

Separatist Ideologies, Violence, Politics and the Prophets of Composite Nationalism

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Article Received: 11/06/2023

Article Revised: 17/07/2023

Article Accepted: 18/07/2023

Published Online: 18/07/2023

DOI:10.47311/IJOES.2023.5.07.68

Abstract

Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani, Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi, Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi believed in the unity of India and fraternity and were supporters of Hindu- Muslim unity in India. British government played the game of "Divide and Rule". Hindus and Muslims in India were suffering under the yoke of British government and were living a life of slavery, bounded by chains. separatist ideologies, communal hatred and the very idea of the "Two Nation Theory" of the Muslim League was too dangerous and cause of suffering and trauma for the Indian people. Maulana Muhammad Madani appealed all the Indians to come out, be strong and fight against the British people. Maulana Ahmed Hussain Madani, Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi and Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi devoted their lives for a great cause and fought for Indian freedom. The young generation must be informed about the unsung heroes of Indian freedom struggle, their sacrifices and the cost of Indian Independence. This paper is an attempt to reflect upon the concept of Composite Nationalism and its supporters.

Keywords: Colonialism, Division, Fraternity, Humanity, Patriotism, Power, Revolt.

Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani actively participated in the Indian freedom Movement against the Britishers and all those people who were promoting saperatist ideologies. He was against the partition of India. He was born on 6th October, 1879 in U.P. the Silk Letter Movement was ab effort of a group of revolutionaries belonging to Darul Uloom Deoband to end the rule of Britishers from India. Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani actively participated in the Khilafat and Non-cooperation Movement. He was also detained under the charges of treason for giving a call to the Indians in the British Army to fight for Indian Independence.

Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani believed in the unity of India and fraternity and he was a supporter of Hindu- Muslim unity in India. British government played the game of "Divide and Rule". Hindus and Muslims in India were suffering under the yoke of British government and were living a life of slavery, bounded by chains. Maulana Muhammad Madani appealed all the Indians to come out, be strong and fight against the British people. He declared that if Indians have to defeat the Britishers, corporation and friendship between the Hindus and Muslims should be strengthened. Maulana Madani also participated in the civil Disobedience movement and Salt Satyagraha in 1942. He was imprisoned during quit India movement. Maulana Madani did not give up his efforts and struggle for the freedom of India, though he was imprisoned several times. It was the time when All India Muslim League was demanding a separate state and Maulana Madani raised his voice against the separatist ideologies of the All-India Muslim League. Maulana Madani knew that divided India would be weaker than the United one. The strength and welfare of India lies in the unity so he warned all that provocation of separatist ideologies, communal hatred and the very idea of the "Two Nation Theory" of the Muslim League was too dangerous and cause of suffering and trauma for the Indian people. In his different writings and speeches, he criticized the idea of the "Two Nation Theory" and the views of the leaders of the Muslim league who were bent upon dividing India and destroying its unity. On 31st May, 1866, great Islamic University Darul Uloom Deoband was established and its establishment was the result of the efforts of the Islamic scholars. It was established at Deoband a town in Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh. This institution has given India many freedom fighters and made efforts for the freedom of India. Besides being active in the freedom movement Maulana Madani also contributed in the educational and spiritual fields. He got his childhood education from Deoband and also served as the headmaster of it. He became the guiding spirit of 'jamiat-ulema-Hind'. The Government of India honoured him with 'Padam Bhushan' for his contribution and efforts for Indian independence. Maulana Madani was a true patriot and it was his wish to take his last breath in India and on 6th December 1957 he died in Delhi, the capital of India.

He was supporter of composite nationalism that argues that India is a nation of people belonging to different casts, faiths, cultures and community and that nationalism cannot be defined by religion in India. Though the citizens of India maintain diverse religions and traditions, they all are part of one United Nation. Composite nationalism supports the view that whatever faith Indian people have they must live together like brothers with amity. Vipin Chandra Pal was the first one who put forward the idea of composite Nationalism in 1906 to promulgate that "Hindus Muslims and other religious minorities (including the animistic tribals) should preserve their distinctive religious cultures while fighting together for freedom."

According to David Hardiman, a famous historian of India "There was no profound enmity between Hindus and Muslims: The British created divisions." Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation and the great freedom fighter said "Religions are different roads converging to the same point." According to Annie Besant: "Indian youths should be brought

up so as to make the Mussalman a good Mussalman, the Hindu boy a good Hindu.... only they must be taught a abroad and liberal tolerance as well as enlightened love for their own religion, so that each may remain Hindu or Mussalman, but both be Indians." The All India Muslim conference (1929) and other organizations such as All India Anglo-Indian Association, All India Azad Muslim Conference, All India Conference of Indian Christians, All-India Jamhur Muslim League, All India Momin Conference, All India Muslim Majlis, All India Shia Political Conference, Anjuman-i-Watan Baluchistan, Central Khalsa Young Men Union, Chief Khalsa Diwan, Communist Party of India, Indian National Congress, Jamiat Ahl-i-Hadis, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Khaksar Movement, Khudai Khidmatgar, Krishak Praja Party, Majlis-e-Ahrar-ul-Islam, Sind United Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Unionist Party (Punjab) etc. opposed the separatist ideologies and partition of India. Maulana Syyad Hussain Ahmed Madani wrote "Mutthida Qaumiyat Aur Islam" in 1938. Asgar Ali summarized its key point "Maulana Madani who wrote a book Muttahida Qaumiyat Aur Islam persuasively argued in favour of composite nationalism by profusely quoting from the Quran. The prophets shared the same territory with the unbelievers and hence their Qaumiyat was not different from those who did not believe in their message. According to Maulana Madani, the very spirit of the Quran is to encourage harmonious co-existence in a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious world. Mohammad Sajjad who was a devbandi scholar and Tufail Ahmad Mangalori a Islamic historian supported the views of Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani on composite nationalism and stood against Pakistan separatist movement.

They wrote a letter "Rooh-e- Roshan Mustaq bil" to support composite nationalism. The Pakistan movement was a political movement in the early 20th century, led by Muhammad Ali jinnah and supported by Ashraf Ali Thanvi, a religious scholar and his two disciples Shabbir Ahmad Usmani and Zafar Ahmad Usmani.

This movement sought to protect the political interests of Indian Muslims. The famous poet Iqbal and Faiz supported it. Bengali Renaissance was a moment that propagated and helped in the dissemination of education. it was a movement for social reform. Though Bengali Renaissance was a movement that was led by upper caste Hindus, but some Bengali Muslims men and women such as, Sake Dean Mahomed, kazi Nazrul Islam, Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain and Ubaidulla-Al Ubaidi suhrawardy also contributed to the Bengali Muslim Renaissance. For bringing reform in religious and cultural dogmatic practices of Bengali Muslim society, the freedom of intellect movement was launched in 1926.

Hussain Ahmed Madani also supported the Congress khilafat pact in 1920. Madani put his efforts in the direction of developing unity and cooperation between the Indian National Congress and the Indian Ulama. "Muttahida Qaumiyat Aur Islam" the famous work of Madani was published in 1938. In his work Madani advocated for a United and a strong country and raised his voice against the partition of India. Hussain Ahmed Madani, the supporter of unity and composite nationalism was born in Bangarmau, a small town in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. His father Sayyed Habibullah was a descendant of the Islamic prophet, Mohammed through Hussain ibne Ali down 35 generations. When his teacher Mehmud Hasan was sent to a prison situated in the Iceland of Malta by the British people for

his participation in the Silk Letter Conspiracy, Madani volunteered to join his teacher in the prison and look after him. He respected his teachers wish to listen Quran in the prison in the holy month of Ramadan and memorize the whole Quran in just 30 days and recited the Quran daily to his teacher. After coming out of the prison Madani joined the freedom movement of India. People of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were highly influenced by the views of Muhammad Hussain Madni and refused to migrate to Pakistan in 1947. Maulana Muhammad Hussain Madani played a vital role in cementing the foundation of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The foundation committee of Jamia Millia Islamia was headed by Sheikh ul Hind Maulana Mahmood Hasan and met on 29th October, 1929 and Madani was a member of the committee. He was the president of jamiat ulema-e-Hind council of Indian Muslim theologians and Islamic scholars belonging to the Deoband school of thought in India. Hussain Ahmed Madani was against the separatist ideologies of Muslim League and formation of a separate state for Muslims. He was not in favour of creating a nation on the basis of ethnicity and religion. According to him nation are formed on the basis of geography and land and not on the basis of religion and his views generated a debate between him and the famous poet and Pan- Islamist Allama Iqbal. Their differences of views made them opponent of each other but after much differences and opposition, a mutual friend of both named Taloot intervened between them and wrote some letters to both of them to make both of them understand each other's opinions and the effort was successful in establishing reconciliation and harmony between them. Later Iqbal accepted and showed respect for the views of Muhammad Hussain Madani and he was quoted as saying "All should endeavour jointly for such a democratic government in which Hindus, Muslims, Christians and parsis are included. Such a freedom is in accordance with Islam"....."that Muslims could live as observant Muslims in a religiously plural society where they would be full citizens of an independent, secular India."

The followers of Madani offered him to come to Sylhet and improve the Islamic education system because when sylhet was incorporated into The Assam province Islamic students required to go to Dhaka or Calcutta for learning. Though Muhammad Hussain Madni had teaching offers from other places, he came to sylhet for 2 years because the people insisted him so much. In 1924 Madani started teaching in sylhet. Madani committed to keep visiting Sylhet every Ramadan but he had to stop this practice after the Indian partition in 1947. Madani left the world in 1957 and many great Indian leaders including Jawahar Lal Nehru and many other ministers of that time were present in his last journey from the world.

In his life Madani stood for composite nationalism and raised his voice against the 'Devide and Rule' policy of the Britishers. He appeal to all the Indians not to be lured by the British people and do not be trapped in the divide and rule policy. India won its freedom from the British people on 15th August 1947. It is called a moment of birth but it was also an abortion as the freedom of India was accompanied with the terrible reality of the Indian partition. The Britishers left but left India decided and in a miserable state. East and West Pakistan were separated from the Indian province.

After so many years of Indian partition when we look back the horrors of the Indian partition, rape, massacre and violence make a terrified. People lost their homes, identity and family. The Indian partition gave birth to so many orphans and people who were in a state of dilemma regarding their identity. They had lost their family, property was damaged and identity crisis was the reality. After sometime there was a horrible war between India and Pakistan and we still feel effected by the consequences of that war. the British people played The dirty game of divide and rule and their most significant achievement was the feeling of antagonism and xenophobia created between Hindus and Muslims in India.

The British people like to draw lines on the map of countries and they did it on the map of India also as they had done in the Middle East after World war first. lines meant lives for the people at the time of the Indian partition. The British government drew lines across the homeland of the Indian people and everyone wanted to be on the "right" side of the lines and for that people killed and looted each other. Millions of people were displaced. The British government was terribly horrified after the revolt of 1857 that proved the unity of Hindus and Muslims and it proved that by fighting side and under each others command, Hindus and Muslims could suppress the foreign rulers in India and then the British government adopted a systematic policy to create divisions between the two communities. The British government created separate electorates for Hindus and Muslims. They knew that by this action they would be able to create the wall of division between Hindus and Muslims and Muslims will be encouraged to vote for their own people who belong to the Muslim community. The Britishers sowed the seeds of division between Hindus and Muslims to destroy the unity between Hindus and Muslims that could overthrow their rule.

Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi also played a vital role and contributed in the Indian independence movement. He was an Indian Islamic scholar. He was a true patriot and fought for Indian independence for 25 years and for this cause he spent 8 years in jail. he was one of those leaders who raised their voice against the partition of India. Like Hussain Ahmed Madani he also opposed the Indian partition and a separate state for Muslims, demanded by the Muslim League and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi was also a supporter of composite nationalism. He also served as a member of the Indian Parliament from Amroha from 1952-1962. Hifzur Rahman seoharvi was born in 1900 in Seohara, district Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a zamindar family. His father haji Shamsuddin served as an engineer in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and Bikaner Rajasthan. when he died in 1962, Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and many other ministers paid him tribute. Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi has written many books including 'Azadi Buniyadi Insani Haq', 'Hukumat ka Deeni Tasawwur' and 'Waqt ki qadr-O-Qeemat' etc.

Maghfoor Ahmad ajazi who was a poet, political activist, writer of Urdu language and an orator also raised his voice against the partition of India and was against the separatist ideologies of Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was supporter of the creation of a separate state for the Muslims. Ajazi was born in Muzaffarpur, Bihar in 1900. He was a freedom fighter and actively participated in the Indian freedom movement. His father Hafeezuddin Husain was also a patriot and rebellion was in his blood. He raised his voice against the European Indigo

planters and organised the peasantry. Manzoor Ahsan Ajazi who was the elder brother of Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi also played an active role in Indian freedom movement. Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi got married with azizul Fatima. In his marriage ceremony slogans were raised against the British government. Ajazi left his studies for joining Mahatma Gandhi and the non-cooperation movement in 1921. He was an stern supporter of Mahatma Gandhi and the Gandhian ideology. Ajazi started "Muthia" drive for collecting funds for the Indian independence movement. It meant donation of one Muththi grain for funding the Indian Freedom Movement.

'Complete independence' was the demand of Indian National Congress in 1930. It was called Purn Swaraj as Indians were not given complete freedom, political rights and were ignored by the British government. In the congress session held in Lahore in 1930 on the river banks of Ravi, pandit Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the tricolour Indian flag and with the consent of other members of Indian parliament Indian National Congress approved a declaration of independence stating: "The British government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically and spiritually.... therefore.... India must sever the British connection and attend Purn Swaraj or complete independence"

Indian constitution was approved by the constituent assembly on 26 January, 1950 to commemorate the declaration for Purn Swaraj on 26th January, 1930. Hasrat Mohani the famous freedom fighter and the first person with Swami Kumaranand to demand 'Complete Independence' in 1921 at the Ahmedabad session of Congress was supported by Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi who came forward and raised his voice for complete independence. Hasrat mohani was a person who believed in composite nationalism, humanity and fraternity. he was standing against communalism. He had deep love for lord Krishna and used to celebrate Krishna Janmashtami in Mathura. In 1921 Hasrat Mohani coined the slogan Inquilab zindabad. He was against the partition of India after India was devided. Hasrat Mohani decided to live in India rather than migrating to Pakistan. He was a member of the Indian constitution assembly.

The call for complete independence started by Hasrat Mohani was supported by Bipin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Magfore Ahmed Ajazi. Ajazi was against the opinion that British Imperialism should control India and subjugate Indians. Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi supported the non- cooperation movement and once he burnt bonfire of his own Western clothes to support the movement. Ajazi was against any bias and discrimination on the basis of caste, faith or belongingness and once in the congress session presided by Abul Kalam Azad he opposed the discriminatory behaviour with the Bihari deligates who were not given seats in the first row. The All India Jamhur Muslim League was founded by Azazi in 1940 to oppose the separatist ideologies of the Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Though he faced opposition to his views of co-operation between Hindus and Muslims, he did not give in and stood for a nation where Hindus and Muslims could live together with harmony and work for the common good and betterment of humanity. Ajazi put all his efforts for Hindu Muslim unity in India and Ajazi's photographs are decorated in Azadi Ke Deewane

Museum of Lal Qila, Delhi with caption, "opposed Jinnah's Two Nation theory and founded All India Jamhur Muslim League to counter it."

Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi was a great patriot, supporter of composite nationalism and a great Urdu poet who has contributed to the field of Urdu poetry and language and hence, he is regarded in high esteem by many great men. Acharya J.B. Kriplani once said about him "Dr. Ajazi was a great patriot, a devoted servant of humanity and lovable friend. Selfless patriot like him is becoming rare. His death is a loss to society." According to President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed "He was in forefront of India's war for independence. The story of his life is a unique and interesting story of an important era of the country."

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Indian government to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of the freedom of India from the tyrannical rule of the British people and to celebrate Indian culture and glorious history. On the eve of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the contribution of Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi for Indian freedom was recognised by the government of India and he was called the unsung hero of Indian freedom struggle. A tribute was paid to him by the embassy of India in Greece.

Maulana Ahmed Hussain Madani, Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi and Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi devoted their lives for a great cause and fought for Indian freedom. The young generation must be informed about the unsung heroes of Indian freedom struggle, their sacrifices and the cost of Indian Independence. It will instill in them patriotism, courage and desire for standing for their rights and social improvement. They will realise that the freedom they celebrate and enjoy cannot be taken for granted as so many great Patriots like Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani, Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi, Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi etc. Struggled hard for Indian independence. Our Prime Minister Modi stated: "it is very important that our today's generation, our students know about the freedom struggle, the leaders of our Nation and feel about them..... from their districts and region, what happened during the freedom struggle, how it happened, who sacrificed their lives, who remained imprisoned for how long for the nation." When one reads about the life, ideals and struggle of the great heroes of Indian history, she feels inspired for higher level of commitment and devotion to their ideals and willingness to sacrifice all for the sake of their ideals. The life of such great men is a message and inspiration in itself. In view of the valuable message that is given by the lives of such great patriots as Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani, Hifzur Rahman Seoharvi and Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi, it is the need of the day that our youth should study the message of these great patriots in the present context.

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