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**COMMUNAL HARMONY - THE NEED OF THE HOUR**  
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**Abstract**

In our country the need of the hour is communal harmony. We all are assembled here to discuss the ways and means to achieve communal harmony. India, the beloved mother country of ours is great land of culture, civilization and of cherished history. Once it was a cradle of great civilizations. it has had a rich history of 5000 years old only a few other civilizations in the world can state claim of equality with this. Geographically speaking, it is a great wonder. It has the great Himalayan Mountains, great gangetic valley lush green fields, scorching deserts, densely-vegetated, forests, perennial rivers, silver sand beaches, longest coastal areas rich fauna and flora etc. It is the world's largest democracy and the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world. It is the most populous state next to china. Once our mother land was described as the land of snakes, snake charmers, temples, forests and maharajas. But reality was entirely different from the above description.

**Keywords:** communal harmony, civilization, mussalmans, Auranfazez, Jizya, mogul rule

**Introduction**

The Greeks, the Romans the Egyptians and the people of west Asia of ancient times very much loved the Indian spices. A Great trade flourished between them and India even before the birth of Jesus Christ.

The people of India from time immemorial were generally innocent, peace-loving and law abiding citizens. The great epics the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and other literary works reveal this fact. The Hindu rulers unfailingly followed the rule of primogeniture when a new king ascended the throne. Moreover the kings and the emperors of ancient India scrupulously observed the dharma even in battle fields. These were the memorable sceneries of ancient India.

But after the advent of mussalmans on the Indian spoil, the hitherto dharma sincerely observed by the native Indians were thrown in to winds with a few exceptions. A few Emperors like Akbar followed the policy of religious toleration. But others followed the policy of religious intolerance. For example the great mogul Emperor Auranfazez was a fanatic. He imposed pilgrimage tax on Hindus. In addition to it he also imposed Jizya. These impositions of taxes on non Muslims sowed the seeds of religious intolerance.

After the end of mogul rule, the British strongly entered the Indian arena. the British for their part sowed the seeds of dissention and disintegration among the already volatile Indian masses who were on warpath on religious grounds. The British misrule lastly

vivisected India in to two dominations India and Pakistan. The partition of India is a historic blunder. The great India once commanded respect and reverence among the committee of the nations had how become pathetic country. During and after the partition, umpteen number of people both Hindus and Muslims underwent an agony untold misery. These formed the black pages of history. The partition a Historical wrong is having its ill effects still on the minds of peoples of India and Pakistan.

Now India is a land of many religious castes creeds languages and regions. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikes Buddhists, Jains and Zoroastrians are living in India. Hindus account for 82.72% Muslims account for 11.21% Christians account for 2.80% and others account for smaller percentage. Regarding the mother tongs spoken by Indians, there a 1652 in number, out of these 33 languages are spoken by the people numbering at least over lakes each.

The seed as of dissention and disintegration ingrained in our soil by the British still raises its ugly head. A day hardly passes without the incident for killing of innocent and unarmed people. Nowadays the religious fundamentalism gains upper hand. The government main function is to control the religious fundamentalists and extremists. The anti-national and anti-social elements are working hand -in- hand with the religious fundamentalists and fanatics. Moreover the foreign elements across the border are supplying arms and ammunitions to the misguided youths in our country to wage a “holy war” against the other religions.

The causes of the present day bloodshed and agony of the masses are many. But the main cause is religion. In the name of religion, the fanatics let loose all sports of violence. In our history there are so many wrongs. We cannot set right those wrongs by violence. Ramsanmabhoomi- babrimajid issue is historical wrong. But that wrong should not be set right by revenge. Demolition and destruction of Babri Masjid by the Hindus is great folly on their part.

Since ours is a land of diverse religious, we have to learn to live in unity in Diversity, we have to respect sentiments and religious faiths of others.

Since Independence, we have made many strides in economy, science, space etc and we have reached the level of exploding atombams. But mentally we are going to down to abysmal, our nation should be a civilized one where people of all faiths can live together in peace serenity. To achieve that grate goal of communal harmony we have to do the following things.

1. Politics should be freed from religion.
3. The people should be educated in such a way as to respect each other’s religion.
4. Eradication of illiteracy and poverty.
5. Minority status given to some religions should be abolished as it causes psychological fear in the minds of majority.

6. Uniform civil code must be brought in to force immediately
7. Minority educational institutions should be abolished as they help the religious fanatics to indulge in anti-national activities.
8. Reservation quota system must be abolished. Employment should be given on the basis of merit only.
9. The Government should make the suitable amendment to the existing law to punish the guilty who are indulging in communal offences.
10. The law should be brought in to forces to restrain the political leaders who are the destiny makers of our gullible masses from participating the communal caste functions.
11. The Government should immediately put and to the forceful religious conversions because some minority religious institutions are making forceful conversions and thereby they are creating law order problems. Moreover the government should ban the foreign monetary aid to the minority religious institutions as they are misusing the fund.
12. The political parties which are identified with particular religion should not be allowed to function or participate in the elections.

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