



PRESERVE UNITY BURN HATRED

EPISTLES

from

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Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Preserve Unity Secure Your Rights!

Brethren,

Once, a devotee was fast asleep in a temple, with his feet pointing in the direction of the deity.

The temple priest, shocked to find him thus, woke him up and scolded:

“You Sinner! Turn your feet in a different direction and sleep!”

The devotee complied and shifted his position suitably, and continued to sleep. Then, to the utter amazement of the priest, the idol of the presiding deity appeared at the feet of the sleeping devotee! The priest was dumbfounded.

Addressing the deity of Lord Rama who stood with bow and arrow in hand, the puzzled priest exclaimed: “Hare Rama, what strange game are you playing with me?”

The deity, manifesting himself as Lord Rama, smiled bewitchingly and replied: Oh Priest! You scolded that devotee for pointing his feet in my direction. Let me ask you now - am I not God? Is there any direction where I do not exist? In whichever direction your devotee points his feet, not only am I there, but also present in all other directions! You, who cannot recognise this truth, call yourself a priest! Do you have the right to perform “Puja” for me?”

Sweating with shame and helplessness, the repentant priest fell at the feet of the Lord, and prayed: “Oh Rama - you are everywhere! To say you are only here or there is foolishness. You have opened my eyes. Please forgive this ignorant being for not realising your greatness!”

Then the Lord disappeared from sight, forgiving the poor priest!

Brethren, we have heard of such stories. read such stories, We have listened to many religious discourses by great scholars. “Is it not true:

whether it is Sri Rama, Krishna Paramathma, Kailasa Vasan-Parameshwara, Murugan, Vinayagar or whichever deity: they exist everywhere: "He is inside this pillar; He is also inside every minute particle of matter!"

Haven't such truths lead to deep discussions among avid listeners of religious discourses in the past?

But to-day - those very enlightened people, who profess to protect the Hindu Religion, seem to have conveniently forgotten this simple truth about God! A surprising turn of events indeed!

The priest who harshly scolded the devotee for stretching his feet in the direction of the deity was taught a proper lesson by the Lord: that he exists everywhere! Yet to-day - the same people are proclaiming:

"This is the place...

Yes! Only this place...

In this particular spot only...

Was Rama born. The temple **must** be built here!

The Babri Masjid, which has stood for so many years must be demolished and a temple for Rama must be built here". And they are preparing themselves for war!

And they have even stated: "Who is Sankarachariar to find a solution in this controversy - he is after all a Shaivaite!"

Rama was born in Ayodhya - so states the Ramayana. This has been vouched for by Valmiki, the author of Ramayana. Nobody is objecting to the construction of Rama's temple at Ayodhya.

But to say that only in this exact spot that the Babri Masjid stands, Rama's temple should be built - reminds one of how the priest, in my earlier story was taught a lesson by Lord Rama. Even though it was a simple short story, did it not contain a weightly truth?

To maintain that Rama exists only in this particular spot is to deny that He is Omnipotent and exists everywhere. Are they themselves not shattering their basic beliefs?

Those who calculate the fruits of thier actions are playing dangerous games. It makes one wonder how they can pretend to sleep even when they are awake!

What happened to the advice of Gandhiji - that Hindus and Muslims should live as brothers? Has it gone with the wind?

This flame of hatred which is being kindled in Northern India - will it not envelop the whole nation?

Hinduism is supposed to be "Tolerance", personified. But people from this very religion are branding the Sankaracharya as "Shaivaite". Do these divisions stop with Shaivaite and Vaishnavaite? The case of one or two castes ruling over thousands of others!

A good life, full of comfort, opportunity, prosperity and progress- are these all only for a few? While the majority suffers under poverty, ignorance, and backwardness! And all these only have been handed out to them as "pattas".

Only the Mandal Commission strives to give fair opportunity to the down trodden.

Those at the top of this Hindu Religion, this Religion of Tolerance, seek to keep the down-trodden - really down. They revolt for this vigorously in the North and less vociferously in the South.

Brethren,

To explode the fabric of Religious unity,

to turn the already subdued down-trodden into mere voiceless insects, fit only to be crushed - a vicious snare is being laid in the North.

We in the South shall demonstrate our power to rip this snare into pieces - on 23rd of October!

Yes! Through the total and non-violent Bandh, proclaimed on that day, by all parties!

On this day, let us all co-operate and demonstrate that we stand for Religious Tolerance and Unity, for uplifting the down-trodden and giving them their due rights through this total and peaceful bandh!

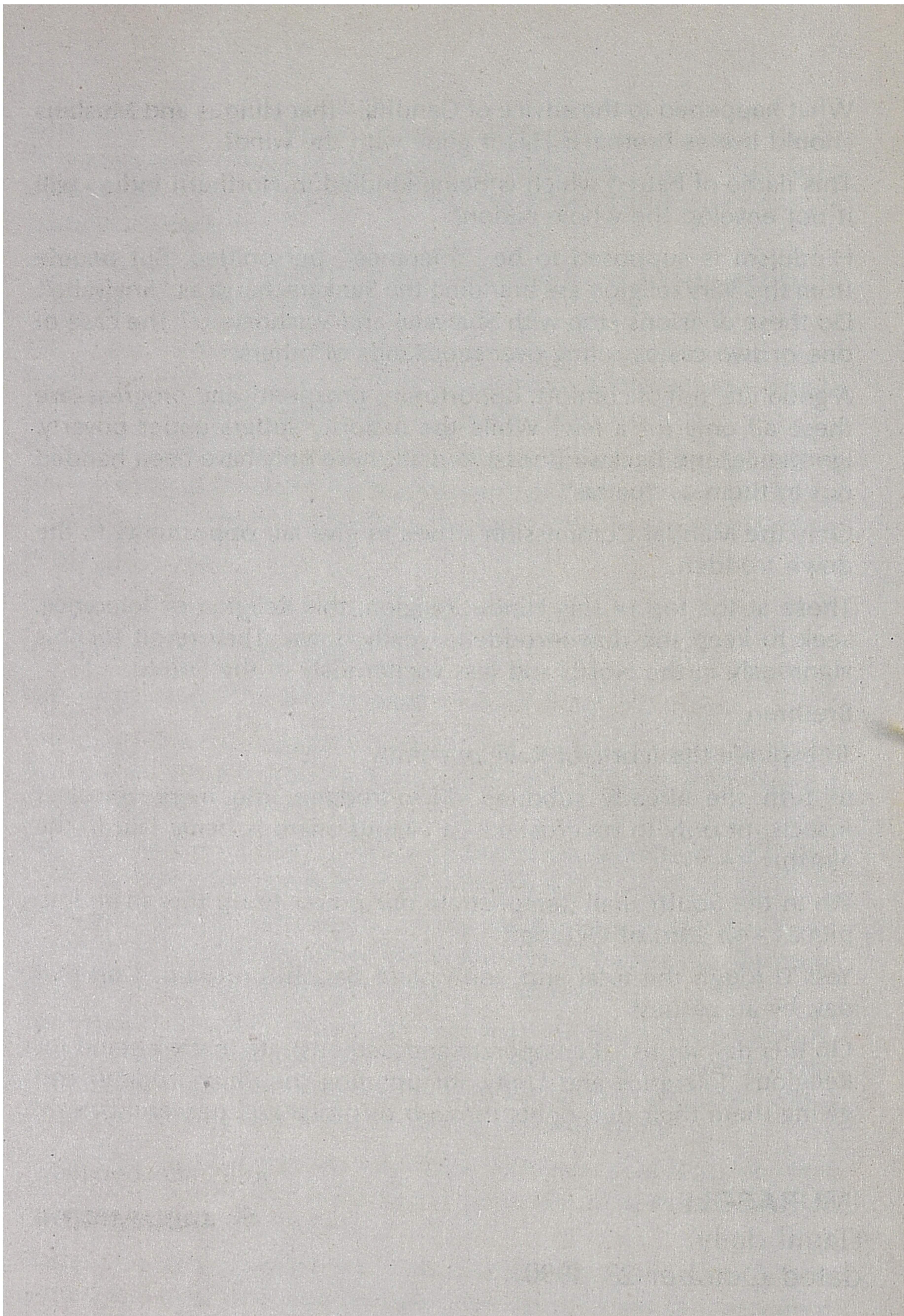
Yours affectionately,

M. KARUNANIDHI

'MURASOLI',

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dated October 23, 1990



Let aversion and hatred be burnt to ashes

Brethren,

That V.P.Singh should step down from the post of Prime Minister - has been the strident cry of certain people, not just in these last three days, but since August 7th! Why these people, have through speeches, interviews and agitations tried to do this.

What fans the flames in their hearts towards this goal - this is no mystery.

To prevent the real motive from being known to the people, they have drawn the veil of "Ramjanmabhoomi" and tried to cloak their real intentions behind this veil!

They say that the ostrich buries its head up to its neck, in a hole in the ground, and then thinks that no one can see it!

Likewise, certain parties who wish to strengthen their vote banks well in advance, have, projected Ramjanmabhoomi as an issue and branded V.P.Singh and National Front Government as being enemies of this religion! Taking the lead among such parties is the Bharatiya Janata Party.

This party, even when it extended support to the National Front; the relationship between the D.M.K. and the B.J.P. was like oil and water! This I have clearly stated even on September 30th at Trichy.

Leaders of B.J.P. like Advani and Vajpayee criticized our renaming of Dindigul Quaid e' Milleth (Mohammed Ismail Sahib) district and went as far as calling a venerable person like Quaid e' Milleth Mohammed Ismail Sahib - a national traitor. They exposed their true colours then - even as their allies, like the Hindu Munnani and R.S.S. - who were all exposed by us.

This instance itself is enough to expose the fanatic anti-Muslim flame within the B.J.P. - but to suddenly divert their burning hatred and anger against V.P.Singh and demand his removal from the post of P.M.; with the chorus of voices supporting this move - voices raised

by the Congress I and its allies AIADMK - who all cry out in unison for the removal of V.P.Singh. The real reason for these outcries is not Ramjanmabhoomi alone!

Then What is the real and vital reason behind this?

Mandal Commission

Mandal Commission

Mandal Commission

This is what they really cannot stomach!

If they openly oppose the Mandal Commission, then the backward, scheduled and down-trodden people, or in other words the majority of the voters, would recognise their true colours and reject them outright.

It is this fear that makes them push the Ramjanmabhoomi issue to the forefront and hide their true intentions. And they wish to extract revenge against V.P.Singh who came forward to implement the Mandal Commission.

Can he, who deems it his exclusive privilege to bask in the lap of luxury, stand Him - who extends a helping hand to the unfortunate masses wallowing in the mucks of misery?

Wasn't it this autocratic few - who created a thousand castes and enslaved them all!

How dare the National Front Government try to right this injustice?

How can we let them get away with it? Let us sever their head, with one stroke so saying they sharpen their swords!

Brethren,

I am only worried that - the really backward and down-trodden people who are already reeling under the load of gross injustice meted out to them by the heartless bullies of society - will continue to do so, not even realising what is happening to them.

Like masking a festering wound with a transparent cloth - they pretend to protect the Ramjanmabhoomi. Even though their real objectives may be to attack our Muslim brethren, to destroy the Hindi-Muslim unity, their immediate aim is to project Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue to the forefront and bring down the V.P.Singh government which gave life to Mandal Commission.

Only then - Brethren, Will the backward and down-trodden Hindus who now cry out "Rama, Rama" change their chant to "Govinda, Govinda" in despair!

V.P.Singh clearly outlined the stand of the government as being: sympathetic to the intention of building Rama Temple at Ayodhya, for which a non-disputed site would be allotted and until the controversy around the Babri Masjid site was sorted out - no one should do anything at that site.

Even though such a clear stand had been outlined -

"Babri Masjid itself should not exist, it should be demolished and Rama's Temple should be built, for this a Rath Yatra will be undertaken!

We shall go.

We shall demolish the Masjid and if we are stopped we shall withdraw our support"- this was the challenge issued and a plot to topple the government was hatched.

We must not forget that the real reason behind all this is not the Rama Temple issue - but the singular purpose of wanting to send back the V.P.Singh government which had through the Mandal Commission come forward to share out the opportunities so long denied by the few to the backward and down-trodden classes.

Those parties who opposed the Mandal Commission, later claimed to support it; some others claimed "V.P.Singh has been too hasty"- and thus secretly opposed it. Oh! so many false poses have been adopted by these parties!

The leaders of these parties could not bear to accept the Mandal Commission.

And leading all these leaders is the B.J.P.

That is why they instigated the communal agitation. Next they have started instigating religious agitation.

"We shall substitute a 'Kamandalam' in the hands that implemented the Mandal Commission and send him packing"- these are the lyrics of Hindi songs being sung in propaganda against V.P.Singh.

So say the reliable sources who have seen and heard them!

Isn't it time for a reaction!

From those who have remained subdued for a thousand years!

Only if this awareness comes, can communal harmony thrive- only then can one religion prevent the religious fanatics attacking another religion.

We shall certainly build a temple for Rama at historical Ayodhya.

Let the ancient Babri Masjid remain intact.

After all - inside Tippu Sultan's fort at Srirangapatnam in Karnataka, both the Ranganathasamy Temple and a Muslim mosque stand side by side.

It is not as if they are unaware of these facts!

But Alas! Mandal Commission has muddled their brains!

The hatred for Muslim religion, the strong resentment against the down-trodden and backward among the Hindus, this aversion, anti-feeling-

Let these be burnt to ashes in the flame of equality and universal religion!

Then, we shall hold our heads up, in pride!

The two important questions before the country were whether there was support for the Mandal Commission's recommendations and whether secularism had lost its significance. These two questions can be answered only by Parliament and if there is going to be an election it will be for the people to decide.

Yours affectionately,
M. KARUNANIDHI

'MURASOLI',

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dated October 25, 1990

