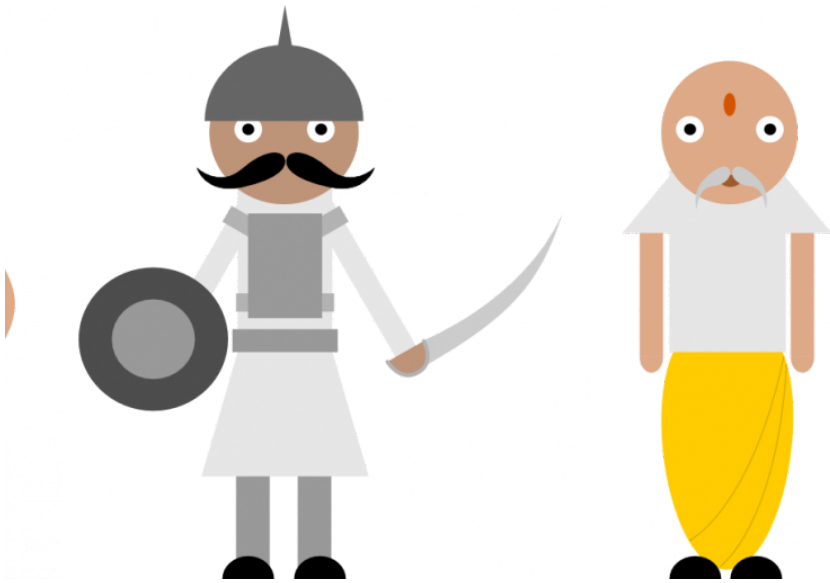


CASTE, DEC 16- DEC 22 2017

CHINTT MHOJEA IXTTA!

By GOAN OBSERVER TEAM DECEMBER 16, 2017

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TIME FOR CHANGE: In the picture above, although the four men are not classified as belonging to any particular caste, probably each one of us will not have any problem classifying them ‘appropriately’. Until homes and schools change the narrative and tell stories of Shudras who grew up to be Brahmins, it will be very difficult to stop perpetuating caste

Society would be transformed if the caste system was practiced the way it was originally intended. No one could be a Brahmin, Kshatriya or Vaishya without learning and going through relevant apprenticeships. Shudra was merely the term given to the common man who was at the learning stage. Hence a child born to a Brahmin would not be a Brahmin, but a Shudra until he or she ‘graduated’ through various levels of learning

By Vijay Naik

A DREAM of a society where there are no divisions at all... caste, creed, colour, complexion, language and wealth make us one... isn't that just amazing?

But first we must come to the knowledge that the so called ‘caste system’ that everyone publicly hates is an ambiguation of the Vedic system called *Varna Vyavastha*. *Varna Vyavastha* is classification of society based on the qualities or attained capabilities of members of society.

There were four *Varnas* or classifications: Brahman (learned priests, scholars and teachers), Kshatriyas (rulers, warriors and administrators), Vaishyas (traders, business operators and agriculturists) and

Shudras (labourers and service providers). **The Varna of a member of society was not hereditary, rather it was bestowed by a guru or teacher of the student. The Vedas instructed the society of Bharat to function in this vyavastha (system). Everyone was to learn from a teacher/guru, who then evaluated the student and accordingly assigned them to a particular Varna. The student would then perform tasks and functions of that Varna, but – more importantly – could choose to continue their education and graduate to another Varna. So you see my friends, the Varna Vyavastha (class system) is not a divisive system but, a graduating system of education and training.** By design and intent, a Shudra is a starting point for a member of the Vedic society; giving them the opportunity to continue their education and training to graduate into the next Varna to eventually become a Brahman! A fantastic Varna Vyavastha isn't it?

A true Brahman should have knowledge of the nature of God and be able and willing to impart this knowledge without prejudice to all who seek it.

A true Kshatriya was to protect society by knowing the art of warfare, governance and justice. Justice was not the least of the attributes – by the way!

A true Vaishya mastered the trades of agriculture, cattle-rearing and trading in goods. Fair trading was a necessary quality for the Vaishya.

A true Shudra was the worker who served any of these Varnas, but more importantly was hungry to learn and so was a seeker of knowledge. So a Shudra was like an apprentice, who was to be trained by members of the other *varnas* to master those trades.

In the first few years in the yogic system, when a child goes to an ashram or to live and learn from a guru; no matter how educated the child is or how rich, he is assigned all possible menial tasks like sweeping the floors, washing dishes and helping with cooking. The student is never asked to learn the scriptures right away. Why is this so? It is a necessary step to preparing the student to receive Divine knowledge. Before someone gets a driver's license, one would need to know where the wheels are, where the ignition, steering wheel, rear-view mirror, gas tank, etc. are. Sure, one can drive without knowing all this, but there is a high possibility of the drive turning disastrous.

Apply this to a modern business situation. Do you know of any business that was built by the previous generation, then the son or daughter takes over and the business goes down the drain? Why does this happen so often? If the son/daughter had started working as an entry clerk then eventually progressed to the top position; that business is more likely to thrive under the new generation. The succeeding generation has to train and prepare themselves for the role they want to get into. Leadership is not inherited, it should be earned.

What destroyed Bharat is that the children of those in positions of power began inheriting power just because their parents had the authority to hand power to a successor. At that time, there was no binding that the successor (of a king) had to be a biological son/daughter. The title son/daughter could be given to anyone that the king believed had qualities, attributes and very importantly intentions similar or equal to the king. This...the ability (of the king) to see everyone equally and 'decide' which of his many sons in the kingdom would succeed him was considered Divine. But, as power did its thing, it corrupted and boosted the egos of kings and those in positions of authority. They felt they needed to hang on to power and make their children/relatives – many of whom were unqualified, inefficient or just plain devious – successors.

It was the duty of the powerful and educated to educate and empower others, but they chose to cordon themselves off, put up a façade of pomp and awe and intimidate the ‘common man’ — Shudra. Various theological reasons were given to not allow the ‘common man’ to read scriptures, insisting that Brahman are the only ones to interpret the scriptures and that misinterpretation will result in punishment from the Gods.

By the way, this also has happened in the Christian culture. Until the 1960’s (second Vatican Council) the Catholic common man was not allowed to read the Bible. The common man — Shudra — of all thought-philosophies was deliberately and wilfully kept uneducated by those in power who then exploited, suppressed and enslaved them. All this while it was the *dharma* of those in authority to educate and train the uneducated and untrained!

The Yajur Veda states: (26.2) I do hereby address this salutary speech for the benefit of humanity, for the Brahmanas, the Kshatriyas, the Shudras, the Vaishyas, the kinsfolk, and the men of the lowest position in society.

Today, our society functions on a system where the *Varna* of a person is hereditary. This is not *Varna Vyavastha* ...it is a *brastachar* (corruption)! And is referred to as *zath* or caste. *Varna* is not hereditary; it is earned and graduated to. The child of Brahman parents is a Shudra until they learn from a teacher/guru who bestows upon them the *Varna* of a Kshatriya, Vaishya or Brahman.

Disruptive thinking isn’t it? How dare I say that the son of a Brahman is a Shudra? Well... *chintt ixtta!* We have to think for ourselves if we are to get liberated from the oppression of those in power. If we watch our thinking, impossible situations become possible. Bapu Gandhiji thought differently and was able to bring the most powerful empire to its knees...without any violence from his side!!

The Yajur Veda quote above clearly shows that knowledge is for all that seek it. Yeshua of Nazareth also made a similar statement, ‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you’ (Matthew 7:7). If we seek knowledge, the Creator has decreed that we will find it. But the high priests of old and ‘Sirs’ of today are more interested in holding on to power. They achieve this by keeping the common man ignorant, threatening them with consequences of eternal damnation or *ghenna* (hell) and convincing us that knowledge/salvation is only obtainable through them. Nobody — more so the common man who is busy trying to make a living — wants to go to hell for all eternity!

Now, if they can keep everyone ignorant of the genuine kindness and benevolence of God and talk about how ‘our god is a jealous god’, then they have managed to stop us from thinking differently from how they want us to think. Now the common man — Shudra — has thoughts as per the design of those in power... Enslavement of thought is achieved! That means our SPIRIT IS BROKEN!! The common man has given up and become a SLAVE!

Have we given up? Has our spirit been broken? If so, then the crime of the perpetrator is very grave. The learned should not mislead and be devious. One more time I go to the words of Yeshua of Nazereth ‘If anyone causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea’ (Matthew 18:6). Is this not what happened in Bharat too? Did not those in power insist on succession to their own kin rather than the best qualified incumbent? Did this not happen in the Mahabharata story?

The caste system (*zath*) we see today is a corruption of the noble and divine intention of governance of the great kingdom of Bharat. It creates higher and lower castes with power in the hands of the

higher *zath*. Under the excuse that the lower *zath* did not know to read the higher *zath* held on to the scriptures (Vedas) and denied others the privilege of reading the Vedas or Bible in the Christian system.

The purpose of seeking and attaining knowledge is to subsequently help others achieve knowledge. But if the Brahman did that and everyone became knowledgeable, who would they ridicule, dominate and enslave? They couldn't do that to their own kin, so they do it to others' kids.

Our society has changed so much now that it seems difficult to go back to the system (*vyavastha*) that brought us abundant glory. A system of education that continually evolved our thinking. A *chitta vyavastha* (thinking system) that constantly inquired and knew that the world was not flat much before the western cultures did. Where mathematics, astrology, navigation, medicine and human wellbeing flourished to such an extent that western scholars came to Bharat to gain knowledge. Along with these seekers (Shudras) came notorious invaders who crushed our *chittavyavastha* and imposed their system of education upon us...a system far inferior to our home grown *Varna Vyavasta*.

More than a thousand years ago, various invaders divided us based on language or anything that they found convenient, so they could oppress and rule us. But look around today, we have graduated to electing our own oppressors and rulers! They tell us, that some of us are *bail'le* (outsiders) or *konkn'ne* or *bhammon* or *paklea* or *mistis* or *ghanti* or *Shudiror* whatever, and we accept that as a qualification or *zath* to group, isolate and divide ourselves. Once division happens, it is easy to create strife between the groups and rule. This is not *Varna Vyavastha* it is a *vyavastha* to divide and conquer!

The biggest cause of our disaster though, is that we believe them rather than think for ourselves.

I wonder why my dream keeps repeating itself. A dream in which our differences – like the various parts of a human body or of a tree – unite us. A dream in which every different part is necessary; where what I don't have, you do; what you don't have I do and what we both don't have the third does; so... together we have everything.

Then I wake up and look around me... and I wonder... am I dreaming? Or is it real at some time?