



The Role of Bhagat Singh in Indian History

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ABSTRACT

Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh once said, “it’s easy to kill a person but not his ideology.” Isn’t it opposite in this present world? Bhagat Singh is still alive as a person, but his ideology is thing of past. He said anything that is intolerable towards independent thoughts should be abolished. This is a part of Lahore’s manifesto of „Naojawan Bharat Sabha“ in 1928. Is media playing same role as it played during Singh’s time or it has changed? Ex-cept a few ones, isn’t reporting by media going through a phase of commercialization? Because in 1928, as per Bhagat Singh, it has even been seen that religious leaders and newspapers added fuel to the fire of riots. Those leaders who took responsibility to set India free and who never took a sigh of relief from raising slogans of nationalism have either become mute or might be with the flow of some religious leaders. It was the year of 1928 when Hindu- Muslim riots were at peak, what would be the age of Bhagat Singh at that moment? It was around 20 and some months. In 1928, Singh said others who play major role to lit fire of religious riots are newspaper owners. Business of media reporting which held high rank previously has become polluted. This is the reason of being in terrible grief which brainstorms a person’s mind regarding future. From that time till now there is hardly a pinch of skepticism on the fact that media has altered its role. It previously used to favour winning parties and till now doing the same. So, along with Singh as a personality it’s very much required to keep thoughts of Bhagat Singh alive so that media and religion wouldn’t interrupt each other & work independently. This is actual tribute to martyrdom of Bhagat Singh and all the leaders alike.

Would you like to become Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh? Why everybody desire Bhagat Singh to be born in their neighborhood and not in their house? Why everybody should be born as Bhagat Singh only and not some other personality. If martyrdom is the reason of birth of Bhagat Singh in neighborhood then is this the only consequence of Shaheed Bhagat Singh’s life? Then we have to think twice that do we really know about Bhagat Singh and his comrades? How somebody becomes Bhagat Singh by going to gallows or by thought process? Every year head of political parties celebrate Singh’s birthday with great pomp and show. A new concept of tweeting has spread its wings to popularize which is also followed by leaders as they tweet on their respective twitter handles. One question can be raised from such leaders that is there any leader from their group who can be future Bhagat Singh or is there any leader who has such talent, maturity and eagerness to become Bhagat Singh? Is there any leader from any political party who can be deemed as carbon copy of Bhagat Singh owing to his ideology and his dedication for mother India? Does the responsibility of masses



especially political leaders ends after tweeting, texting on WhatsApp only? Tweeting, texting seems interesting, but is this sufficient to pay tribute for martyrdom of freedom fighters/revolutionaries. There are pictures of Bhagat Singh on busses of Delhi (Capital of India) wearing yellow turban, but the fact of matter is that Bhagat Singh never wore such kind of turban. Even newspapers print birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh in flowery style. Gandhi's image on 2nd October on Gandhi Jayanti is first choice of all national dailies. These are those national papers which give place to Lal Bahadur Shastri on last page or sometimes it even vanishes from pages of some leading national papers. People don't remember them. Same situation can be seen in case of comrades of Bhagat Singh (Sukhdev & Rajguru). Most pitiable condition is of Batukeshwer Dutta. As per his last wish, his sepulcher was made in Hussaini Wala (Ferozpur in Punjab) near sepulcher of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru & Sukhdev. Visitors often visit there but don't realise his sacrifice and neglect his sepulcher. Even selfie-lovers are not able to frame him. Batukeshwer Dutta had to struggle before and after independence. His saga of struggle still echoes. There are many other Indian gems in form of freedom fighters who didn't share a major chunk of pie in historical documents and those who got it, they didn't get respect. No doubt Bhagat Singh is a famous and great personality but why after motivation of leaders, Bhagat Singh doesn't come in this vicious world again or it could be a possibility that we are having a lot of Bhagat Singhs around, but it's just our perception which is hindering us to fit them in frame of Bhagat Singh. Bhagat Singh's presence can be easily acknowledged on the T-Shirts sold in the market with the tag line as follows- it seems like I have to rebirth again (murh auna paina). However people have pasted Bhagat Singh's picture on branded T-Shirts, but do they really mean it, by having him in their heart too. Bhagat Singh is sold as a product in market and he is a part of collection in (big reputed academic) library. On the other hand some libraries are their which have no books even no picture. His revolution had been just misunderstood as heroism of Bollywood. Pictures of Bhagat Singh fill person with zeal and with new energy, but it is actually missing out in the real world among youth brigade. Prof. Chaman Lal writes that "Bhagat Singh had never worn yellow turban and saffron look (chola)". Taxis which run between Punjab and Delhi often show images of Bhagat Singh with filmy dialogues at bottom (which are never match this gem personality like one side Bhagat Singh picture and some lines written like "Darkhan"- hindi movie name, popular Punjabi song's lyrics- "Kitte kalli beh ke sochi ni", "Saadi Gall Hor", "yo- yo honey Singh", "Mitraan di chhatri ton ud gayee", "UK wale" etc.), which are highlighted by lights of overtaking vehicles. This is a common scenario in this country. Another scenario could be related with the fact that Bhagat Singh is pasted on ceilings of houses (Bhagat Singh's statue on the roofs with water tanks) and on bullet bikes. In such pictures either Bhagat Singh is shown holding pistols or curling moustaches. Is it Bhagat Singh present condition (or a return gift by us). We need not to worry unnecessarily or to turn grief stricken as need is to understand Bhagat Singh from the core of our heart and to visualise his ideology. Today people of every religious group (leaders) adopt Bhagat Singh, but it's time to think if Bhagat Singh would have been alive, then political groups would have been greeted him with which position (or as a leader)?



Bhagat Singh said in manifesto of „Naojawan Bharat Sabha“ in 1928 as follows “ anything that is intolerable towards independent thoughts should be abolished”. If same line is going to be repeated by student leaders in their universities then would it be possible for you as a person to accept that student leader as Bhagat Singh and going to greet him with garlands of roses? Bhagat Singh also added in his manifesto that “young fellows are doing everything in world, but we Indians what we are doing? We are just raising voice on meager of branch of peepul tree as we find it touching our religious cords.

Ideally human should be given higher rank but here in India people hit each other in the name of religion. You tell such saying which BS is going to remain in political party. People who wear Bhagat Singh’s T-Shirt, follow him and idealise him do they really share same thinking as Bhagat Singh had? Can any youngster enter any political party by saying that religions have damned India. It’s still not clear that when such religious riots will quit India”. This was said by Bhagat Singh in 1928 in one of his writings. In the same writing further mentions that it has even been seen that religious leaders who took responsibility to set India free and who never took a sigh of relief from raising slogans of nationalism have either become mute or might be with the flow of some religious leaders. It was the year of 1928 when Hindu-Muslim riots were at peak, what would be the age of Bhagat Singh at that moment? It was around 20 and some months. In 1928, Bhagat Singh said “others who play major role to lit fire of religious riots are newspaper”. Business of media reporting which held high rank previously has become polluted. This is the reason of being in terrible grief which brainstorms a person’s mind regarding future. One question that strikes is that what would be the future of India? Love and affection of Bhagat Singh towards labourers and farmers is merely expressed on walls. Do we really feel the same or are we really limited to pictures of and sayings about Bhagat Singh? It’s rare that yesterday the leaders who called some other freedom fighters his role model is giving same position to Bhagat Singh today on his birth anniversary. If we all are living in the country where leaders are inspired from all post revolutionaries, then it must be considered golden era. These are those leaders in which we can see glimpse of all leaders starting from Bhagat Singh, Ram Manohar Lohia, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and ending on others many

who sacrificed themselves. Bhagat Singh quotes in communist journal Kirti in 1928 which is in first paragraph “it has been loudly heard that literate youth should not join politics as well as not take part in any political activities.” Bhagat Singh said we understand that prime motive of students is to study only, but to understand condition of country and to bring eligibility so as to improve country’s condition are not a part of higher education, youth should grab political knowledge and they should jump into political field as per need of an hour.” Understanding and following ideology is kept hidden and barred in this present world. How is it possible to have a Bhagat Singh in every political group but nobody is gutsy enough to follow his footsteps? Have you ever heard open discussion about communalism, and they continue speaking publicly about the party they belong to. It never happened that



those who boast of following ideology of Bhagat Singh actually followed it. People had been just attention seekers or opportunists. Bhagat Singh once said, “its easy to kill a person but not his ideology”. Isn’t it opposite in this present world? Bhagat Singh is still alive as a person but does his ideology still exists? Has media turned partial or is its normal functioning? Has media attained different position or is it the same as was observed during Bhagat Singh’s time? Has media opted ways just to run business to lit candles or is it going right way to let world aware of Bhagat Singh’s ideology? Today is the time to seriously follow the thinking of Bhagat Singh.

Because our people of India are totally religious minded and they are not interested to change their mentality. They always favoured their own religion. Media is the other side of coin. First media supports that party who gives a lot of money for funding its channel. And after winning the election party command the entire media. Media plays only those things which they want. Not only media is involved in this case, there are so many sectors which are directly or indirectly connected with common people. There is announcement by Bhagat Singh- Save the country. Understand the meaning of democracy and Fulfill the dream of all Shaheeds. And this is the true return gift to Bhagat Singh. “Jai hind”.

Conclusion

Mere show off of Bhagat Singh’s pictures along with some arousing sayings on T-shirts or singing provoking songs will not serve the purpose. Pasting his images on the number plates of bikes and wind sheets of cars will not help creating the nation of his dreams. Making use of his personality just in order to win votes in elections is not a tribute to him but a shame on such disgusting political leaders. But the youth or these political leaders are not the only one who is responsible for such a scenario which opposes the dream of Bhagat Singh, media is equally responsible for the same. Doing a wrong duty or neglecting one’s duty has a similar outcome. And media is doing the both. By serving the political parties just for the sake of money, it is doing a wrong duty. And being unable to aware the people of what is wrong and what right, it is neglecting its duty. In order to improve the scenario, both sides should take appropriate actions. If people will demand a right thing, a right thing will be served by the media. If media will aware the people of what is right, people will start automatically improve themselves. Thus, it’s a mutual duty of the youth, media and the political leaders.



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