

SWARAJYA

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BKD - JANA SANGH - SWATANTRA MERGER

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I AM FAR AWAY from Delhi and therefore not in close contact with the political atmosphere which develops there from day to day. I am able however to guess that the talks about merger that have been recently going on among leaders of the BKD, Jan Sangh and Swatantra Parties have gathered a greater sense of reality than they did on former occasions. I sincerely welcome this. The urgency of a serious attempt at merger among the non-totalitarian groups opposing the Congress Party is greater now than ever before.

The breakdown of law and order throughout the country and the complacency or delay amounting to complacency of the present Government in Delhi on the subject make a successful move for merger among the non-Congress democratic parties very urgent. Law-abiding people do not feel the sense of security which they have a right to expect the Central Government to generate by firm and expeditious action. The present Home Ministry is daily expressing its "concern" and issuing "warnings" but is shirking its duty to take effective action. It is lost in contemplating imaginary legal difficulties in the way of suppressing organized subversion and dealing with crimes. The Constitution giving power to the States in this regard is looked upon as sufficient justification for the Union Government's complacency in the face of a widespread and dangerous network of communist defiance of law and order.

The merger talks have served one great purpose—that of bringing the Jan Sangh closer to the policies of the other democratic parties in respect of Pakistan and

Muslims in general. The core of the Jan Sangh's particular policy is the conservation of Hindu culture. This stand cannot be objected to and indeed calls for support from all other parties if it is freed from the suspicion of antipathy to Muslims, Christians, Parsis and others who are not Hindus in the accepted sense. Hindus should not allow themselves to forget the pride of the Hindu religion, viz., that it is the one established religion in the world which from its earliest period laid it down as its firm creed that all ways of worship lead to Heaven, as Toynbee recently expressed it. It tells its adherents not to believe that the Hindu religion alone holds the truth. It is this adherence to the doctrine that many and different ways lead to God which made India allow pious missionaries of all faiths to settle down and tell the people the truth as they saw it. They were treated with respect and not as undesirable persons.

If the Jan Sangh is pledged to conserve the Hindu faith and Hindu culture, it should do so without discarding this doctrine of Hinduism which is its exclusive pride, viz., that as all the waters falling from the clouds reach the ocean, the worship of sincere men, whatever be the way or the form or the manner and symbols, reaches God.

आकाशत् पतितम् तोयम्

यथा गच्छति सागरम् ।

सर्वदेवनमस्कारः

केशवं प्रति गच्छति ॥

—SANTI PARVA, MAHABHARATAM

ये यथा मां प्रपद्यन्ते
तांस्तथैव भजाम्यहम् ।

मम वर्तमानुवर्तन्ते

मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ॥

In whatever form men worship Me, I look after them in that form. Men worship Me in many ways, but they all reach Me. —GITA IV-11

The doctrine that all sincere worship leads to Heaven in whatever form God is meditated on, is also expressed in chapter 1, stanza 5 of the Tamil Saint Nammalwar's *Tiruvaimozhi*.

Then on the subject of Pakistan, what would Gandhiji have asked us to do? If he were with us now, he would certainly have asked us to strive our utmost to generate goodwill and trust. It was this attitude of Gandhiji that made Godse kill him. The Jan Sangh should follow Gandhiji and not accept Godse's unfortunate belief that Gandhiji's attitude was wrong.

The Jan Sangh should be proud to follow the late Lal Bahadur Shastri's policy, whom most unhappily for us Death took away before he could take to fruition the resolution he came to at Tashkent.

The Congress has lost its old character. Its bosses are more concerned now with individual advancement than with restoring people's sense of security and developing initiative and the spirit of enterprise, and creating incentives for everyone's wholehearted participation in a common effort at expanding agriculture and industry so as to employ all our millions in productive occupations.

I hope the merger talks will not be allowed to fade away into failure as on previous occasions, but will be carried on to success.