

95 Surangdhar Das to Swami Trigunatita

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General Delivery, Oxnard, Cal.

Oxnard 7/16/11 July 16, 1911.

To

Svami Trigunatita of the Hindu Temple,
2963, Webster Street.,
San Francisco.

Dear Sir:

At last I have found time to write you a few lines in reply to your query "whether I am yet in politica" which you put to me the other night quite unexpectedly. I am one who is not at all afraid of your supernatural powers; and therefore have the courage to tell you frankly what I feel.

In the first place you profess to be a religious man, a saint and a Svami who evidently always lives in the spiritual plane and has nothing to do with the physical world. But how is it, that the moment you saw me you asked me "Have you given up politics?" Doesn't that show that you have quite kept in mind the mean enmity you bore towards Taraknath Dass and towards me, I being his "close associate" as you designated me? So let us forget those silly professions and pretensions of spiritual life and calmly come down to the spiritual world and meet on an equal footing as man and man.

Now, in the second place, I have gone to your "House of God" to pay a visit to Svami Prakashananda after the lapse of about 8 months. It was not for asking any favour, but simply for seeing a man who used to like me very much sometime ago. He treated me nicely, tho not so cordially as before. I must admit here that he has the refinement and gentleness of the real Brahman. The only thing for which I pity him is his slavery to you, a rude man of very rough manners and a slick priest tomboot.

I was trying to avoid seeing you. But he insisted again and again. At last I did see you; and that's the way you received me. Can you tell me if any of your Hindu Shastras permit you to treat a guest so rudely? Is not Hindu ideal of hospitality to be kind and gentle even to one's avowed enemy when he is one's guest? Is the "temple of God" you are maintaining

maintaining there, of the "Temple of the Devil"?

Have I given up, politics? Do you know what it means at the present time? "Politics" is mere graft and a politician is a job seeker in politics through which he can rob people. I belong to a slave nation; and a slave nation has no politics. It is a shame that being a Hindu, you do not know what Hindusthan is doing and what Hindusthan wants to do. No, I cannot blame you because you are too busy in the spiritual world to think of things worldly. Moreover, you think that we are anarchists and seditionists. So you are not a friend but an avowed enemy of young India. I want you to understand that we the, the slaves stand not only against the present governing class, but also against all the privileged classes, whether foreign or Swadeshi. Mind, your class, the priest class is by no means excluded. You are the most dangerous ones, always upholding the governing class and preaching the divine dispensation to the governed. It is the priest class who fool the world and keep the oppressed and the down trodden totally blind by giving them a dose of spiritual food.

"If you are in politics we cannot have any connection with you." Who went to establish connection with you? For me, to be bound up with a priest. No, no, by no means---- You are neither intellectual nor moral, so that I can gain aught by establishing connection with you. I will lose my common sense my spirit of independence and self reliance if I once go near you. You have used some of our students, mere weaklings and conscienceless cowards as your tools. But you cannot do that with me.

You had grievances against Tarak nath Dass, because he was alienating some of your Vedanta Students to the Indian Nationalist cause and moreover you were jealous of him. Satya Deva had his grievances, being a perpetual pimple always sore about something." As also some of our students in Berkeley had theirs, because they were also jealous of Tarak. You all made a common cause to frustrate his plans. But what could you

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He has not lost anything, rather has gained the most in the fight. What did De Gessen write to you? What did the Kyles do? What did Miss Heckman do? Of course, I am very sorry for all these, that the Americans take all Hindus to be mean and narrow minded. It was you who did all this. We could do more harm to you, if we wished. But it is by no means our desire, as that will injure our cause as well.

All this trouble arose from Mrs. Pettie's volunteering to finance partly for having a house for the Hindu students in Berkeley, and to become a mother to them. The money give to any other organization by any member of your temple is so much loss to the temple. You realized that and tried all sorts of tricks to prove that Tarak was a swindler. The house plan fell thru, the mother plan fell thru, But we are standing all the same. We are as happy and contented without a home and a mother as we were before. Do not think for a while that there is only one Mrs. Pettie in this country who is a mother to us. Do not think that we have no hope except in Mrs. Pettie. We are young ~~men~~ men of strength of arms and mind. Cant we do anything? If you are in this country, you will get an invitation to be present at the Dedication of the Bharat Bhareau within four years from now on. If you are not you will hear of it.

Let it be understood that I hold myself responsible for the above views, tho I know many more of us think the same way, but do not either think it worth while to express them to you, or have not the courage to do, or the worst of all, worship you in your presence and criticise you at your back. I pity this last class and hope they will get over it some day.

You told me a few of these things that night in such a hurry and in a commanding tone as if talking to a baby. However, I thought it wise to keep silent, or else, quick tempered as I am, in my righteous indignation against authority and injustice I would have said something and you would have gone

fanatically

fanatically mad. And some deformed Kruger, ~~xxxx~~ or the Sly
Botha of the tall Krunsy would have come, hearing the noise, -
to eject me out of the Devils Den, threatening to call for
Police aid if I did not at once leave.

Hoping this will open your eyes a little ~~bit~~ as to
whether I am a baby like the other students or a self respecting
man,

Yours truly,

Sd- Sarangadhar Das.