

The Indian Situation

A Post-election Evaluation

Any evaluation of the current Indian situation must go into the following questions:

- (1) Why was the pattern of popular vote so radically different in the Northern states and the Southern states?
- (2) What were the positive achievements ^{if any} of the national Emergency? Can the present government promote economic discipline in the country without ~~such~~ the equivalent of an Emergency declaration?
- (3) What kind of a platform can emerge from the Janata Party and the Congress for Democracy?
- (4) Which are the main problems facing the Indian people, and what would be a tentative priority programme towards the solution of these problems?

No complete answers to these four questions can be attempted within the limited scope of this brief paper. Only the main lines can be indicated.

God and His Being

Words are our tools, ^{mainly} not ~~only~~ for communicating to others concepts ~~and~~, feelings and willings to others. They also help us in sorting out our own minds. The words in this paper are mainly for the latter purpose. In the process of reading it, it may serve also the first purpose.

What ~~size~~ ^{function has} words about God? To what extent can they serve to sort out one's own mind about God and to what extent can they communicate what is in one's own mind about God?

Clearly only to a very limited extent. About the function of words, the Christian metaphysical tradition has done considerable work. One of the major controversies topics in the 4th century controversy of Christians against Arians centered around the ~~meaning~~ ^{origin and purpose} of words.

Eunomius, philosophically perhaps the most clear-thinking ~~Arian~~ ^{Arian} (possibly) advanced the hypothesis, borrowed from the Neo-Platonic tradition, that words were created along with things and were hygenous with things. The difficulty in this concept was that the words ^{for the same things} were different in different languages. ^{Some} Neo-Platonists and neo-Arians argued that the word was not in fact the sound or the spelling, but the concept that lay behind the utterance.

Gregory of Nyssa in his polemic ~~against~~ the Arians, felt it necessary to attack

-2-

view with the counter-hypothesis that while things were created by God, words were created by man. Man has a God-given capacity called Epinoia, and it is the function of this faculty to devise concepts and to create names or words to represent the concepts.

(1) Clearly, if the Emergency was the main reason for the vote against the Congress in the north the same reason must have produced the same result in the South also. But it did not.

Could we offer the tentative hypothesis that the three main reasons were

(a) the high-handed manner in which Mr. Sanjay Gandhi threw his weight around and interfered in the administration of the Country;

(b) the heartless and insensitive manner in which Compulsory Sterilization was implemented;

and (c) the inhuman way in which certain slums in large northern cities like Bombay and Delhi were cleared.

If these rather than the national emergency itself was the reason for the debacle of the Congress Party, then it is possible to understand why the pattern in the north was so radically different from the south. For in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Sanjay Gandhi was not allowed to throw his weight around in the same way, and in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka the Sanjay phenomenon did not become as irrational and infuriating to the people as in the North.