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God's Way Or Man's Way: Which Prevails?

IN our issue of June 16, and under the heading "Socialist Support To Indo-Pakistan Agreement," we reproduced from "Harijan" a statement to the Press by Shri Jaiprakash Narayan.

The statement deserves to be read and studied in fields far from India and Pakistan because the arguments and conclusions it advances are equally applicable to the major problems exercising men of good-will who are earnestly seeking to end the "cold" wars that are waging and at almost all costs to prevent the unspeakable holocaust of the "hot" war that is threatening.

The issue that resulted in the dismemberment of what was known as "India" under the Raj, arose through the belief by the converts to Jinnah's Pakistan ideology of "Communalism," in Separatism. Pakistan purports to believe that the differences in Religion justify the separation. Bharat believes in a secular or non denominational state that shall welcome and protect, impartially followers of any and every religious faith.

Now the definition of "Religion" as we have always understood it is "The tie or string that relates or connects Man with the Source of his being i.e. God. This, of course, is a spiritual concept and implies that Man being the seed (or a spark) of divinity has within him all the potentialities of the Source or Parent that gave him birth.

We find, however, the word "Religion" given very different meaning; some, indeed that are quite foreign to its real meaning and to what it signifies. Nazism was frequently referred to as the "religion" of the Nazis. Communism is repeatedly called a "religion." Capitalism and Socialism have been similarly

styled. This is surely, debasing "Religion" and degrading it from the position it should occupy, unless God is no more than any ideology, however materialistic, man chooses to create for himself and set up his idol.

"Religere," the Verb, means "to bind back, or renew the relationship" between the Father-Creator of Mankind and every individual man. It embraces or should embrace both the science of the soul and the philosophy of right life and wise living. Its fundamental postulate is The Fatherhood of God, and the Brother relationship of Mankind. So construed and understood, religion unites and binds together; is a centrifugal, not a centripetal force; integrates not disintegrates.

The ideologies that today are dividing and separating peoples into opposite camps have nothing to do with Religion, but everything to do with ir-Religion. Power-politics and lust of domination are still the determining considerations; brute-force the final resort.

It is not Religion that is restraining the opposing forces from starting a third World War; not respect for the Comandment of the Master "That ye love One Another" and "That ye do unto others as ye would have them do unto you." It is the purely materialistic, selfish consideration as to whether such a war would be successful, as to whether it would pay; a question of expediency, not principle.

The "cold" war that is presently waged is, in substance, a war between two idolatries, the idol of Marxist Communism and the idol of Rugged Individualism. Both are rooted in a purely materialistic concept of Man and of his place in the Universe. Each as we have seen, is charac-

terised by hate and intolerance of the other. Each seeks to survive by destroying the other and, if necessary, to employ brute force to that end.

The protagonists of Individualism ignore the fact that their doctrine of "Each for himself and the Devil take the hindmost" inevitably results in the more astute and least scrupulous few obtaining control of the nation's wealth; that this makes the lives of the majority one long anxious struggle for mere bodily survival, upon which alone their thoughts turn and concentrate, and, consequently, that any doctrine, however defective its promises, that seems to promise release from the fear of want and hardship is bound to make easy converts. Hungry bellies are not generally conducive to high thinking.

The protagonists of Marxian Communism fail to realise that the mass-moulding of men's minds to one pattern can never be permanently successful.

Man is not, as the materialists see him, merely a body with no consciousness beyond the brain-consciousness. He is a soul, a spark of divinity, functioning in and through his physical organism. He is a thinker and each man has an individuality, a uniqueness, essentially his own, which, sooner or later, he will express as his own individual thoughts and aspirations.

The mind of man, the thinking principle, defies artificial restraints, and will burst all moulds and patterns imposed upon it from without because it is imbued with the impulse and the power to open out and give expression to its potentialities. Freedom of thought cannot be prevented by legal sanctions or the imprisonment of bodies. Thought is a soul force, is creative, dynamic, and can rise far above the limitations of the physical.

Descending from generals to particulars, what bearing has all this upon our own problem and

that of our brother non-Europeans here in South Africa?

Two of the "Freedoms" have been wiped out: Freedom of Movement and Freedom of Opinion. Freedom of Movement may be restricted by brute force; Freedom of Opinion can never be.

Equality of opportunity for non whites is to be denied and the barriers of separateness immovably erected for all time.

And this, when lovers of freedom and apostles of peace and progress are groping around for a formula that will promote the spirit of brotherliness and co-operation.

Tyrants are blinded by their own self-magnification. There is no room in their cosmos for God. Their ego occupies it all. The fate that befell others of their kind teaches them nothing. Their ultimate defeat is certain because they are pitting their puny will-power against God's law and God's plan. For, whether our reactionary legislators like it or not, permanent repression of the upward-evolving life-forces of the non-whites is impossible.

The Government secured the opportunity to put its Apartheid policy into practice by fostering the white-superiority complex of the electorate, stimulating their envy of the success of Indian traders and property owners, and promising a perpetual reserve of cheap Bantu labour.

The widespread alarm that has been aroused in European circles by the "Anti-Communism" legislation, as it is euphemistically styled should furnish yet another object lesson regarding the danger of doing unto others as you, yourself, would not wish to be done by.

We non-Europeans are the final victims of this Apartheid policy.

We wonder whether we shall be the last.