

An Urge to Rewrite Indian History: In the Selected Work of Francois Gautier

Dr. Aparna Sharma¹, Gazal Soni²

¹Associate Professor, Department of English, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Bhupal Nobles' University, Udaipur, India

²Research Scholar, Department of English, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Bhupal Nobles' University, Udaipur, India

Abstract: *Francois Gautier is a renowned French journalist and writer. He has been a political correspondent in South Asia for ten years for France's largest daily 'Le Figaro'. He was deeply influenced by the writings of Sri Aurobindo, an Indian philosopher, Yogi and Nationalist, which sparked an interest in him to know and learn everything about Indian history and culture. He wrote many books about India such as A History of India As It Happened Not As It Has Been Written, Arise Again O India, In Defence of a Billion Hindus, A New History of India etc. which show how systematically and deliberately Indian history and culture were manipulated, Misunderstood and downgraded by Europeans for their own selfish motives. He brings into light many great principles and ideologies which are the foundation of Indian culture and talks about the many myths related to them. His works reflect a crucial need to rewrite Indian History as per the latest linguistics and archaeological findings and discoveries so that the world can know who the Indians are and what great culture they belong to.*

Keywords: history, manipulation, mughals, europeans, missionaries

1. Introduction

India is one of the most beautiful, culturally rich, and vast nations in the world. It is the oldest civilization that has survived up till now. If we trace her history, we will have to go thousands of years back. But the accounts on Indian history we find today are mostly written by Mughals and Europeans who manipulated it for their different political motives such as they downgraded Vedas and Upnishads, which are the foundation of this great civilization, called them mere chants of mantras and nothing else. They gave false theories like Aryan invasion which brought North against South bringing hazardous effects. They projected India as barbaric and uncivilized and also criticized Hinduism as irrational and rough forgetting that it was these Hindu or Sindhu rishis (sages) who gave mathematical equations and astronomical theories thousands of years ago which are proven by science today. For instance Hindus have known for centuries that Jupiter completes its one revolution around the sun in twelve years and that's the reason behind the popular Kumbh Mela celebrated in India in every twelve years. How did they know without any technology about the revolution of Jupiter thousands of years ago? Can it really be a work of an uncivilized and barbaric people? But the irony is that even after so many generations these wrong theories have not been corrected but endorsed and advocated by Indian historians too for their own selfish purposes.

Therefore, this paper focuses on the wrongs done to Indian History and culture presented in the work **A History of India As It Happened Not As It Has Been Written** by Francois Gautier.

A History of India As It Happened Not As It Has Been Written is a very important work and argues about why Indian history needs to be rewritten. It starts from the origin of the word 'Hindu' as India is also known as Hindustan. There is no mention of this word anywhere in any old text

before British came to India as masters of Indians. So where does this word Hindu come from? Sir Monier, the famous Sanskrit lexicographer stated "*the words 'Hindu' and 'India' evidently do not possess any indigenous roots. Neither these words are found in any Buddhist or Jain texts, nor are they inscribed in any of the 23 official languages of India.*" It shows that the Hindu word actually originated from a mispronunciation of a Sanskrit word Sindhu. Outsiders used 'Sindhu' to address people or civilization settled at the banks of Sindhu or Indus River. Europeans pronounced 'Sindhu' as 'Hindu' to address the people of Indian subcontinent. Hence this word Hindu has nothing to do with religion, it's related to geography. But this small mispronunciation caused a great strife in Indian subcontinent bringing inter-religious disharmony among people which actually divided this vast country.

"Who were the Hindus then- or shall we say Indus?" (Gautier, François, 2019, p. 11)

Hindus were the people who had a great culture and had a wonderful system of thought which influenced many fundamental and philosophical systems of our planet. This system of thought of Hindus came to be known as Hinduism. Therefore, Hinduism was not a religion. It was a set of principles and a daily routine to lead one person on the right path. Europeans to show themselves superior and remain our masters always criticized and downgraded Indian culture. To the world, they simply presented Indian culture as a set of rites and rituals which were irrational and beyond any logic. They saw Hindu society only as a hated caste system which discriminated among people forgetting that Hinduism has many lasting principles which makes it survive even today unlike many other civilizations which are no more now.

In this book Francois talks about different principles which Hinduism has which makes it unique and takes beyond all religious faiths.

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The Hindus believe in 'Jiva', the soul which is the reason of life in everything, be it a flower, an animal or a man. Everyone and everything has Jiva. It's eternal and free from everything. Unlike Christians and Muslims, Hindus believe that a man is born again and again until he attains self consciousness which is the ultimate goal of a human life on earth and which is the next step in the evolution of Humans. The sufferings and joys in every life enriches the soul and takes it towards perfection after which it becomes one with the supreme being.

Thus it's only Hinduism that talks about reincarnation whereas other religions like Christianity and Islam believe in one life and going to hell or heaven based on that one life only.

Hindu practised Dharma. 'Dharma' unlike today, in ancient India was not meant with any religious teachings. Dharma was anything that leads on the path of self awareness. Which helps one to be free from everything was Dharma. Therefore, we can say Hindus were the most secular people in the world because their spirituality was not based on any sect.

He also talks about Yoga, the vedic breathing system. "To help the seeker progress in his Sadhana, the sages of ore had codified a series of systems called yogas." (Gautier, 2013, p. 14) Yoga which is seen today only as an exercise to keep fit was in ancient India a system to keep one's mind and body in tune and harmony to attain self awareness. This is the only system or principle of Indian culture which is recognized and given due importance in the world today.

Another important principle of Hinduism is the belief in Karma. Hinduism never teach anyone what to do or what not to. There is nothing like good or bad or sin or virtue in Hindu belief. It's purely based on action and its consequences. Hinduism says whatever you do good or bad will have a consequence. It's pure science. One has to bear the consequences of his actions in this or in the next life. Sometimes we see a person suffering in his life due to the karma he did in his previous life. Therefore, there is nothing like complete injustice in Hinduism. Missionaries and Europeans manipulated the meaning of karma and mixed with their moral implication of sin and virtue. Unfortunately, Indians without knowing the real meaning of karma are following this Christian concept of Karma. It's high time they knew and understood their real culture.

Another Mis-understood tenet of Hinduism is the concept of Avatar. Hindus believe that God or the supreme being manifests Himself in the human body. Be it Christ, Rama or Buddha all are God's Avatars. All are forms of God. Because of this belief in avatars Hindus respect and realize the reality of other religions and prophets. Because of this faith, Hindus were considered infidel or Kafirs by Mughals who razed Hindu temples, monuments and converted them into Islam forcefully as Mughals or Islam believed in one God and that there God is the only true one. But did they really understand Hinduism? Is the question. Hinduism in its true sense is the most monotheist system of belief. It believes in the existence of only one supreme being which

can take many avatars in the human body and hence make many Gods in the python to worship.

Another misconception about Hinduism is that Hindus adore idols made of marble or brass. As it is said half knowledge is always dangerous so is the case with those who present Hinduism or Indian culture in bad light like missionaries did. Though Hindus adore idols but these idols before placing in a temple go through a procedure known as PRAN PRATISHTHA wherein, by chanting mantras for several hours, the deity is evoked to reside in the idol. Thereafter, the deity opens her eyes for the first time. This deity is a kind of energy which is very powerful. We know that every source of energy has its vibrations and So, when a devotee bows or worships in front of this idol, he can draw that energy from it. This energy turns an idol into deity and this is alive forever by the devotions of the devotees. So Hindus do not worship idols, they worship that enormous source of energy which is all powerful.

This work also shows that Europeans considered Hindus as barbaric and uncivilized people and therefore they came here to civilize them forgetting that thousands of years ago Vedic rishis made astronomical calculations and gave mathematical equations which are proven by science today. Vedas which were reduced to mere chanting of mantras and singing of songs by Europeans are actually a great source of information and knowledge. Vedas unfold the secrets about the very fundamental functions of nature, life, planets etc. and whose reliability has been accepted by science today such as Vedas introduce three types of fire which the Vedic Rishis experienced within themselves. " Our ancient Vedic rishis knew of a triple fire, which they had named Agni; The ordinary fire- Jada Agni, The electric fire - Vaidyuta Agni and the Solar fire- Saura Agni. " Sri Aurobindo. This third type of fire proved to be true after the nuclear explosion by Americans.

How come a barbaric and uncivilized civilization did find all these fundamental scientific things at a time when these Mughals and Europeans did not even exist?

Francois Gautier also brings light on the myths about the Indian science, philosophy, architecture and religion which are believed to be influenced by Mughals, Greeks and Aryans. Indian civilization and culture was always so profound and rich that it never needed anyone's influence in any stream be it science, philosophy or architecture. There are many discoveries both by archaeologists and linguistics which prove that Indians went Westwards and Influenced the civilization of these countries. "American mathematician A. Seindenberg has demonstrated that the Sulbasutras, the ancient Vedic mathematics have inspired all the mathematics science of the antique world from Babylonian to Egypt and Greece" (Gautier, p.27). Europeans projected India as influenced by them but in return western civilization was greatly influenced by Indian civilization. "Ancient India gave to the world its religions and philosophies: Egypt and Greece owe India their wisdom and it is known that Pythagoras went to India to study under Brahmins, who were the most enlightened of human beings." (Sonnerat, Pierre. 1782.)

Gautier in his work also explored Indian society which did not have any caste system but Varnas. Europeans have seen Indian society only as a hated caste system whose references have been found in the Vedas. To their surprise, there is no mention of caste system in Vedas at all.

Manu States, "Janmanaa jaayate shoodrah, samskaarena dwijah"- which means that "All human beings are Shudras (unrefined) by birth; and by samskaara (refinement), one becomes a dwijah (twice born), i.e., one amongst the Brahmanas, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas."

These varnas classified different groups and decided their daily course of action. These varnas were not based on social or economical status but on one's inclination, interest and inner capabilities.

In Srimad Bhagavad Gita Krishna clearly specifies – "Chaaturvarnyam mayaa srishtham, guna karma vibhaagashah"-Meaning – I am the Creator of the four Varnas on the basis of temperament and quality."

These four varnas were Brahmins, (priest or gurus), Kshatriyas (warriors, kings and administrators) vaishyas (traders, agriculturists etc) and Shudras (labourers). A man born of a shudra father could be a Brahmin by his capabilities and purpose of life. There are many examples of such men who attained and earned their caste such as Narada who was born of a maid servant, Veda Vyasa born of a fisherwoman but by his virtue and spiritual inclination he became Guru of all Gurus, Ravana who was the most learned Brahmin but was known as a demon King due to his evil deeds. This was the beauty of Indian culture which never discriminated among people but gave them equal opportunity to find their own way towards spirituality to realize their inner self.

Indian children are not taught about their great Vedic ancestors but their school books are full of praise of Babur, Akbar and Aurangzeb who on the name of God and His duty slaughtered Hindus like never before. Gautier, through his work, brings awareness of Hindu Holocaust which is unparalleled in the history. "From the time when Muslims started arriving, around 632 AD, the history of India became a long monotonous series of murders, massacres, spoiliations and destructions. It is as usual in the name of "a holy war" of their faith, of their sole God, that the Barbarians have destroyed civilizations, wiped out entire races," says Alain Danielou. It's very sad to know that today these ruthless, not less than monsters, people are regarded as a great art lover and much loved emperors who provided India great monuments, literature and sufi music. In reality these invaders made hills of Hindu skulls. They made it compulsory to kill 1 lakh Hindus every year which followed the extinction of Hindus from Afghanistan. We can witness the Hindu holocaust in Kashmir in present time where almost all the Hindus were forced to leave their homeland or be killed. But was there any cry for vengeance? Unfortunately, no. Nobody talks about it today. Even many historians deny it or as Koenraad Elst says it was a "denial of historical crimes against humanity."

For the harms done to India, Missionaries and Europeans also bear the same and equal credit.

Francois gives a detailed description about the intentions of the missionaries and Europeans who came to India. Missionaries brainwashed the tribal people by telling them that they are under the clutches of the Brahmins, setting them against their own people and throwing them out of the mainstream of Hindus. "Was it not right, they said, to free them from the grip of their masters, who had enslaved them both socially and religiously?"

Their sole purpose was to bring their own culture and teachings to every home of India. For them India and Indian people were not worthy of anything. They were just barbaric, rough and uncivilized people who need to be taught the right ways of living. "We cannot avoid recognizing in the people of Hindustan a race of men lamentably degenerate and base...governed by malevolent and licentious passions...and sunk in misery by their vices," say Charles Grant, Chairman of East India Company.

Mind to hear another great remark in the praise of Hindus (ironically) by one more European, Lord Hastings, Governor General of India. He stated "The Hindoo appears as being nearly limited to mere animal functions...with no higher intellect than a dog or an elephant or a monkey.." These people forgot that they were talking about a civilization which is thousands of years old and which had a great contribution towards science and mathematics. Such as the theory of Time Dilation given by Einstein finds its first introduction in Vedas. There is a story of a King Kakudami who travelled with the speed of light to the world of Brahma to ask for a suitable spouse for his daughter. When he reached their Brahma was busy in enjoying a music concert so they had to wait until it got over. When kakudami finally got to meet Brahma he presented his reason for coming to Him. On this Brahma laughed loudly and said "O King, all those whom you may have decided within the core of your heart to accept as your son-in-law have passed away in the course of time. Twenty-seven catur-yugas have already passed. Those upon whom you may have decided are now gone, and so are their sons, grandsons, and other descendants. You cannot even hear about their names." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 9.3.28-32) One catur-yuga lasts 4, 320, 000 years. With this information, we can estimate the scale of time dilation on Brahmaloaka.

Can it be possible for a dog like intellectual people, as Europeans called Indians, to provide such scientific theories thousands of years ago?

The invention of Zero by Aryabhata, Binary number by Pingala, methods of Algorithms Brahmagupta, theory of Atoms by Kanad were all first given by ancient Indian sages and scholars which are today attributed to different Europeans.

Francois also puts light on the true intention of Missionaries behind their services provided to Indians in the health and education sector. He states that though they provided the best of schools and hospitals in India but this was not always out of the true spirit of christian charity. Their goal was not

to civilize but “the evangelization of the heathen...schools may be regarded as converting agencies and their value estimated by the numbers who are led to renounce idolatry and make an open profession of Christianity.” (Gautier, p. 73) Sadly, today also these policies are not changed and removed.

When British came to India they understood that they could not take over her until they changed the education system of India which was so high in standard and in morals. By this they could also make a race which would be Indian by birth and colour but British by thought and behaviour that they could use to fulfill their dreams whenever needed. Therefore, Macaulay, a British Historian, was given the responsibility to introduce the English education in India. He had an aim which he stated as “we must at present do our best to form a class, who may be interpreters between us and the millions we govern; a class of persons, Indians in blood and colour but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellects.”

Today we can see clearly that Macaulay has achieved what he wanted to. Today’s Indian generation is the descendant of these English educated people or “Brown Sahibs” as Francois Gautier call them who have forgotten their own culture and its greatness. They are simply following, blindly following, West. These are the people who have been destroying their own rich and profound culture on the name of secularism without thinking that Europeans stayed here for two centuries but never let anything change their beliefs, customs and culture. These Indian English people ignorant of their Vedic culture always downgrade and belittle it and write columns to mock at their own motherland. This has been going on and will keep going on if Indian children who are the future of this great nation are not taught and made aware of the real teachings and principles of their great Vedic culture. Indian culture is a priceless treasure which is universal in nature and needs to be preserved and saved from doom so that the world, not only Indians, can benefit from it and walk on the right path and make this world a harmonious place for everyone to live in. Vedic culture, if understood properly, opens a gate of infinite opportunities to explore and experience which can take mankind to another level of evolution. Therefore, it is need of the hour to rewrite Indian history from ancient time based on facts and truth without any prejudice so that Indian people can know how privileged they are, take pride in it and understand how important and crucial it is to save this timeless and priceless knowledge.

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