

Gandhi's Religion and its Relation to the Politics

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi's considered to be one of the greatest sons of the Indian soil. As man of action, he practical what is moral, truthful and non-violent after a through examination with great insight. He was multi-dimensional in his approach and left an indelible mark in the religion-moral, social-economic and political spheres. So in the modern times, his philophical ideas are progressively becoming more significant and relevant than before.

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A great spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi was not a highly speculative thinkers, rather a strong man of action whatever he preached was not a form a theory; rather he practiced that in his life. He was a religious reformer and a political leader. Generally people think that religion has nothing to do with politics but for Gandhi's politics divorced from religion will be tagged to destruction. His political philosophy is the practical implication of his religious beliefs. Religion tames the savage nature of man. It purifies human motive, conduct and stimulates the co-operative and sympathetic nature of man. Politics is not a game that is to be won by politicians rather it is a great service to the people. Hence without purified motive and conduct, a man cannot go ahead in the political field. That's why Gandhi Ji made religion and morality the basis of politics. In his words for me the road to salvation lies through incessant toil in the service of my country and humanity. I want to identify myself with every thing that lives. In the language of Gita, I want to live in peace. Thus it all be seen that for me there are no politics devoid of religion. They sub serve religion. Politics bereft of religion are a death trap because they kill the souls.

Morality constitutes the basis of human life. The real progress of individual of the society depends. On morality, which checks the passion and impulses the retard the human progress and lead to discard and strife.

Gandhi Ji rejected unhesitatingly any religious doctrine that is in the conflict with morality. He holds "as soon as we lose moral basis, we cease to be religious" Morality not possible without religion. On the other hand, religion contributes greatly to the growth of morality. Gandhi took every aspect of human life only from moral standpoint. His moral object was to equality religion with morality." Gandhi was prepared to reject any religious sentiment if it was not moral. He declared "as soon as we lose moral bases, we cease to be religious. There is no such thing as religion over riding morality." Gandhi told that the great religions of the world are practically laid on the basis of conduct and morality. He said that true religion is identical with morality. There is no higher religion than truth and righteousness. Gandhi synthesized religion and morality for he thinks that morality does not preclude religion.

Man cannot reach truth without morality. Morality is held to be the fundamental presupposition to achieve the knowledge of truth and self-realization. Morality is a necessary means for achieving the right goal. According to Gandhi Ji the highest moral law is that in which we should unremittingly work for the good of

mankind. Gandhi Ji regarded only voluntary actions to be moral. He maintained that “no action which is not voluntary can be called morel. Humanism believes in doing good to others as the way of highest moral life. Religion without morality would mean mere escape from responsibility. Religion and morality are inter related and inter connected. Religion without morality is meaning less and morality without religion is purpose less. According to Gandhi Ji while morality offers means and purpose to the human life, religion leads to the Goal. As such both are complementary but not contradictory to each other. So Gandhi Ji emphasized on the need for the synthesis of morality and religion.

Mahatma Gandhi’s mission was not only to humanize religion but also to moralize it. He would reject any religious doctrine that was in conflict with morality. According to Gandhi true religion and true morality are inseparable. For Gandhi Ji, “God is truth, love, ethics and morality. The introduction of religion in to politics by Mahatma Gandhi is a matter of great significance. The prevailing tendency of the time was to separate religion from politics. Gandhi Ji attempt to introduce religion in to politics would appear to be retrograde step but a close secreting will show that this is not the case by introducing religion in to politics Gandhi Ji wanted to introduce morality in to politics for him religion and morality were closely interlinked. According to Gandhi Ji “that is why my devotion to truth has drawn me into the field of politics and I can say that religion is nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means. The whole of my life is saturated with the religions spirit. I could not live for a single second without religion. Many of my political friends disappear of me because they say that my politics are derived from my religion. I go further and say that every activity of a man of religion must be derived from his religion, because religion means being bound to God, that is to say, God rules your every breath if you recognize that truth naturally God regulates every activity of yours.”

The above statement of Gandhi Ji clearly point out to the fact that his political outlook was influenced by the sprit of religion. He clung to the must religious considerations even in the field politics. The principles of truth and non-violence forms the pivots of Gandhi’s political activity and these are basically religious principles. Religious men and saints before Gandhi Ji have taught that truth and non-violence are religious virtues and could be practiced only by a few men of religion but it was Gandhi Ji who brought down truth and non-violence to the life of the day-to-day common man. He showed to the world that there is nothing bad about politics so long

as it is guided by religious and moral principles. Hence success in politics should be achieved by just and truthful means.

Gandhi Ji was a great political leader in the history of the freedom movement in India. His political concept is the outcome of his moral principles. His religion lies in his insatiable love for the freedom of all. First is the political freedom, then social and economic freedom and finally all together will lead to a sarvodaya Samaj for self-realization. For getting Swaraj Gandhi Ji took the weapons of non-violence ethics of piety, forgiveness, humility and universal tolerance should guide the human action. Religion based politics of Gandhi has laid at most stress on the moral values to set his politics on right action with an object to keep politics apart from the evils such as corruption, injustice, expediency and Machiavellians politics which separate the political expediency from morality.

Thus it is very clear that the entire Philosophy of Gandhi Ji is derived from the principle of spiritual unity. His mission was to establish human relationship through non-violence, love and co-operation. His political ideas can here be attained without religions basis. The religions basis of Gandhi an politics means the supremacy of the concept of the moral right of conscience in the place of divine right of rulers.

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