

Hindu-Muslim unity through Conciliatory Approach!

By Khurshid imam

Not: *Heading of this article might suggest that we are going to have an in depth discussion about Islamic and Hindu scriptures but that is not the case. I have tried to give example of just 2-3 mantr of vedas. The emphasis, as of now, is not on the **content** of scriptures rather **approach** towards scripture.*

I was going through Vedic mantra when I found something interesting. *Atharva Ved 6th Kand, 50th Sukt and Mantra no 1-3 deal with protecting crops from animals, birds and insects. It recommends one to kill those birds, animals and insects that harm the crop. This is of course logical and obvious; because if we let other animals destroy crop then we human beings will not have anything to eat. Almighty God has made us in such a way that our diet comprises of only living things. Apart from that, Almighty God has subjected animals and plants to human beings.*

After reading those mantras one can resort to two approaches:

1. Conflicting approach:

In this approach one tries to find more and more problems with others. One understands things in ways so that they appear to him / her to be wrong and absurd. Honesty is less evident in this case. If I use this approach, then my conclusion could be something like following:

- a. "Vedas preach barbarism".
 - b. "Vedas teach to KILL animals".
 - c. "Vedas preach brutality when they say to kill animals, insects and birds".
 - d. "Hinduism is a barbaric religion"...
- and so on

Please note that in the above conclusions I am completely ignoring the context of mantras. These mantras are specific to the case of saving crops from other creatures. In short, they are about the particular case and situation wherein human beings are permitted to kill animal, birds and insects. If we won't do this, then we will incur great loss.

2. Conciliatory approach:

In this approach one tries to conciliate as much as possible, however, without being dishonest. If there can be two correct interpretations - one that goes against my understanding and another that goes in sync with my understanding, then its wiser and better to have later one. When you meet someone and instead of agreeing on common things, you start fighting with each other; then its childish and immature approach.

Many people, in order to dominate and humiliate people of other faith, resort to this approach. They lambaste others faith, scriptures etc. But in return what they get? Hate - abuse - counter attacks and disharmony. A constructive discussion would have lead to positive and better result.

If we have 10 differences and 10 commonalities then it's better to agree on commonalities, stand for it, and propagate it.

Atharva Ved 6th Kand, 50th Sukt and Mantra no 1-3

"O ashwin! **Kill the crow, the swine, the rat; cut off their heads and crush their ribs.** They should not eat barley. Bind fast their mouths." -

Then mantra 2 and 3 also speaks about preventing loss of crops from insects and other creatures by killing them, "we crush and mangle all those piercing insects" - or ask them to go away.

You can check hindi translation from -

<http://www.aryasamajjamnagar.org/athrvaveda/atharvaveda.htm>

English translation here : <http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/av/av06050.htm>

Conclusion:

1. Can we have more and more harmony among various faiths?
2. Can we open doors of love and brother hood and destroy hatred?
3. Can we have more conciliatory approach without indulging in debates and verbal fights?
