TRIBALISM IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

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ABSTRACT

A lot of water has flown over nationalism and patriotism under the umbrella of electoral processes and governance in the recent past. The words create images in the mind of the readers or listeners. These images, in turn, give birth to emotions. The actions that follow are born out of these emotions. The actions have a spectrum of ramifications. On one hand, the actions unite a group of people who then in turn, with a collective effort, defend a threat that is perceived for their existence. On the other hand, they may fulfil the needs of a political or diplomatic cult. How tribalism that had the bonding principles evolved into patriotism in a civilised society.

KEYWORDS

Patriotism, nationalism, tribalism, society, threats, bonding.

INTRODUCTION

The necessity to bond together surfaced from threats that nature offered and resulted in tribalism. To avoid people from fighting with one another, a system of social order was evolved and laws were framed so that there is no chaos in the society. Without these laws of coexistence, the civilisation would not exist. These laws, therefore, became immensely important to sustain harmony that was the driving essence of civilisation.

The very nature of these words, that are primarily abstract, created different connotations in the minds depending upon their capacity to interpret them. Intelligence and language ability plays an important role to comprehend what is being said. The meaning many times gets lost and only the drive for togetherness becomes the sole purpose of existence which is fundamentally tribalism.

DISCUSSIONS

One started deriving immense security in the idea of togetherness that was confined to the geographical demarcation where residents had a common interest in defending themselves against all possible natural and otherwise, threats.

The societies created armies to safeguard their possessions and wars became unavoidable. To hold the people together, motivational tools were used. Ideas were sown and emotions were germinated. The willingness to completely surrender to the cause of common interests, one was encouraged to even sacrifice his life. Wars were evident and rulers were born. What evolved was a sentiment of determination and will to act for the larger common interest projected as good under the umbrella of physical security. Eventually, patriotism was born.

Patriotism thus had two dimensions. One was ideological and the other was real.

The language used the highest order of abstraction to birth the feelings of belonging to a nation and get one inspired by the thought of the nationalism. One derives great pride in belonging to a country and the slogans, flags, anthems and vision documents are worshipped. The domain of the ideological world has given birth to very strong emotions about one's country.
The emotions were a tool to drive collective action. What is more important now is the patriotism in action. The citizens who succeed in transcending the thought of patriotism and convert into action make the civilisation.

The ways one can be truly Patriotic keeping the action in mind are explored below hereunder.

Follow the traffic rules. One who loves his country should essentially respect the traffic rules as the state of traffic on the roads represent the internal chaos of the users. We as true citizens must firstly know the traffic rules and secondly follow them. Stopping at the signals and giving way to the other is the true patriotism in action. The state of traffic indicates the state of mind of the state. A chaotic state has to be addressed so that the harmony on road is maintained.

Pay taxes honestly. One must venture on his own to contribute without waiting for the state to persuade, within the framework of the law. Another way to express the nationalism is to bear ones' share of taxes so that the government machinery functions smoothly. No state can function without adequate resources. In the kind of democratic organisation we have, the citizens need to contribute their share of earnings by way of taxes. One must trust the government whom they have voted to distribute the resources wisely.

Stop spreading nonsense just because one has access to a smartphone and one has a strong desire to be heard. One must avoid forwarding messages that have no momentum of converting into meaningful action. The downside of media and its accessibility is that one gets tempted to be heard. Social media thus becomes a kind of an open mike with no visible audience but illusionary one. One gets tempted and carried over to be heard. Forwarding messages has become a national time pass and a mass obsession. Can one not curtail himself from drifting away in the river of ideas. If one succeeds in maintain a composed attitude, the nation will be indebted.

Contribute to cleanliness in the outer and the inner environment. One can at least stop throwing litter and maintain a clean environment. One must also not let the thoughts corrupt your simplicity. It took as really long to realise that cleanliness is next to godliness. Letting the clutter go is fundamental to the utility of the space. Just like an empty drawer which is useful, the mind too needs to be free from clutter. Space thus created, both physical and mental, will give birth to hygiene.

Use digital currency so that the problems faced by the exchequer be minimised and all that associated with cash form of money be disposed of. Barter system had its problems that were overcome by the money system. Now, this century has witnessed the problems with cash. The electronic form of money has evolved that has addressed all the problems related to cash. The most important fact is that the electronic transaction has traceability.

Do not amplify noise. Noise when amplified increases the threshold of sensation and our ears, that are designed to sense the minutest sound of nature, become insensitive to them once exposed to higher decibels. Exposure to higher levels of sounds makes one insensitive as his threshold of sensitivity is enhanced. We must remain sensitive to all finer aspects of life. Thus sound amplification should be avoided in all domains of living including religion, celebration, entertainment, expression and communication.

Have patience. Learn to form and get in a queue. Be a little early. Avoid the last-minute rush. Efficiency is always at the cost of philosophy. We have a long history of philosophical schools and let not the urge to be efficient bypass what has been evolved over centuries. Gaining more in less time cannot be the mantra for a civilised society. The most evolved civilisation and the countries are those who give way to the others on the street. Pedestrians are the ones to get preference over the motorists.

Don't question the leader whom one has elected by giving a vote, for the next 5 years. Let them function and trust them. One has a choice of voting after 5 years and can review then. This would let the governance function without resistance. It requires enormous effort and time to carry out a vision and the citizens must give them enough space and time once they are sworn into the office with your votes.
It is thus evident that patriotism in thought and simply clinging to national value system is not adequate to establish a civilisation. Those who have Goosebumps while standing and singing the national anthem have a larger responsibility to act in a civilised way. With the renewed governance with an overwhelming majority, we have an opportunity to establish a civilisation and exhibit our patriotism.

CONCLUSIONS
Patriotism in thought is tribalism, patriotism in action is civilisation. It is high time that to classify us as a civilised society, we must convert all our patriotic and nationalist feelings and thoughts into actions. As it is wisely said that "the best cookery book is no substitute to the worst cooked dinner", no thought can have meaning if it is not manifested into right action. We thus have an opportunity to make a civilisation.

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