



POLITICAL THOUGHTS OF DR. AMBEDKAR

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Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a great scholar in India who got educated not only in India, but also abroad. He was a great man of India who made exceptional contributions as a sociologist, economist, legal luminary, educationist, journalist, parliamentarian and social reformer. He studied many constitutions of many countries and wrote a beautiful constitution for free India. He, indeed, falls into the list of great men who have served India since time immemorial. Though, he is a sociologist, it is important to study his political thoughts. This paper aims to study his political thoughts.

We all know that in freedom struggle Mahatma Gandhi made use of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagrah. But according to Dr. Ambedkar these are all unconstitutional methods. He says that these methods were good when we were in need of getting freedom. He says further that, after getting freedom we prepared our own constitution and hence these methods became unconstitutional. They are nothing but grammar of anarchy and it is better to abandon them.

In the same way Dr. Ambedkar also opposes hero-worshipping in politics. He says that there is nothing wrong in being grateful to great men who provided good services to nation, but there are limits to gratefulness. We should not lay our liberties at the feet of great men. Bhakti in religion may be good as it is the road to salvation. But in politics, bhakti or hero-worship leads to degradation and finally to dictatorship.

Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts about democracy are very prestigious and significant. He says that we should not be satisfied with mere democracy. Political democracy should be closely related with social democracy. What does social democracy mean? Social democracy is a way of life where importance is given to liberty, equality and fraternity. In fact, liberty, equality and fraternity

are principles of life. These principles should not be separated from each other. Liberty cannot be separated from equality and equality cannot be separated from fraternity.

India is a country where people of different religions, castes and sub-castes live. Dr. Ambedkar says that there is complete absence of two things in Indian society. One of them is equality and another one is fraternity. What does equality mean? It means all men are equal. In fact, there is a society in India which is based on principle of graded inequality. In India some people are very rich, some people are very poor and some are average. As a matter of fact we have equality in politics, but not in social and economic life. All men have been given voting power which is based on the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. But in social and economic life, there is no equality.

The second thing which is not found in Indian society is the principle of fraternity. We proudly say that "All Indians are my brothers and sisters". But is it so in practical life? Do all people behave like brothers and sisters? Are there not instances of killing of a brother by another brother? Of course, there are many examples. Fraternity is the principle which is based on the principle of unity and solidarity to social life. Hence, it seems to be difficult to have fraternity in India.

Liberty is a personal freedom to everybody but while enjoying liberty one should be careful about other people's liberty. It means liberty has a social context. Hence, it is said that if one has to enjoy liberty, he/she has to think of society. So it is not a personal thing, it is a social contract. Each person has been given some rights, but at the same time he has to follow some duties. It means liberty can be possible only if in real sense social democracy exists. Hence, without liberty, equality and fraternity democracy can't be maintained in a real sense.

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