

Mahatma Gandhi's Vision: Radhakrishna's Action

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Foreword

The life and work of Shri Radhakrishna dedicated to the lowly and lost, mind remind of the words of poet Tagore: "Centuries follow which each other perfecting a small wildflower". Likewise, the decades of Shri Radhakrishna were to illumine the life of those who had treasured the millennial way of a simple living and of all-embracing happiness of inclusivity. As an ardent and assiduous disciple of Gandhiji, he saw in every person, "What shines in the Sun and shines in the Man are one and the same" in the words of the Yajurveda 40.17. Post-Independent India became the overwhelming concern for individual self at the total neglect of societal interests. The so-called economic and technological development pushed aside the quest of meaningful life yet value conscious seekers like Shri Radhakrishna toiled for a just and equitable order.

Today he lives in our hearts and minds as a symbol and summons to duty to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. When India was awakened to freedom, Gandhiji wrote to Nehru, 'India has enough and can have enough if some of her sons did not corner the good things and deprive the masses of their dues.' These self-sufficient rural republics of Gandhiji were assassinated along with him. Shri Radhakrishna and his friends tried to mitigate the gross injustice of capital and profit at one end and poverty and employment on the other. Socialist objectives without the spiritual background of Gandhiji replaced the Republic of India by the Republic of the Indian elite engulfed in a consumerist society in the midst of a harrowing daily struggle for survival of the needy and destitute, who constitute a major segment of our society.

The very name Radhakrishna is the majesty of India's vision of the divine in the humility of the cowherd Krishna and his consort Radha the joy and beauty of life. Away from grandiose Radha and Krishna are the idyllic great pastures of the villages, animal husbandry housing based on local materials, need-based industries in which the humble in the land could receive his share and satisfy his minimum needs. Radhakrishna was a dedication to this classical symbol, in conformity to his bestowed by his affectionate parents. He worked to further the nationwide reconstruction of the foundation of India's rural life through basic education accessible to all, learning through doing, production basic necessities, full self-employment and so on. It was the satisfaction of basic human needs but for each and everyone.

This short recount of the life and work, ideals and values of Shri Radhakrishna reminds of our unfinished duty to concretize all-round and harmonious development of all sectors of society so that the dignity of the human being is apparent in the beauty of life. He summons us to dedicate ourselves to human well-being in the belief that the last and lost person in need is the divine Lord Himself (Daridra-Narayana). Our homage Shri Radhakrishna who lives a life greater than his own, in the pulse beats of the tomorrow:

I bring you some water lost in your memory,

Follow me to the spring and find a secret.

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