

THE SOUL OF A CIVILIZATION LONG SUPPRESSED, FINDS UTTERANCE

The opposition parties are crying buckets saying that through the Ram mandir, BJP is going to obtain political mileage. My straightforward question to them: Why didn't you take up the building of the Ram mandir when you were in power for decades and obtained political mileage for yourself?! Who stopped you? Clearly, you have missed the bus. Stop behaving like a jealous lover who never even approached the girl. Yes, the BJP is going to gain politically but it has been on their agenda for decades! They have been chasing the girl constantly. They never had any pretensions about it! Their activists took bullets for this! It was in their election agenda and they are merely carrying out their promise. Why are you beating your chests now? As if you never used religion for political gain? Remember Shah Bano? Bertrand Russell had remarked: Religion is a department of politics. Those who think that religion can be set apart from politics, are living in a fool's paradise. And don't forget that it's the mix of religion and politics that led to the Partition of this nation. Anyway, let's keep these political bickerings aside.

Let us take a look at history. Egyptian civilization worshiped the Sun God. Turkey was Christian. Persia (Iran) was Zoroastrian. Two large chunks of India (Pakistan and Bangladesh) was Hindu. Then came Islam's death blow and the old religions never came back. The Hagia Sophia in Istanbul (Christian Constantinople earlier) which was originally a church, is now a mosque.

Everywhere the old civilizations were erased out of existence by Islam. But the Hindu civilization even after being under the yoke of Islamic rule for 800 years and 200 years of English colonialism, has retained its civilizational identity. This has not happened anywhere on earth. But the Hindus suffered. Not a single notable temple north of the Vindhyas stands in its original form. Hindus for one thousand years have only seen their temples being desecrated and destroyed; their idols broken and the temples looted. It all started with Mahmud of Ghazni destroying and looting the Somnath temple in 1025. We are

dealing with a thousand-year-old civilizational wound here.

So those who are opposing the temple are baffled by the flood of emotion that has got unleashed by this dam burst. They are unable to read the signs. They cannot see that a wounded civilization has regained its strength and has stood up to claim its place in the sun. "PRABHU RAM HAS RETURNED TO AYODHYA" is the chant that is behind this civilizational resurrection. Those who do not understand this, would be swept away by this emotional tsunami. Ayodhya in the days to come would become to the Hindus what Mecca is to the Muslims and the Vatican City is to the Christians. No force on earth can stop that.