

Canadian Buddhist Council, Toronto

3 Brimley Road, Suite 501

Scarborough, Ontario M1M 3W2

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Phone 416 269 1020 barua_s@hotmail.com

Buddhist Charyapada & Bengali Identity

By

Mr. Sona Kanti Barua

President

Bangladesh - Canadian Buddhist council, Toronto.

The First Bengali Book “the Charyapada“, exposes cover up behind anti-Buddhist riots in the Sen Dynasty. Bengali speaking communities at home and abroad respected the Centenary (1907 – 2007) Discovery Anniversary of First Bengali Literature “The Charyapada (An Anthology of Buddhist Tantric Songs}” is the source of Assamese, Bangla, Hindi and Orissa languages and it was discovered by great scholar Haraprasad Shastri from the Royal library of Nepal. It was sad time in the Karnataka’s Hindu rulers Sen dynasty and Brahmin rulers who destroyed Buddhist Pala dynasty and the stronghold of Buddhist community. The conspiracy of Halayud Mishra and Hari Sen with the Baktiar Khilj’s Army and the carnage that followed in Bangladesh and other parts of India where infuriated mobs went about killing, burning and looting of the Buddhist community. Charyapada’s poetry no 33 explained of regrets over Hindu fundamentalism. Today the Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) members took over the Buddha Gaya Mahabodhi Temple in the name of its management committee. While basking in the glory of being “the world’s second fastest growing economy,” we should also ponder on why Indians are at the same time among the most back ward looking and feudal minded societies in the world. In India the peace loving people and the Dalits convert to Buddhism for peace and social justice every day. When any Muslim Bangladeshi intellectual converts to Buddhism then Islamic fundamentalists will kill him or her. How will Buddhism survive in Bangladesh?

In South Asia there are many people could not study Buddhism who are not Buddhists. So the Indian Skeptic, a newsletter exposing many of the irrational goings on relating to continuing superstition reigns. Sadly, few listen, because a bewildering variety of Fakirs, Pir, Babas, swamis, and the like continue to exert a strangle hold over the minds of the people. The tragedy of Hindu caste system and Islamic fundamentalists do not allow Buddhism to preach in public places, temples and schools.

Dr. Syed Ali Ahsan said, “Carya’ means that which should be followed or practiced and ‘Acarya’ which should not be. In fact these songs give instructions regarding mystic practices.” UNESCO proclaimed that 21st February is the International Mother Language Day in 1999 to honor the many languages in the world. The resolution was sponsored by Bangladesh and adopted unanimously by the Member States of UNESCO. To commemorate the historical occasion of Bangladesh every year UNESCO proudly declared, “We pay tribute to the people of Bangladesh, whose passion for their

own language has **inspired the designation of 21st February as the “International Mother Language Day.”**

Its history recorded that in 1948 being the father of the nation late Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared in Dhaka (then it was East Pakistan), that Pakistan’s national language will be Urdu. History speaks on this day of 21st February in 1952, when a number of valiant sons of Bangladesh including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar and Shafiq sacrificed their lives in Pakistani police firing to establish the state language of the erstwhile East Pakistan which is today’s Bangladesh. After the series of movements, the Pakistan government bowed down to the demand of the Bengali people and endorsed the Bengali as one of the state languages. Time and tide wait for none and may all beings be happy.

International Mother Language Day and Nalanda University are gifts of Bengali Minds to the world. Ancient Bengali people of Bangladesh (8th – 12th century A. D.) have no right to study Bengali language. Hindu fundamentalists and Sen dynasty of Karnataka took over the political power from Buddhist Pala kings of Bangladesh who established famous Nalanda University in Bihar. At first Hindu fundamentalists confiscated native Buddhists and neighbors mother language, books and survival. Hindu rulers and native Buddhists were fighting continue. In the historical crossroads, during the 12th century Bakhtiar Khilji attacked Bihar and Bengal and his Muslim Turks’ blazing fires reduced nine million books of the ancient Nalanda University to ashes. Today in Bangladesh Muslims fundamentalists dispossessed the Buddhists and indigenous people including Chakmas & Marama of Chittagong Hilltracts as well as elsewhere of their ancestral land dwelling houses by sending Muslim settlers accompanied by Bangladesh armed forces. Present Dr. Fakhruddin Government does not take any of its political minister or advisor from the Buddhist community of Bangladesh. Justice denied and persecution directly conducted by the Jamat and Al-Quida Islamic fundamentalists.

Bengali language is the source of power of people of Bangladesh as the Bengali great scholar Atish Dipankar was the vice-chancellor of the Nalanda University who established peace and educational systems in Tibet. There is a Tibetan translation of Charyapada in Tibet. Pakistan government wanted to destroy the Bengali language in 1948 in East Pakistan which is today’s Bangladesh. Taliban and Al-Quida have destroyed Afghanistan’s Bamian Buddha statues in 2001. Many great Muslim minded people told that Taliban is disgrace to Islam and human civilization.

As the Indian Mass media reported that recently China and Japan governments propose the Indian government to invest millions of dollars to develop the great Nalanda University. We have to request the Bangladesh government to participate in the development of our ancient Bengali king Dharmapal’s Nalanda University where many world scholars came to study including famous Chinese Buddhist monk Huen Tsang in the 8th century. Unfortunately, Ramayana’s Ayudhya chapter, verse no 32 it is well documented and recorded, “Buddha is like a thief, know the Buddha as an atheist.” Thus the Hindu fundamentalists eradicated of Buddhist culture from India and even now Buddhagaya Mahabodhi temple is controlled by Hindu system of the Management Committee. Religious fundamentalists are the enemies of world peace.

Naturally “The Charyapada”, the ancient Buddhist literature is not what the people might call a general Bengali book. Based on those horrible events the Buddhist poets and scholars decided to plunge into a subject that cried out to be brought to light. Bangladesh Buddhist community did not believe in the Vedic caste system. So in those

days and nights that followed, thousands of Buddhists monks and people were massacred as “retribution” of caste system in a carnage organized by king Ballal Sen’s prime minister cum – commander in chief Halayud Mishra, Hari Sen and Bakhtiar Khilji mafia as the great writer Mr. Shaokat Ali explained in his Bengali books entitled, “Duskaler - Dibanishi” and “Prodoshe Prakritjan.” There were survivors languished for months and later millions of Buddhists were converted into Islam and received political support from the Bakhtiar Khilji’s new kingdom Bangladesh. Bengali people are now reawakening to the worst tragedy of the Buddhist Holocaust which was conspired by Brahmin mafia. Even now questions are being raised and solutions are being sought. The history of Charyapada was means to provoke, enrage, empower enlighten and most importantly open grounds for discussion.

Even the millennium years later, holocaust victims Buddhist community are still waiting for justice who destroyed Buddhist temples, monks and communities in the name so called religions. The logic is “why bring up a history that is best buried and forgotten? Why unearth the horrors of yesterday?” We don’t want to embarrass our Hindu, Brahmin and Muslim neighbors and friends. But we have to share the pain of the events of the historical holocaust. Buddhists have left deep wounds on both of our neighbors.

The writer is the President of Canadian Buddhist Council, Toronto.
