"(Ash-Shura: 48)"...The Messenger's duty is only to preach the clear (Message)"(An-Nur:54)"... Invite (all) to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." (An-Nahl:125).

It is from here perhaps that the so called idea to debate till death originated. Here one can see a conflict that is there in the very notion and the very nature of word 'debate'. Some take the word 'argue' to mean debate, while others may simply understand it as a mild discussion to put forth their viewpoint. At least a well read person will not ascribe the meaning of altercation to the word 'argue' finding place in the holy Quran (But you never know the cretins!). However picking the thread from the word debate in place of 'argue' one can raise its meaning to the level of 'continuous assertion of conduct', where the argument is the silent aspect. This approach may not be regarded by others as anything done concrete for the cause of Islam, because there is no argument, no debate (no altercation if you permit). But never mind as long as you are in a state of continuous argument - by means of a modest demonstration of high conduct enjoined by Islam rather than by pushing down someone's throat its logic mercilessly.

There is no debate in Islam really. There is and will be a continued attempt to demonstrate the finer side of Islam to those who chance to see it or are inclined to see it. Islam's concept of **'to you, your religion, to me, mine'** must be celebrated as amongst the fundamentals of Islam.

Argument with grace is the cardinal concept in the verse quoted above. What could be the best form of it? I would like to cite two instances from Islamic history. One when Hazrat Ali Raziallahanhu was about to over power his enemy in a battle, the enemy spit on his face and Hazrat Ali let his opponent go. His explanation was that on being spit he became angry and he would not fight out of anger. The only reason he fought was for the sake of Islam. This was an example of active grace. The other example of passive grace is when Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jeelani Rahmatullahalaha, was intercepted by the robbers, he did not tell lie to hide his only money. Needless to say, both the historical incidents had the potential to create winning arguments in favor of Islam.

Let us examine the possibility of graceful arguments in the present context. When someone does not bribe a railway TTE for out of turn preference and chooses to suffer travel hardship, that is graceful. There is a strong argument in his conduct questioning the conduct of the persons who prefer to do things which are considered more practical, such as bribing. A question gets asked, 'what prevents this fellow from doing the practical thing, and then the only answer derivable is - 'his belief in Islam prevents'. It goes without saying that being gracious in the Quranic sense is very testing indeed and is much unlike a mere tongue wrestling.



held meetings on the night of October 31 and morning of November 1, mobilizing their followers to attack Sikhs on a mass scale. The first killing of a Sikh was reported from east Delhi in the early hours of November 1. About 9 am, armed mobs took over the streets of Delhi and launched a massacre. Everywhere the first targets were Gurdwaras, the holy temples of Sikhs, - to prevent Sikhs from collecting there and putting up a combined defense. Mobs were armed with iron rods of a uniform size. Activist editor Madhu Kishwar saw some of the rods being distributed among the miscreants. Mobs also had an abundant supply of petrol and kerosene. Victims traced the source of kerosene to dealers belonging to the Congress party. Every police station had strength of about 100 men and 50-60 weapons. Yet, no action was taken against miscreants in most places. The few places where the local police station took prompt measures against mobs, hardly any killings took place. Farsh Bazar and Karol Bagh are two such examples. But in other localities, the priority of the police, as it emerges from the statement of the then police commissioner S.C. Tandon before the Nanavati Commission, was to take action against Sikhs who dared to offer resistance. All the Sikhs who fired in self-defense were disarmed by the police and even arrested on trumped up charges. Mobs generally included teams attending to specific tasks. When shops were to be looted, the first team that gets into action would kill and remove all obstacles. The second team specialized in breaking locks. The third team would engage in looting. And the fourth team would set the place on fire. Most of the mobs were led by Congress members, including those from affluent families. For instance, a Youth Congress leader called Satsangi led a mob in the posh Maharani Bagh. The worst affected areas were however far flung, low income colonies like Trilokpuri, Mongolpuri, Sultanpuri and Palam Colony. The Congress leaders identified by the victims as organizers of the carnage include three MPs H.K.L. Bhagat, Sajjan Kumar and Dharam Dass Shastri and 10 councillors Arjan Dass, Ashok Kumar, Deep Chand, Sukhan Lal Sood, Ram Narayan Verma, D.R. Chhabbra, Bharat Singh, Vasudev, Dharam Singh and Mela Ram.

November 2, 1984: Curfew was in force throughout Delhi - but only on paper. The Army was also deployed throughout Delhi but nowhere was it effective because the police did not co-operate with the soldiers who were not empowered to open fire without the consent of senior police officers or executive magistrates. Meanwhile, mobs continued to rampage with the same ferocity.

November 3, 1984: It was only towards the evening of November 3 that the police and the Army acted in unison and the violence subsided immediately after that. Whatever violence took place the next two or three days was on a much smaller scale and rather sporadic.

In effect, there was a state sponsored massacre of Sikhs all over the country for 3 days, which Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress party claimed was a spontaneous reaction of grief and outrage to the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Implication? That therefore those who indulge in such 'spontaneous actions' are blameless and innocent. And those who were murdered? Well, after all they were all of the same class, race, community, religion, political persuasion as the one who committed the crime so they deserved to 'pay'.

Cut to 2002: <http://www.countercurrents.org/gujarat-jowher010305.htm>.

Please read the Wikipedia report of the Sikh Massacre above and change the word 'Sikh' with the word 'Muslim' and ignore the names of Delhi localities and change the names of Congress politicians for BJP/VHP leaders and what do you have? Gujarat Genocide, in >>

*People don't plan to fail.
They just fail to plan.*

'Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.' Benjamin Franklin.

A lesson in Logic

(Shoaib Khan: shoaib_khan567@yahoo.com)

Logic in our Language: Language is the mode of expression. Literature is the art of composition in prose and verse. In our day to day talking, writing or reading, most of us fail to understand the implications of words "and, or, not" and sentences containing "all, some, if". We often fail to translate and interpret such sentences. These words also occur in the study of science and in exam like GMAT/CAT Civil Services etc. To convince others, to grasp others' ideas, we need the skill of argumentation. According to Aristotle, a person who wants to convince another may appeal to that person's reason (logos), ethics (ethos) or emotion (pathos)

The writer's job is to weave the three appeals into a single convincing argument to persuade the readers. The most common argumentative structure in English writing style is deductive: starting off with a generalization or claim, and then providing ground or support for it. An argument is a statement (premise) or group of statements offered in support of another statement (conclusion). Thus, an argument has two essential parts: a claim and support. The claim asserts a conclusion -- an idea, or a point of view - that the writer wants us to accept. The support includes premises, reasons (shared beliefs, assumptions, and values) and evidence (facts, examples, statistics, and authorities) that give readers the basis for accepting the conclusion. At the most basic level, in order for an argument to be acceptable, the support must be appropriate to the claim and the statements must be valid and consistent with one another. When we assess an argument, we are concerned with the process of reasoning as well as its truthfulness (these are not the same thing).

Methods of Reasoning: All reasoning is based on the ways we put sentences together. The basic principle of Logic states that a statement/sentence must be either true or false. By using statements or propositions that are either true or false, the English language becomes the building blocks for a mathematical language. In English, new propositions are formed from existing propositions by using "and, or, not". These words are called logical connectives. A conjunction is a compound sentence formed by combining two sentences (or facts) using the word "and". A conjunction is true only where both sentences are true e.g. "Blue is a color and $7+3=10$. (True and True=True). Since both facts are true, entire sentence is true. "One hour= 55 minutes and one minute=60 seconds". (False and T= False). Since the first fact is false, the entire sentence is false. A disjunction is a compound sentence formed by combining two sentences using the word "or". A disjunction is true when either or both sentences are true e.g. "One hour= 55 minutes or, one minute=60 seconds". (F or T= T). Since the second fact is true, the entire sentence is true. Negation of a statement is formed by placing the word "not" into the original statement. The negation will always have the opposite truth- value of the original statement. The negation of an "or" statement is always an "and" statement and the negation of an "and" statement is always an "or" statement. For example: The negation of " $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, and $a > 0$ " is "either $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ or $a > 0$ ". The negation of $x+y=6$ or $2x+3y<7$ is " $x+y = 6$ and $2x+3y =7$ ". The precise rules for expressing the negation of compound statement formed with "and" and "or" are called DE Morgan Rules.

In Reasoning, there are mainly five types of sentences/premises. (i)- 'All A are B' is in the nature of 'All girls are beautiful'. (Means A lies within B, or A is a subset of B) (ii)-'No A is B' is in the nature of 'No boy is selfish, (Means A and B do not intersect). (iii)-'Some A are B'. 'Some rectangles are squares')>>

which more than 2500 Muslims were massacred, maimed, gang-raped, burnt alive and more than 10 times that number rendered destitute and homeless overnight. Same methodology, same ruthless planning and execution with military precision. Same targeting of a minority by mobs led by politicians all completely secure in the belief that there is no price to pay. Result? Narendra Modi was elected Chief Minister and his party, BJP won the election in Gujarat with a big majority. Modi then proceeded on a Gaurav Yatra (Journey of Pride) at having accomplished the murder of 2000 Indian citizens and been rewarded for it. He continues to be felicitated by the likes of CII and the Young Presidents Organization who obviously feel no shame at inviting him to be the Chief Guest at their functions. They feel honored to be in his company. The actors have changed, but the script is the same. The play continues and the ending is naturally the same.

Cut once again to Hyderabad: 2008: Bomb blasts in Makkah Masjid and in two parks and a restaurant. The police immediately named an organization which one had never heard of earlier and arrested more than 200 young men. They were at first illegally held without being charged in various locations near the city and tortured (standard police tactics instead of investigating the crime). Then when public pressure to produce them before the court mounted, they were lodged in an official prison. Still no case filed against them. An Enquiry Commission was set up by the Government, which on investigation came to the conclusion that these men have been arrested without any evidence; instead the police had unsuccessfully tried to fabricate evidence against them and failed. They had been tortured, their lives destroyed and their liberty curtailed, all without a scrap of proof against any of them. So what is to be done now? Well, release them, back into society, with their lives, livelihoods and reputations destroyed, their minds twisted by torture and their hearts filled with hatred. Meanwhile the real criminals walk free because the police find it easier to use torture on innocent people than to investigate a crime properly and bring the criminal to justice.

I can mention, the so-called Bombay Riots where Bal Thackeray openly claimed the credit for massacring more than 1000 Muslims, his Shiv Sena gangs operating with the same ruthless efficiency as Modi's gangs in Gujarat or Tylter's gangs in Delhi. Result? Thackeray's party comes to power in Maharashtra. I can quote the more recent discovery of Bajrang Dal bomb making factories in Nanded in Maharashtra and Kanpur in UP where their ineptitude resulted in explosions which killed a couple of the bomb makers, thus bringing to the public eye, their activities which they had hitherto been doing with the blessing of their neighbors and the local authorities. Result?? Hush, hush, hush!!

Similarly what happens when a police officer called Vanzara kidnaps and shoots in cold blood, a Muslim man called Sohrabuddin and his wife and then burns the bodies to get rid of the evidence? He is applauded by Modi. He is extolled by the compliant press as an 'Encounter Specialist'. He is not alone in this honor. There are many such Encounter Specialists who routinely kill suspected Naxalites, terrorists and others whose only crime is that they are 'suspected' or happen to be in the wrong place. Murder, when done by a police officer is called 'Encounter' by our press and the individual is praised and treated as a hero for having shot down an unarmed man or woman in cold blood. The message in all these incidents and countless others in India is the same. A crime is not a crime if it is done by a particular group of people. But if the same thing is done by someone else it is criminal. The message in all these incidents is that criminals are not punished but rewarded. And as the loop closes, you get what you reward. You get what you pay for. You get what you appreciate. So what is the solution? >>

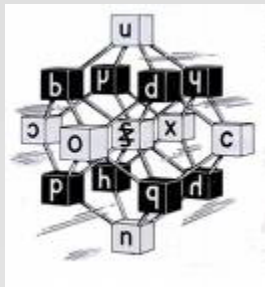
*Brevity is the soul
of wit*

*Never get discouraged. It is often the last key in the
bunch that opens the lock. Nothing great was ever
achieved without patience.*

(Means some part of A is within B or they have some intersection)
(iv)-Some A are not B. Some spheres are not circles. (Means some A
is B and no A is B) (??-Ed)

The language we use in argument is much more complex than these
statements. From the sentence "I like good food", we mean, "all good
food is something I like". This has the form, "All A are B" "Everything I
like is good food" is an erroneous or invalid conclusion. Similarly
from - "no cars are buses", we can infer/conclude/mean that "some
cars are not buses". We cannot switch over to universal term "all"
from particular term "some". (v) There is one more type of sentence
called Conditional Sentence in the form "If A, then B". From given
conditional sentence/statement- "if A, then B", we can
conclude/infer/mean that - "If not B, then not A". If we put in any other
form that will always be wrong or invalid.

Fallacies are common errors in reasoning that will undermine the
logic of our argument. We may discuss deductive and inductive
argumentation and inherent fallacies in our next dispatch.



SOME OF THE HUMAN QUALITIES ALLAH LOVES

Contributed by Seraj Akaram

"Say (O Muhammad to mankind): "If you (really) love Allah, then follow me,
Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Oft-
Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Quran: 3:31)

Patience

"And Allah loves as-Sabirun (the patient)." (Quran: 3:146)

Justice and Dealing with Equity

"Be just, that is nearer to piety; and fear Allah." (Quran: 5:8)

Putting Trust in Allah

"Certainly, Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him)." (Quran:
3:159)

Perfection of One's Work

The Messenger (peace be upon him) said: "Allah loves that if one
does a job he perfects it."

In my view the solution is very simple. Justice. Let justice be done.
Murder is a crime. It is fashionable today to call for tougher laws. The
fact of the matter is that our existing law is more than good enough
(which is giving unfettered de facto powers to the Indian police and
paramilitary, no questions asked. -Ed). Murder is a crime and its
punishment is death. What more can anyone do? The issue is not with
the law; it is with the implementation of the law. When murder done by
someone special is not punished, changing the law and making it
tougher is not the solution. The solution is to bring the criminal to
justice, by proper investigation of the crime and the collection of
evidence. It is not possible for any police force to anticipate a crime of
random violence. Neither is it possible for the police to prevent such
crimes from happening because we have no knowledge of the hidden
things. However it is eminently possible to investigate a crime once it
happens and catch the criminals. When there is a price that the criminal
is convinced he has to pay, then he will think many times before
committing the crime.

My suggestion is that given the dismal record of police investigations, it
is time for civil society to launch an independent investigation into these
terror crimes, something on the lines of a Tehelka perhaps. We need to
set up a fund to pay for a top class investigation agency to
independently investigate the crime and collect evidence. This can then
be given publicly to the police to take to a conclusion. I say publicly
because if the police know that there is a real evidence, then covering
up is not so easy. Criminals must be punished and not rewarded, if we
are serious about fighting crime. The law must be respected and
applied, no matter who tries to break it. If we do that, then we would
have taken the right steps to change the script. Once the script is
changed, the results will be different. It is time for us to wake up and
realize that polluting the water in a lake affects all those who live in the
lake. Those who sit quietly will not escape the effects of pollution.
Ralph Chaplin said: "Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie, but
rather mourn the apathetic throng, the coward and the meek who see
the world's great anguish and its wrong but dare not speak."

The time has come to speak and to act if we want to bequeath a world
to our children that they will not curse us for. Stand for justice. Speak
for justice. Or sit silently and support the terrorist, the murderer and the
oppressor. The choice is yours, ours.



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