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## Truth & Reconciliation Commission for India

(Unabridged paper with the same theme prepared for the 76<sup>th</sup> Indian History Congress, Malda, West Bengal 27-29 December 2015)

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### PERILS INDIA IS FACING

- Furious growth of population among the poor and the uneducated.
- Growing unemployment.
- Populist competitive politics promising increasing give -aways to the "poor" without measures to enable the poor to quit poverty.
- Foreign inspired and funded religious conversions , infusing divisiveness , disaffection, intolerance and social strife .
- Intensification of caste consciousness and consolidation and competitive claims to larger degrees of backwardness.
- Falling standards in education - among teachers, examining and degree awarding bodies , often invoking "social justice".
- Maoist – Communist , Peoples Guerrilla Armies waging battles against the Indian State since the mid 1970s and lack of political will to disarm and disincentive them.
- Terrorism and holy war inspired, injected and funded by fundamentalist States and non-state actors believing in conquest by and conversion to the only true faith and its God.
- Denigration of literature and history that instill values, morality, patriotism and brother-hood and substitution of them by "sociology" that promotes caste and class conflict .
- Subversion of democracy by rearing and raising hereditary leaderships and proprietORIZATION of political parties , many based on castes and regionalism .
- Infiltration of nationals of other States and hosting of them by some locals to score demographic preponderance .

## Truth & Reconciliation Commission for India

*“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”*

- *UNESCO Constitution.*

On his visit ( 12-14, Jan 2015) to Sri Lanka Pope Francis courageously but politely referred to the ethnic and religious strife that plagued the country for over two decades and left a trail of bitterness and silent animosity between the northern and eastern regions’ Tamils/Christians and the country’s Buddhist Sinhala majority. He stressed *“The need to make a clean breast of the bitter truths of the past not to open wounds but to promote healing and restore justice”*. He further observed, “it is no easy task to overcome the bitter legacy of injustice, hostility and mistrust left by the conflict....it can be overcome by cultivating those virtues which foster reconciliation, solidarity and peace. The process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth not for the sake of opening old wounds but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice healing and unity”.

2. India’s is a tormented history since the Islamic and later European conquests of our country began. The battles between the Islamic invader rulers and the people converted to their faith on the one hand and the native Hindu rulers and people on the other were waged continuously from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in region after region, to finally end in the upsurge of native power. Prithviraj Chauhan, Rana Pratap, Krishnadeva Raya, Marathas and Sikhs kept on the fight, taking the baton one after another. The Islamic and Hindu powers fully exhausted by centuries - long warfare, together fell to the new invader, the British. This phase began in 1757 and ended in 1947.

3. But it was not a happy ending either. During the invasions and rule of the alien Afghan and Central Asian Muslims thousands of temples (over 3000) were razed to the ground; on those very bases or adjacent to the ruins, mosques were built using many of the pillars, beams and other structural members including the bases/foundations. One can see them even today

in many towns and cities; the most prominent among them are in Ayodhya (pulled down by mass fury in 1992), Kasi, Mathura, Ujjain Sidhpur, Vidisha, Jaunpur, Ajmer, Dwaraka and Rajahmundry (A.P) to name only a few.

The most famous evidence of destruction of temples and construction of mosques over them with many materials taken from the rubble was a Babri structure in Ayodhya. With evidence from the deep penetration radar tests carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at the behest of the Allahabad High Court, the Court had in the year 2010 pronounced that the Babri structure did indeed stand on the previously destroyed Hindu temple. The Court decided to give, two thirds of the disputed area to two Hindus organizations and one third to a Muslim organisation. However, with support from “eminent” historians, Muslim organisations have not accepted this verdict of the Allahabad High Court and denying the act of destruction of the Hindu temple, they have gone on appeal to the Supreme Court of India . This shows the stubborn unwillingness to accept the guilt of destroying Hindu temples. That destruction of temples and statues is religiously sanctioned is evident from the Taliban blowing up the world famous Buddha’ statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan in 2006.

4. The properties of many of the defeated were confiscated and constituted into *waqfs*, the income from which is still being used for the welfare of the (erstwhile) conquering hordes; the widows of the Hindu soldiers slain in battles were herded into harems; children and captives were sold in the slave bazaars of Baghdad and elsewhere; an alien language (Persian) and later Urdu in Nawabi princely States was the official language; *zezia* (a poll tax) was imposed on non- converting Hindus during several Islamist regimes. During the earlier conquests, great loot of gold and other precious treasures were carried away. **All these facts recorded by foreign Muslim scribes who came in the wake of the invaders are denied or ascribed to the then prevailing characteristics of conquest, thus perpetuating the revenge and justice demanding psyche of the wronged Hindus.**

5. Crowning all this injustice and injury to the for long freedom-deprived Hindus was the partition of India and creation of the Islamic states of Pakistan and Bangladesh . The elders and forefathers of Muslims of what is left as India were the people, who said that they are not a minority but a separate nation, separate from Hindus - through the separate electorate they had, over 98% voted for the partition and Pakistan- demanding Muslim League in the 1946 general elections to the provincial and central legislatures; thereafter they took to Direct Action from 16 Aug 1946, leading to horrible riots from Bengal to Punjab and beyond. India was divided and the Islamic state of Pakistan was created, as home-land for the subcontinent's Muslims. But most Muslims in what remains as India did not migrate to the nation- state they voted and rioted for and created. Even as Pakistan reduced its Hindu-Sikh population from 19% to 1.5% and Bangladesh reduced its Hindu-Buddhist population from about 30% to under 7%; the Muslim population in remnant India increased from 9.5% in 1951 to 14.3% by 2011.

That the division of India and the creation of the Islamic state of Pakistan was almost entirely due to the Muslims of what is now India was made plain by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in his address at Jama Masjid on 23 October 1947 to a large gathering of Muslims. He said, "Do you remember? I hailed you, you cut off my tongue. I picked up my pen, you severed my hand. I wanted to move forward, you cut my legs. I tried to turn over, and you injured me in the back. When the bitter political games of the last seven years were at their peak, I tried to wake you up at every danger signal... I warned you that the two-nation theory was the death-knell to a meaningful and dignified life, forsake it. To all this you turned a deaf ear. And now you have discovered that the anchors of your faith have set you adrift. **The debacle of Indian Muslims is the result of the colossal blunders committed by the Muslim League's misguided leadership.**" (Syed Saiyidin Hameed's translation of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's talk in Urdu.dt. 23 -10- 1947)

6. Muslim parties and their leaders, are reverting to pre-1947 politics demanding among others, **carving out Muslim majority districts,**

**reservations, separate welfare budgets, separate laws, separate educational institutions, privileges and exemptions not available to Hindus** (eg. Minority Engineering Colleges) no constitution-directed laws (eg. Common Civil Code) can be legislated as they oppose such a move; they must be free to host alien infiltrators of their faith ( eg: Rohingyas from Myanmar and Muslims from Bangladesh ; limitless number of madrassas should be allowed to function and government must fund them and their muezzins etc.

7. Communal i.e Muslim –Hindu riots were (falsely) ascribed to the British rulers' policy of "divide and rule". The British had gone away 68 years ago; riots are now more numerous and far more deadly. Under Muslim rule, there could be no riots; the ruling community could carry out any violence on the unarmed and defenceless subject Hindu population. **Under the British rule, Muslims and Hindus became equal; equal in slavery and so could riot, use force in attack and retaliation,** until the non-Indian, British rulers could quell the riots and punish the guilty. the British did not divide Moslems from Hindus; they allowed the inherent division to widen, so that in the name of providing adequate protection to minorities, they could prolong their rule. Citing imperial Britain's "divide and rule" policy as cause for Hindu-Muslim division and strife is just obfuscation of the historic struggles between the invader-settler-converted on the one hand and the unconverted natives on the other hand.

8. **There are calls for one more partition of India to create Mogulistan** comprising northern parts of Bengal, Bihar and U.P with choice for that state to join Bangladesh or Pakistan or be a third independent Muslim state in the Indian sub-continent. This proposal was advanced by a Prof. Amar Abbas in the December 2000 issue of the leftist journal, "Economic & Political Weekly".

This proposition of his fifty three years after he first partition reminds us of what Dr Ambedkar said about Pakistan as the DNA, a characteristic acquired by Muslims in the country. In his famous book, "*Pakistan or the Partition of India*. He wrote "*I do not think the demand for*

*Pakistan is the result of mere political distemper, which will pass away with the efflux of time. As I read the situation, it seems to me that it is a characteristic in the biological sense of the term which the Muslim body politic has developed in the same manner as an organism develops a characteristic. Whether it will survive or not, in the process of natural selection, must depend upon the forces that may become operative in the struggle for existence between Hindus and Musalmans .*

Many Hindus feel that Muslims and not Hindus got freedom from foreign rule; India can make only such laws and rules which are not objected to by the minorities , ie. Muslims .

9. Hindus are paying a type of zezia, Rs. 1300 cr in 2013-14 to subsidise Moslems' Haj pilgrimage; (in A.P Hindus are paying for Christians' pilgrimage to their Holy Land (Israel/Palestine). But they (Hindus) are required to pay for their travel and also buy a ticket to see Balaji in Tirumala or any other shrine anywhere in India or outside ( Kailas/ Manasaraover in Tibet). Some Madrassas and certain minority residential localities in cities like Hyderabad are hosting "sleeper cells" for jihadi terrorists; some Muslims are joining the ranks of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

10. Since the BJP has come to power at the Union level in Delhi and many states, many Hindus want to freely express their hitherto suppressed resentment of the Muslims ' past (the invaders' loot, destruction of temples, monuments to their defeat and subjugation and humiliation in the form of mosques on or astride desecrated ad destroyed temples, change of Hindu names of cities to those of conquerors - eg. Allahabad for Prayaga, Muslims have intensified and cry, "minority insecurity" and minorities exclusion .(Just recall the Pirpur, Fazul Huq and Sheriff Reports on atrocities on Muslims during the "Congress's Hindu Raj" during 1937-'39 commissioned by Md. Ali Jinnah's Muslim League). The situation is full of risks and has potential for extensive and serious strife as some look forward to the righting of the historic **wrongs, even as the wrongs continue to be denied in spite of what can be seen** as Quwwatul Islam (Delhi) ; Adhaidin ka Jhopra (Ajmer);

Siddhpur (Gujarat); Vidisha (MP) Jaunpur ( UP) ; Mathura and Varanasi (U.P) , in and Somanth (Gujarat). (A detailed account of the standing monuments to Hindus' humiliation by Muslim conquests is in pages 141 to 165 of the tome "The Saffron Book" by Praful Goradia (published b y Contemporary Targets Ltd, New Delhi) and many other places and daring construction now of an International Islamic University and an Arabic College for Women disregarding all rules at the foot hills of Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh), held as Kaliyuga Vaikuntham by a billion and more Hindus.

11. Hindus had committed grievous and criminal wrongs on a section of their own people-**dalits**, for centuries. Since the last century, wisdom dawned upon them; they have acknowledged their Crime and in repentance and recompense, the dalits are by our Constitution and laws, are being given affirmative action –reservations in admission to educational institutions and jobs in government and public sector enterprises. Besides, laws like prevention of untouchability and atrocities are enacted; special welfare measures and easy finance for their enterprises are implemented; house sites are given and houses are being built. Above all, reserved representation is given to them in state legislatures and Parliament . It is not the present generations of Hindus who perpetrated the wrongs; it was their ancestors; yet the guilt is admitted by the descendants who are paying for it. Muslims ruled and did havoc to Hindus, chronicled by the court historians. Denying them and explaining them away as the practice prevalent among conquerors/invaders in the past is rubbing salt in the wounds. Two great non-Hindu, non-Moslem, famous historians' observations are relevant to recall.

### ***Bloodiest Conquests:***

*"The Mohamedan conquest of India is probably the bloodiest story in history. It is a discouraging tale, for its evident moral is that civilization is a precarious thing, whose delicate complex of order and liberty, culture and peace may at any time be overthrown by barbarians invading from without or multiplying within"*

*-Will Durant: Story of Civilization*

### ***Aurangzeb: Kashi and Mathura:***

*“Aurangzeb’s purpose in building these mosques ( Kashi and Mathura) was the same intentionally offensive political purpose that moved the Russians to build their Cathedral in the city center at Warsaw. I must say that Aurangzeb was a veritable genius for picking out provocative sites. Aurangzeb and Phillip –II of Spain are a pair. They are incarnations of the gloomy fanatical vein in Christian, Muslim and Jewish family of religions.....Perhaps the Poles were really kinder in destroying the Russians’ self discrediting monuments in Warsaw than you (Indians) have been in sparing Aurangzeb’s mosques.*

– Arnold Toynbee,

*The world famous historian and philosopher in his  
Azad Memorial Lecture at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai -1963*

12. In South Africa, the whites mostly from Netherlands and Germany and a few Britons colonized the land and converted the local people to Christianity. As the revered Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu has said, “**when you, (the whites) came here, you had the Book (the bible), and we had the land. Now we have the Book and you have the land**”. The Christian charity and brotherhood did not extend to the South African Blacks. In a policy of **apartheid**, untouchable separateness the black natives although they were converted to Christianity, had become more or less slaves and untouchables deprived of much of their land, deprived of education, deprived of common humanity and confined to mere ghettos. The struggle of the Black South Africans was long drawn and it was only in 1994 that the whites under DeClerk realised that it would no longer be possible for 8% or 9% white supremacist minority to hold down the native black population forever. In great wisdom the Whites accepted Black majority rule. The great Nelson Mandela was freed from prison to which he was consigned for 27 years. Nelson Mandela is one of the greatest human beings He forgave the white tormentors and rulers and occupiers and despoilers of his land. He got his fellow countrymen not to look upon the Whites as enemies and aliens but as fellow citizens, for their forefathers had come there a few hundred years ago. But he wanted that the whites to be aware of and acknowledge the

atrocities that they had committed. If they repented sincerely, the Black majority would forgive them and forget the past and together, they would forge a new nation. Mandela as President of South Africa appointed a **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** consisting of eminent Blacks and Whites, precisely with the objectives which Pope Francis placed before Sri Lanka, before the newly elected President, Maitripala Sirisena. This has no parallel in history. Mandela told the Whites that whosoever had committed crimes against humanity the Black majority people if he confessed his crimes before the Commission and repented, his chapter would be closed. He would not be investigated. He would be forgiven; he would live as a free citizen with no guilty conscience. He has also asked his fellow Black Africans to confess the crimes they committed against the Whites, may be in vengeance but all the same, it was crime to kill innocents, he said. The great Nelson Mandela set an example of reconciling the perpetrators of crime after their sincere repentance with those who had been their victims.

13. Nelson Mandela’s and South Africa’s example was followed in country after country. In Peru as soon as the natives became the majority and gained political power, they constituted **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**. Now, Canada is following their example. The Canadian government in a statesman-like fashion apologised for the crimes that the settlers committed against the natives. They are also setting apart Canadian US \$ 110 bln to settle the claims of the indigenous people known as the First Nations people, Metis and Inuits who constitute around 1.2 mln of the total population of 33 mln Canadians. Canada is sincerely and painfully wanting to make up for the past neglect and exploitation and deprivation of its native citizens. The Australian government and the main political parties had also apologized to the aboriginals. In a great mood of repentance, they are now bestowing great care and finances to quickly bring up the aboriginals who though converted to Christianity, had been deprived of brotherhood. There is a beautiful book, “**Why Didn’t You Not Tell Me**” by an Australian aboriginal author which describes how Christian missions in Australia had snatched infants from their aboriginal parents and headed them in Christian schools and hostels, instilling alienation from their tribes.

14. It is therefore expedient and wise to heed to the counsels of the Pope and the late Nelson Mandela and the statesmen of Peru and Canada and constitute a **Truth and Reconciliation Commission for our country too.** If the negationism in Islamist and Marxist historiography of India continues, the thwarted aspirations of Hindus for freedom in their only land and the opposition to them by the former ruling communities, could be explosive strife. It would be prudent to avoid it through timely and sincere work of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in India. Those whose elders and ancestors committed horrible crimes on the defeated and subject peoples and those crimes are not acknowledged but denied even as evidence attests to the crimes, feel insecure when the former subjects who are the overwhelming majority gain independence and adopt electoral democracy for governance. The arrogant denial of the past acts and espousal of special rights and privileges as minority is incipient reversion to pre-1947 two-nation theory and must be avoided.

END

(The Appendix carries brief notes about the famous temples so dear to Hindus destroyed by successive Muslim invader rulers)

## **Appendix**

(The matter in this appendix is briefly excerpted from Sri Praful Goradia's tome,  
"The Saffron Book" published in Y 2002 )

### **Hindus' Feelings: Muslims' Insensitivity**

**(Need for Truth to be established & Reconciliation to be Wrought)**

It is difficult for a Muslim to imagine how bitterly a sensitive Hindu feels when he visits, say, Quwwatul Islam masjid next to the Qutub Minar. Or, when he goes to Brindavan and sees the Govind Dev temple, as it were, chopped off at the middle of its height by Aurangzeb because he could not tolerate a mashaal or torch at Vrindavan being seen from as far away as Delhi or Agra. Not to speak of the Idgaah on the site believed to be the birthplace of Sri Krishna. Today, Krishna is worshipped in, what could be called, a cellar or even a servant quarter in the Idgaah. The sad tale of Kashi Vishwanath temple at Benares is well known as is the tragedy of Somnath. (P 125)

The Hindu humiliation was further internalised. And the Muslim remained largely unaware of the trauma that his forefathers had perpetrated and how it could one day crystallise into venom. One should not wallow in the past. It is much better to live in the future. But then there cannot be vision without history or, simpler still, a follow through without a backswing. To that extent, the past is important. Looking at it another way, **memory is necessarily about the past and would man be very different from animals if he did not have a memory? It is due to the same memory that today the Hindu feels guilty of the way he maltreated the dalit for centuries. It is Hindus' guilt towards dalits.** (P 126)

And now he wishes to go out of his way to uplift the oppressed. I am glad that a responsible Hindu does not argue: "*what can I do if my great grandfather was unfair to the dalits of his day? It is not my fault*". **As with the**

**Hindu, should it not be so with the Muslim? An expression of regret and redressal for the sins of the sultans is expected of the Muslim community, and no further desecrations as during 1990 and 1992 in Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Kashmir Valley. (P 126)**

#### **Forgetting the Past:**

What had happened during the medieval centuries needs to be forgotten once and for all. This is possible provided the Muslim leadership make a gesture that would wipe out the deep seated humiliations which the **Hindus, as a community, find difficult to forget and that is the desecration of thousands of their temples over the centuries.** (P 133)

F.S.Growse of the Bengal Civil Service, 130 years ago, experienced and expressed such pathos over the profanities at Mathura, as did Reverend Matthew Atmore Sherring over the fate of Benares. (P 133)

#### **Quawwatul Islam : (Near Qutub Minar): Delhi**

**The Quwwat ul Islam (The Might of Islam) mosque near the Qutub Minar** in Delhi is also a monument of humiliation in more ways than one. So is the **Adhai din ka jhopra at Ajmer**. Apart from hurting religious sentiments, it also is a reminder of the humiliating defeat and murder of Prithviraj Chauhand who had earlier defeated and forgiven Mohammed Ghauri at the First Battle of Tarain. The Hindu humiliation substantively began with the victory of Ghauri in the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D. **Victory and defeat are two faces of any battle. But is there any need to desecrate a temple and build a masjid to make the defeat unforgettable? (P133)**

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan proudly wrote about the replacement of 27 temples for the Qawwatul Islam. What he wrote is best read in his original words from his Urdu book called **Asaru's Sanadid**, edited by **Prof.Khaleeq Anjum**, published in 1990, Volume I, page 305.

“ Quwwatul Islam Masjid: when Qutubud-Din, the Commander-in-Chief of Muissu'd-Din Sam alias Shihabu'd-Din Ghuri, conquered Delhi in AH 587 corresponding to AD 1191 corresponding to 1248 Bikarmi, this **idol-house** (of Rai Pithora) **was converted into a mosque**. The idol was taken out of the temple. Some of the images sculptured on walls or doors or pillars were

effaced completely, some were defaced But the structure of the idol-house was kept standing as before. **Materials from twenty-seven temples**, which were worth five crore and forty laksh of Dilwals, **were used in the mosque**, and an inscription giving the date of conquest and his own name was installed on the eastern gate....

When Malwah and Ujjain were conquered by Sultan Shamsu'd-Din in AH 631 corresponding to AD 1233, then **the idol-house of Mahkal was demolished and its idols as well as the statue of Raja Bikramajit were brought to Delhi, they were strewn in front of the door of the mosque...**

In books of history, this mosque has been described as **Masjid-i-Adinah and Jama Masjid** Delhi, but Masjid Quwwat al-Islam is mentioned nowhere. It is not known as to when this name was adopted. Obviously, it seems that **when this idol-house was captured, and the mosque constructed, it was named Quwwat al-Islam.**” (P143)

#### **Adhai Din Ka Jhopra Masjid: Ajmer**

A triple temple complex existed (built in 1158AD) a furlong beyond the now famous dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer. The complex is popularly called Adhai din ka jhopra or the hut of two and a half days. So called because the triple temples were converted into a masjid over two and a half days. (Q5 P.145..)

The stipulated (by him) two and a half days.

Muhammad Ghauri offered prayers within the stipulated (by him) two and a half days.. Subsequently in about 1200 A.D the adhai din ka jhopra was completed with a well carved facade which is best described in the words of Ehrer in the Archaeological Survey Report for the year 1893. (P 145)

#### **Rudramahalaya Complex, Sidhapur: Gujarat**

Rudra Mahalaya complex was converted into a mosque. The work of the Archaeological Survey of India to discover the destroyed temple's remains are being thwarted since 1983 by the National Minorities Commission.



On the intervention of the National Minorities Commission (NMC) the Archaeological Survey of India has been prevented since 1983 from carrying out any excavation in or around the Rudra Mahalaya Complex where once existed the tallest temple in Gujarat. From its top were visible glimpses of Patam, the capital of ancient kings of Guajrat, some 25 kms away. (P 151)

...only a few fragments of the multi shrine now survive. With its adjacent shrines possibly eleven parts of which were **converted into Jamia Masjid** in the Mughal period, it must have performed part of a grand composition dedicated to the Ekadasa Rudras. (P 152)

..the National Minorities Commission influenced the governments both at Delhi and Gandhinagar into freezing the excavation work that was begun by the ASI in 1979. The details are available across 38 pages in the Commission's own Fourth Annual Report of 1983. The excavations were revealing many broken pieces of Hindu Gods. These proved so embarrassing to the Muslims that their leaders were anxious to bury the discoveries. (P152)

According to the report of N.M.C, Begam Aysha, MLA, played a leading part in this cover up operation. K.T. Satarawala, the then Adviser to the Governor of Gujarat, also played a yeoman's role providing a detailed report on the subject. That the Muslim appellants were able to push the Archaeological Survey about, is best seen from the fourth annual report itself of the National Minorities Commission. (P 153)

Shri A.S. Quereshi, Advocate, for the (Muslim) Trustees issued a notice dated the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1980, to the Superintendent, Archaeological Department; asking the Department to build the compound walls as per **the compromise and to cover up the temple remains**. The Superintendent, Archaeological Department, explained in person the importance of the discoveries made and **the need for revision of compromise in the** interest of preserving the precious cultural heritage of the country. (P 153)

As Shri Quereshi wanted to visit the site along with Superintended. Archaeological Department, he went to Siddhpur on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1980s. At, first, he agreed to the preservation but later he insisted on closing the trenches in his very presence that day. The Superintendent, Archaeological Department, ordered closure of the trenches and construction of compound wall and both the works were started in his presence. (P 153)

By extensive excavation all over Israel, after the State was re-established in 1948, Jews are able to establish the truth destruction of their cities, forts, temples ( Synagogues) by invaders rulers. In India, Nehru Dynasty did not allow any discovery of the evidence of vandalism and iconoclasm of the invader ruler settlers in during 700 years ( 11<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century) .

### **Keshav Dev Temple: Mathura**

The most famous temple – that dedicated to Kesava Deva - was destroyed, in 1669, the eleventh year of the reign of the iconoclastic Aurangzeb. The mosque erected on its ruins is a building of little architectural value. the so-called Katra, in which it stands, is an oblong enclosure, like a sarai, 104 feet I length and 653 feet in breadth. In its centre, is a raised terrace, 172 feet long and 86 feet broad upon which now stands the mosque or idgah.

How proud the Muslim chronicler of this event felt is evident from this quote in his book, Maasir-e-Alamgiri.

In a short time with a short of numerous work men this seat of error was utterly broken down. Glory be to God that so difficult an undertaking has been successfully accomplished in the present auspicious reign ( of Aurngzeb) wherein so many dens of hitherism and idolatry have been destroyed ! Seeing the power of Islam and efficacy of true religion .

Seeing the power of Islam and the efficacy of true religion, the proud rajas felt their breath burning in their throats and became as dumb as a picture on a wall . The idols, large and small alike, all adorned with costly jewels, were buried under the steps of Nawab Kudsia Begum's mosque, so that people might trample upon them forever. It was from this event that Mathura was called Islamabad. (P 159/160)

If there is one circumstance respecting the Mohammedan period which Hindus remember better than another, it is the insulting pride of the Musulmans, the outrages which they perpetrated upon their religious convictions, and the extensive spoliation of their temples and shrines. It is right that Europeans should clearly understand that this spirit of Mohammedanism is unchangeable, and that, if by any mischance, India should again come into the possession of men of this creed, all the churches and colleges ad all the Mission institutions, would not be worth a week's purchase. (P 161,162)

## Vidisha:

Bijamandal Mosque was raised by Aurangzeb in 1682 over the Vijay Mandir. He renamed Vidisha as Alamgirpur. (P155)

The ASI is not allowed to work on the site of the ruins. Nehru was complicit in suppressing the truth.

## Atala Devi Masjid: Jaunpur

Mohammed bin Tughlaq's proper name was Jauna. The Hindu name of the town was Manaich. This was changed as Jaunpur. What are known as Atala Devi Masjid and the Ghar Ungli Masjid structures are temples redone as masjids. The temples were demolished by the brother of Sultan Tughlaq and the mosque was erected upon it. (HR Nevill ICS in the Gazetteer of Jaunpur) (P 147)

## Kasi Viswanath Temple, Gyan Vapi Mosque: Varanasi

Aurangzeb changed the name of Kasi/Varanasi to Muhammadabad. Aurangzeb had the Bishweswar temple demolished in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Extensive remains of this ancient temple are still visible and form a large portion of the western wall of the mosque which was built on its site to humiliate the Hindus. The masjid is next to Gyan Vapi, the Well of knowledge.

A new temple was built at the behest of Ahalyabai Holkar in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

A Christian evangelist, Matthew Atmore Sherring, belonging to the London Missionary Society in his book Benaras the Sacred City of Hindus published in 1868 wrote, "if there is one circumstance respecting the Mohammedan period which Hindus remember better than another, it is the insulting pride of the Musalmans, the outrageous which they perpetrated upon their religious convictions and the extensive spoliation of their temples and shrines". It is right that Europeans should clearly understand that this spirit of Mohammadanism is unchangeable and that if by any chance India should again come into the possession of men of this creed, all the Churches and colleges and all the missionary institutions would not be worth a week's purchase. (P 161)

## Aurangzeb: Kashi and Mathura

The world famous historian and philosopher Arnold Toynbee in his Azad Memorial Lecture at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai -1963 observed "Aurangzeb's purpose in building these mosques (Kashi and Mathura) was the same intentionally offensive political purpose that moved the Russians to build their Cathedral in the city center at Warsaw. I must say that Aurangzeb was a veritable genius for picking out provocative sites. Aurangzeb and Phillip -II of Spain are a pair. They are incarnations of the gloomy fanatical vein in Christian, Muslim and Jewish family of religions.....Perhaps the Poles were really kinder in destroying the Russians' self discrediting monuments in Warsaw than you (Indians) have been in sparing Aurangzeb's mosques. - Arnold Toynbee,

## Somnath - Dwaraka : Gujarat

Lord Shiva's temple here was destroyed on four occasions by four different Mohammedan invader rulers and as many times rebuilt. The final (5<sup>th</sup>) destruction was during Aurangzeb's time. This was reconstructed after India gained independence under government supervision although the money was subscribed by the people of India.

Here is what professor Mohammed Nazeem wrote in his book, "The Life And Times Of Sultan Muhammad Of Ghazna (the first looter and destroyer of Somnath) : "the destruction of the temple of Somnath was looked upon as the crowning glory of Islam over idolatry, and Sultan Mahmud as the champion of the Faith, received the applause of all the Muslim world. One poet has outdone another in extolling the iconoclasm of Mehmud. Shykh Faridu'd Din Attar said that Sultan preferred to be a idol breaker rather than an idol seller. While rejecting the offer of the Hindus to ransom the idol of Somnath with its weight in gold, Mahmud is supposed to have said I am afraid that on the Day of Judgement when all the idolaters are brought into the presence of Allah, He would say: bring Adhar and Mahmud together; one was idol maker, the other idol seller. Adhar or Ezra, the uncle of Abraham, according to the Quran, made his living by carving idols. The former would go to heaven while the latter be condemned to hell" (P 164).

