

INDO PAKISTAN ESTRANGEMENT—A PERENNIAL PROCESS OF MALIGNANT MILITARY FRATRICIDAL TERRORISM

On either side to pragmatise a rapprochement any Indian patriot visiting Simla and its historic spots where divisive disastrous deeds of partition signed will suffer deep distress. Here the partition of Bharat Mahan was cut in twain with mutual bloodshed and countless carnage between India and Pakistan. Nehru and Jinnah whose signatures to this tragic calamities making Jammu and Kashmir accede to the Indian Republic. The Kashmir Maharaja, a Hindu ruler, acceded his State to India and the National Conference which overwhelmingly represented the Muslim population led by Sheikh Abdullah both agreed to the merger with the Indian Republic. Thus by all legal standards J and K became integral part of sovereign Bharat. But, Communalism knows no law springs from sanguinary hatred which aggravated by blood and cadavers. The Muslim League using fanatical madness as the intoxicating bedlam savagely killed Muslims and Hindus more carnal casualties more numbers than in World wars slaughter in the past. The cities of Jammu and Kashmir and urban centres where Pundits (Hindus) resided mostly and were scared by the outbreak of Islamic violent panic. Nehru, a statesman, idealist and symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity watched with despair this poignant scenario of killings between the two neighbours dear to him. Had he waited for a day more as the superior Indian army would have pushed back the Pak forces J and K would have been a secure Indian State. In the spirit of the United Nations Charter Nehru stopped the slaughter and agreed to a plebiscite—a glory of Asoka gesture—but in our sanguinary world

blood and bullet count military success. Carnage is no crime if occupation and victory is the vanishing point of peace and justice. The beautiful Himalayan State turned streets red with tears and blood by the rabid communalism of genetic Pakistan's illegal invasion into J and K, a grave horror zone and international theater of War which ruined the lovely green State into a belligerent bitter fratricidal conflict.

Nehru was the Asoka of the modern times. Rarely we come across such a prince of peace like our first Prime Minister. But Jinnah had forsaken the principle of secularism and regarded every part of Muslim Communism is part of Pakistan. We cannot agree to divide the world into communal apartheid. In spite of victory being but a day away from India, Gandhian disciple and Asokan successor Jawaharlal declared cessation of war and bloodshed in the hope that peace could be restored. Indeed the war was stopped and there were negotiations for peace in Russia. The Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Sastri was in Tashkent developed illness and died. His body was carried by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. What a glorious gesture of rapprochement would have taken place had that mood of comity and good will culminated in a settlement. Alas! Communalism diehard and the Indo-Pak war revived—all that we have as evidence of this peace effort is the Tashkent in a sense of patriotism. Global peace is earth patriotism and humanism. We are back for years and years of brutal war with America supplying weapon to Islamabad and Eisenhower, a war general supplying arms to Pakistan. When India protested and the U.S. President told us you may also ask for weapon and we will consider. Nehru, retorted dear

President, remember India is not an international mendicant for weapon. What a contrast of the White House inmates supplying weapons to promote a war and go on record with his experience as war general when he wrote: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies-in the final sense-a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

Nehru's idealism and commitment to nationalism as sine quo non of world peace and comity of nation led to the creation of international line of control on both sides of the J & K with armies ready to go to war created a tense situation affecting the friendly relations between the two countries which had a long common boundary and the two communities residing in every village. This piteous situation caused both countries occasional eruptions of military militancy and purchase of arms. Indeed, the investment of both countries in buying military weapons was a drain on development and consequent neglect of people's welfare. The thinking sections of India and Pakistan were unhappy at this prolonged and expensive terrorism. Nijalingappa, the one time President of the International Congress suggested to me through the common friend the former Chief Justice of Karnataka Shri. Justice D.M. Chandrasekar that if the leaders of the two countries love peace and fraternal cordiality they should accept the international line of control as the sovereign line of two nations dividing J and K and declare an end of each country claiming territories on the other side. This would have saved

thousands of lives, huge sums of war weapons and goodwill among the two peoples. But we did not have statesmen enough but had many jingoists enough who fanned the flames of incendiary belligerency. So much so, no effective peace proposal was discussed except ineffectual platitudes. Now the time has come with a global deprivation worse than cold war which makes the life of the common millions miserable. The right to life in dignity and health guaranteed under the Constitution of both Governments is merely printed paper. A campaign for truces and later for peace must be launched not by leaders only but by peoples of both countries by every popular exchange, mutual debates and intellectuals and public activists this shall be the beginning of a new era which will place the two countries with developmental possibilities. This is not a dream but if shared by all the provisional groups in the two countries and intellectuals and Universities will have a new Asia, an elimination of the Third World tension by vanishing weapons and advances with new technology and agriculture. Read Nehru's lovely prose on Kashmir:

Like some supremely beautiful woman, whose beauty is almost impersonal and above human desire, such was Kashmir in all its feminine beauty of river and valley and lake and graceful trees. And then another aspect of this magic beauty would come to view, a masculine one, of hard mountains and precipices, and snow-capped peaks and glaciers, and cruel and fierce torrents rushing down to the valley below. It had a hundred faces and innumerable aspects, ever changing, sometimes smiling, sometimes sad and full of sorrow. The mist would creep up from the Dal Lake and, like a transparent veil, give glimpses of what was behind. The clouds would throw out their arms to embrace a mountain-top, or creep down stealthily like children at play. I watched this ever-changing spectacle, and sometimes the sheer loveliness of it was overpowering and I felt almost faint. As I gazed at it, it seemed to me dream-like and unreal, like the hopes and desires that fill us and so seldom

find fulfillment. It was like the face of the beloved that one sees in a dream and that fades away on awakening.

Thou shall not Kill—Jesus. Bullets Kill. Be he Hindu, Christian or Muslim every cadaver is a tragic casualty of humanity. Prophet Mohammed rose from his bed when a non-Muslim dead body was being carried because he said every human body deserves reverence. To prolong J and K butchery is not patriotism Pak barbarity. Peace and compassion is humanity.

Feel, my children, feel for the poor, the ignorant, the downtrodden; feel till the heart stops and the brain reels and you think you will go mad.

We talk foolishly against material civilization. The grapes are sour... Material civilization, nay even luxury, is necessary to create work for the poor. Bread; I do not believe in a God, who cannot give me bread here, giving me eternal bliss in heaven. Pooh; India is to be raised, the poor are to be fed, education is to be spread, and the evil of priestcraft is to be removed...more bread, more opportunity for everybody....

(Vivekananda)

J and K, the happiest Himalayan sovereign State of peace and haven—God's noblest gift. Billions of dollars on either side wasted in slaughter. Sanity and statesmanship and humanity argue for immediate stoppage of war. India, a class superior force than Pakistan can afford to draw a dramatic line along the international line of control and make it the boundary of two sovereign states to live in peace and develop prosperously as a tourist paradise.

How long O' Lord! How long will these incendiary sanguinary bloodstreams should continue to flow statesmen of India and Pakistan! Stop it in the name of universal ubiquitous divinity.

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