

NEPAL: CLASS OR CASTE STRUGGLE?

Frankly speaking, the Maoists would have done well if they continued to be in the jungles. At least what was expected of them is that upon their entrance into the mainstream politics of the country, they would do miracles in terms of the suffering teeming millions of the people at the first place. What was expected of them while they were in the jungles that they would reaffirm their faith in the class struggle and would do justice to the ones who have been reeling under various kinds of stigma due to the prevalence of classes upon entering into the scheme of state governance?

The fact remains, to recall, it were the Maoists while in jungles encouraged the various sects and tribes inhabiting in the country and lured them all that every thing would come to them once they were in power. The poor and the disadvantaged, the dalits, the women folks, the janjatis, the Madhesis and the Chure Bhawar residents got lured to the extent that they concluded that it were the Maoists only who could relieve them from all the ailments that they have been plagued with under the rule of the erstwhile rulers.

The fact is that, let us admit it honestly, the Maoists spoke in favor of all without assessing as to how those would be sorted out when they come to power. This meant that the Maoists not only encouraged the oppressed ones plus those who had been denied participation in the scheme of country's governance but also promised them all that once in power they would do away with all the ailments that had been plaguing the society. However, raising consciousness in the minds of the people is one thing, and the fulfillment of those hollow assurances while in power is an entirely different matter.

Politics demands exhibition of wisdom but not distribution of assurances that are difficult to fulfill in actual practice.

The result has been that in today's Nepal each and every segment of the society is up on the streets demanding their genuine rights and demands to be instantly fulfilled with by the State at any circumstances.

The situation has been that the legendary Pandora's Box has been laid open and the problems and issues of varying magnitude and dimensions have come to the fore. It is not that the inner grievances of the people should not come to the open; it has to come and must be taken as a welcome move. However, the manner scores of issues and problems have come up to the surface at a time does hint that no government or for that matter the State can be able to redress those at a time or at one stretch. The state certainly has to redress the issues but what has also to be taken into proper account is that the State too must be provided adequate time to consider the nitty-gritty's of the issues in question.

The Maoists raised these issues primarily while in jungles. This could have been a ploy to take into confidence the neglected ones. Fine. However, when they have come to power, they have been denying their redress for unknown and mysterious reasons. To the extent that, for example, take the issues of the Madhesis. It was the Maoists first who took up their case while being in the jungles. Now when the Madhesis have come up with their issues, some genuine ones indeed, the Maoists have been dubbing the Madhesis as to

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have been guided and lured by the reactionaries and Indian extremists in order to delay the CA polls. This is injustice towards the Madhesis. Let them come to the open. Don't disturb them. The irony and mysterious part of the whole story has been that the Maoists have been condemning only the Madhsei outfits and providing the protests waged by other similar groups with clean chits? This is intriguing.

Let us thus admit that instead of class struggle, as per their dogmatic ideas propounded by Lenin-Marx and Engels, has now turned out to be a sort of "caste-struggle". This is most unfortunate. The fact is that we have never had such caste struggle in the country. However, let us also admit the reality that we can in no way escape from the caste menace that is lurching over the Nepali sky.

How this caste struggle now fast turning into a bloody-battle in between different communities that had coexisted with each other even in trying times in the past have become enemies instantly. Look at the gaur carnage. Whosoever did it, but the fact is that the damage has already been done. Let us hope and pray the Almighty that such gory incidents that divide the communities into unacceptable and undesirable camps will never occur again.

The reality is that the Maoists who lured various segments of the society appear not in a mood to listen to the genuine grievances of the neglected ones so that a peaceful Nepal can be restored. This is mysterious.

Under such circumstances, the State is thus advised to take up the issue one by one and convince the agitating groups that they will be heard attentively.

Throwing promises free will not work in today's society. The consciousness of the once dumb and deaf population has gone up. No cheating please or else it might boomerang on them who dare to do so.

Loktantra or whatever it is, must live up to the expectations of the people who have felt and concluded that they have been so far neglected and thus oppressed by the State under one pretext or the other.

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