

Topic: Immediate needs for Muslim women.



We feel happy and bold to translate Mahakavi Subramanya Barathiyar's article in Sudesamithran newspaper about the status of Muslim women. This will also make the women of modern times to be aware about feminism and freedom to follow culture and traditions. This will make them to understand more about religion and spirituality.

[Red color: Poet's awareness.]

Before entering into the translation we want you to listen to the great poet about his objective in writing this article.

" I am writing this article with the objective of making Islam to become aware about few dharmas which has to be done for the Muslim women. One for one culture, education, equality, freedom of expression was the most important needs for any Muslim women of this Earth" - Subramanya Barathi.

Mahakavi Barathiyar writes as follows:

"Two days back a Muslim friend met me and discussed about his staunch views about Islam. He said that Islam will be the light to show a prosperous life on Earth. He is a good man who believes his religion. His talk expressed certain truth which I can also accept and I continued the conversation with him in my office. I wish to write the conversation which we had.

He asked, "I read the short story [Railway sthanam] in your Sudesamithran dated 22.5.1920 in its 7<sup>th</sup> page. I want to know is it a real incident?"

"It is only an imagination"

"Then with what objective you wrote that story?"

"I am not very particular in conveying a moral lesson – dharma in my stories. It is always natural with full of imagination. But that natural expression makes the readers to connect themselves with the dharma. In this story I have narrated the miserable life of a man who got married to many women. ***If you want to enjoy a real happy life, you must marry to only one woman and be unconditional in relation with her.***

My friend said, "But there is a flaw in that story"

"What is that, can you explain?"

"You have written that a Muslim rich man is married to 3 sisters all together. According to our tradition it is bad. We cannot get marry women who belong to same blood."

I answered as follows,

"I understood, but I am not aware about this. I thought in Hinduism we can marry our wife's sisters. I thought the same will be the pattern in your Islam. Let me apologize for that and will change the story and republish it soon."

Another Hindu friend who joined with us asked the following question.

"can you say when the tradition of hiding women in privacy started in your Islam?"

"This tradition was being followed in Arabia before Nabi but he made it very strong."

I interrupted as follows,

***"I feel Muslims can make transformation in certain traditions and beliefs like marriage, status of women. But they need not drop the staunch trust in their concept of truth called Allah? Why cannot Islam people change according to the changing society?"***

***"Sorry! Our scriptures and religion does not permit us to make any change."*** He answered.

"But all across the globe changes and transformations are natural! Nabi himself changed many traditions and beliefs which were there before him. "

***"No! We cannot change anything. Nabi was our last but least Prophet. He alone can make changes. We have to follow what he says. There are no more prophets other than him."***

***"Islam say that Nabi has said what Allah asked him to convey. So why the Allah cannot has not changed many things and convey through many Nabies? Religions are general in their concepts about God. But according to the social conditions, they must bring changes in the day to day traditions of the followers."***

"But Islam does not permit that!"

"Are you clear about this? Have you read Quran completely with awareness?"

"No! I have not read it completely. But I have listened from many of my friends about this."

"In South Tamil Nadu Kosha [making women just to stay in privacy] tradition cannot be seen. What is the reason?"

"No! Few Muslims in South Tamil Nadu are following that!" he says.

"But why many are not following?"

"Because they do not respect the scriptures of Islam! They do not have real devotion to Allah!"

***"Sorry! South Tamil Nadu Muslims are very much dedicated to the religion than other parts of the nation. This shows they follow the Quran with awareness. There were many great men born in their society. Why they have not forced this tradition to them? Why they allowed them to follow few traditions like other people? I feel religious concepts need not be changed. But there must be changes in the traditions of the day to day life according to the time. I am sure all scriptures permit that!"***

" Sure! I will discuss with our elders who have read the Islam Veda in depth and make you know about this. You also try to clarify this with other friends."

Later we discussed about the women revolution in Turkey against Kosha system. Now we can see them getting educated and involved in all public activities like women of other nations." Om Sakthi!