

From: Raghavendra Rao Karadala < >

Vinayaka Damodara Savarkar -----

*"One Country - One God - One Caste - One Mind - Brothers all of us
Without Difference Without Doubt" -----*

Vinayaka ----- He was a Revolutionary, an Intellectual, a Visionary, Thinker, Activist, natural Leader, Poet, Historian, Social reformer, Freedom fighter, Roll model to many nationalists, was a fountain head of Inspiration to many and a Prolific writer to mention the least. These are just a few traits among many qualities. If we integrate all these characters into a person; that person is Vinayak Damodara Savarkar; a dear son of Bharata Mata, forgotten by an ungrateful people of Bharat ----- THE CONGRESS -----

On his birth anniversary (28th May), we pay obeisance to the patriotic Savarkar who had to endure myriad anguish and sacrifice fighting for the freedom of Motherland.

Savarkar was born on May 28, 1883 at Bhagur village, near Nashik (Maharashtra). A born patriot, he even as a child of just eleven years organized a gang of kids '*Varana (Vanar?) Sena*', conducted long tours, hiking, swimming and mountaineering around Nasik.

During his high school days, he used to organize *Sivaji Utsav* and *Ganesh Utsav*, started by Tilak (*whom Savarkar considered as his Guru*) and used these occasions to put up plays on nationalistic themes. He passionately wrote poems, essays, plays, etc. to inspire people. Later he went to Pune for his college education and founded the "*Abhinav Bharat Society*". All political activities were banned by the ruling British then and he had to undertake all transactions, communications in secret and was expelled from hostel and at one point from the college as well. On attaining the prestigious '*Shivaji scholarship*' he reached London to pursue Barrister study. In the history of struggle for Bharat's independence, V.D. Savarkar's place is unique. He had a firm belief that only a strong, armed revolt by people would liberate Bharat from the British. Savarkar organized festivals like *Raksha bandhan* and *Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti* in London and tried to create awareness among Bharatiya students. The slogan Savarkar coined for Indian festivals became a unifying factor:-

*"One Country - One God - One Caste - One Mind - Brothers all of us
Without Difference Without Doubt"*



Due to his evolutionary activities the Scotland Yard Police's noose was tightening around Savarkar. The British were very much scared of Savarkar, they very-well knew that Savarkar was a real threat to the British empire, unlike Gandhi or Nehru, who were British stooges.

Hence, the British hatched a conspiracy to implicate Savarkar, so he was arrested in 1910 and sent to Mumbai on a ship "Morena". Savarkar attempted a brave escape; he dived into the ocean and swam his way to the Marseilles port; however the French Police on guard returned him to the British cops.

After a formal trial, Savarkar was sentenced to two Life imprisonments (i.e. 50 years of imprisonment) and was sent the notorious cellular Jail at Andamans.

Life in Cellular jail, Andamans:-

- Andaman jail is infamous for its inhuman cruelty. Transportation to Andamans means merciless torture and eventual death.
- The prisoner shall wear an iron plate on his chest which indicates his date release (?) if he survives until that time. Savarkar had a plate on his chest with 1960 as year of his release (*he was sent to Andamans in 1910*).

➤•Prisoners with handcuffs, shackles and manacles on; were kept in solitary confinement.

➤•Even for a minor offence, they were kept in standing position for weeks on end with both hands chained and fixed to the wall.

➤•Half-fetters, Bar-fetters & Cross-bar fetters, each one crueler than the other were put on the prisoner.

➤•Prisoners were made to spin coir with bare hands from coconut shells, which is a very hard & harsh work.

➤•Flogging a prisoner was common; the prisoner was stripped naked and tied to a wooden framework and then lashed with a cane. With each lashing pieces of flesh flung in all directions like splinters.

➤•Some courageous & spirited men also committed suicide or went insane because of the most merciless treatment meted out to the prisoners.

➤•Last but not the least; you may not believe, men were tied to the oil mill (instead of oxen) and made to extract coconut oil. At times even oxen used to be tired, but prisoners like Savarkar got no respite from this cruel work.

Being such an illustrious person, why Savarkar had to undergo all this pain; he took it upon himself all this travail just for the sake of Bharata Mata.

Is it too much to ask my dear countrymen, to remember with reverence revolutionaries like Savarkar?

Remember that, there are many freedom fighters that are unknown to us.

- Karadala Raghavendra Rao