

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Consequent upon the unwarranted opposition to Manu a unanimous resolution was passed on 28th July 1989 by the full administrative bench of the Rajasthan High Court to the effect that the statue of Maharshi Manu installed on the Jaipur premises of that Court be removed. While discussing this resolution with Dr. Surendra Kumar I was first inspired and later helped by him to file a writ petition in the Jaipur Bench of Rajasthan High Court seeking the annulment of the impugned order. Fifteen points forming our argument were put before the court for consideration. In other words the writ petition was based on these points on the strength of which it was prayed that Maharshi Manu's statue should not be moved to any other place from the one where it stood installed at that time.

The fifteen fundamental points were:-

- i. Maharshi Manu -- the first and the foremost writer of a Code of **Dharma**.
- ii. Manu -- A religious teacher and a preceptor.
- iii. The **Manusmriti** -- a major scripture of the Arya Samaj.
- iv. Manu -- the first law-giver.
- v. Manu and the **Manusmriti** -- most authentic as evidences in the view of modern scholars.
- vi. Manu's statue installed in the Supreme Court also.
- vii. Manu's wide recognition overseas.
- viii. Manu, the foremost father of mankind.
- ix. The real nature of Manu's Varna system-- a rational system.
- x. Shudras -- not untouchable in the opinion of Manu.
- xi. Manu's Penal Code -- not anti-Shudra.
- xii. Many examples and evidences in history to prove that change of Varna is possible.
- xiii. Change of Varna as per Manu's system -- a common occurrence in modern times.
- xiv. The oft-cited objectionable verses -- spurious interpolations in the **Manusmriti**.
- xv. Research on the presence of interpolations in the **Manusmriti** conclusive.

The Court summoned me also in my capacity as the petitioner to put across my point of view. I was given only limited time. So I straightway told the senior advocate pleading against Manu's statue:-

"I have based my petition on fifteen points. You may identify any

three of these which you regard as the weakest. I will confine my arguments only to the three points for the time being, leaving other points out for want of time."

It sounded amazing that someone should ask the lawyer of the rival side to take up only the three weakest points out of a total of fifteen and to confine only to them while pleading. But this senior advocate of the defendants could hardly say anything in response to this offer. Seeing no reply forthcoming the full bench ruled that I should put before the court in gist all that I had to say on the fifteen basic points. I did exactly as I was told. It took me about three full days. The Court heard me with rapt attention. When it came to the defence lawyer to put up his side of things he started looking sideways. The court record has this to say: "The advocates disparaging Manu could not dare say anything in reply even though the Court waited for twenty long minutes for securing a reply."

At long last the court passed an interim judicial order staying its own administrative resolution dated 28-7-89 to the effect that Manu's statue should be removed to some other place from the premises of the court. With the result the statue continues to stay installed just where it was.

As a matter of fact it is highly disgusting to note that a thoughtless attempt was made to have Manu's statue removed on the basis of various kinds of baseless allegations or with some ulterior motives. The aim of this tract is to caution the discerning readers against the politically motivated attacks being made on great men of India. I am, of course, grateful to Dr. Surendra Kumar who has shown extreme sense of duty, care and caution in the whole episode.

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and
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