

SHRI VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR

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Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Vinayak was his grand father) was a revolutionary who was sentenced for life imprisonment (50 years) by the British Court and sent to Port Blair Cellular jail in Andaman known as “Kala Paani”

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagpur village near Nashik

- ◆ At the age of 12 Poem- “Shrimant Sawai Madhavraaancharang” (on the Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao)
- ◆ At the age of 15-Poem- “Swadeshicha Phatka” (about swadeshi)
- ◆ At the age of 14 delivered speech organising Ganeshotsava, to tell people that a man’s religion is not corrupted by his diet

- ◆ Poona was one of the political centre where movement against the British Rule had deep roots
- ◆ In late 1896 and 1897, Poona was hit by Plague
- ◆ Some British officers were allegedly misbehaved with women while searching house to house for mice and Plague cases
- ◆ In reaction to above, the Chapekar brothers assassinated Mr W C Rand, a British officer
- ◆ The Chapekar brothers were arrested and later hanged
- ◆ The Chapekar brothers' sacrifice left deep prints on the psyche of Savarkar

In 1900, Savarkar founded “Mitra Mela” organisation in Nashik which later renamed as “Abhinav Bharat” who preached a revolutionary struggle against the British

- ◆ In the beginning, this organisation was revolutionary and aimed at to achieve independence by all means and work underground and openly both
- ◆ Abhinav Bharat encouraged celebration of “Shivaji Jayanti” and “Ganesh Mahotsava”
- ◆ The youth having revolutionary ideas join Abhinav Bharat in huge numbers

- ◆ Savarkar became more active in Abhinav Bharat activities after becoming graduate in 1905
- ◆ He took admission in Law in Bombay
- ◆ London based and founded by Dr Shyam Krishna Verma, “Home Rule Society” awarded scholarship to Savarkar for studying in London on the recommendation of Lokmanya Tilak
- ◆ Savarkar father in law Mr Chiplonkar also financially assisted him

- ◆ Savarkar had come into the notice of British Government for his anti British activities
- ◆ Before leaving, Savarkar clearly conveyed that he will continue to inculcate nationalist feelings among Indian youths even in Britain
- ◆ In 1906 at the age of 21, Savarkar went England
- ◆ Savarkar founded “Free India Society”, within one year of stay in London
- ◆ He conducted several meetings at several places and shared revolution stories of Italy, France, America etc.

- ◆ DR Shyam Krishna Verma closed Home Rule League activities and merged it into Free India Society. The building “India House” handed over to Savarkar
- ◆ Lala Hardayalji who also went London for ICS examination also joined Savarkar
- ◆ Harinder Chatopadhyay, brother of Late Sarojini Naidu; famous revolutionary Bhai Parmanand; Gyan Chandra Verma; Senapati Japat; Madam Mikaji Kama, the first Parsi revolutionary lady etc. impressed by Savarkar’s splendid personality and fierce love for Bharat
- ◆ A paper, “Bande Matram” was used to publish by Abhinav Bharat, under editorship of Madam Kama

- ◆ This was the time when “Bhang Bhang Movement” in India had taken violent form
- ◆ Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra witnessed violent actions
- ◆ Lala Lajpat Rai and Mr Ajeet Singh banished from Punjab
- ◆ In reaction, India House became active centre for anti British activities
- ◆ Savarkar distributed autobiography of Italy’s revolutionary Giuseppe Mazzini
- ◆ Savarkar book on “1857 Sepoy Mutiny”, later named “India’s First war of Independence”, banned by the British, published in Holland and its copies were smuggled into India , later translated into many Indian languages

- ◆ Savarkar suddenly went Wales to avoid his arrest in London
- ◆ He became ill, even then his article published in Talwar Magazine
- ◆ In India at that time a youth killed Nashik Collector Jackson in reaction of life imprisonment to Savarkar elder brother Ganesh Savarkar
- ◆ Very soon, Savarkar younger brother Narain and many his friends arrested for serious panel codes of murder
- ◆ The British India government blamed Savarkar for these events
- ◆ Savarkar moved to France escaping arrest but came back London on 13 march, 1910 and arrested

- ◆ Savarkar was sent to India in a Ship , he escaped from ship jumping on the ocean, reached on French shore to Marsalles on 08 July,1910, swam a great distance in cold water, plead French Policeman who could not unstop him and he was recaptured.
- ◆ On 22 July, 1910 he reached India and sent Nashik jail.
- ◆ Later France opposed his arrest from its soil, matter was brought before International Court of Justice.
- ◆ Savarkar arrest story published in France.
- ◆ Later France withdrew its plea under British pressure.
- ◆ Savarkar adventure made him very popular in India.

- ◆ This was the time when British India Government set up special tribunal to try revolutionaries
- ◆ Savarkar awarded life imprisonment and 'Kala Paani' for promoting assassination of Jackson and assist in Nashik conspiracy
- ◆ Savarkar did not disturb and reacted in these words, that 'unless until one does not feel pain and self sacrifice our loving motherland will not be free.'
- ◆ Savarkar was kept in Dogri jail near Bombay for few days and then shifted to Andaman, 2280 Km away from Bombay, surrounded by dense forest, high winds and mosquitoes

He wrote many articles and books i.e. “Hindupadpadshahi” (about Maratha rule over India); Biography of Mazzini (in Marathi); The drama, “Usshaap”; “My Transportation of Life” etc. who were initially banned by the British but inspired youth

- ◆ Savarkar gradually became very ill between 1919-1921
- ◆ Application with about 70 thousand signatures requested British government for his release, ‘Savarkar Week’ was also celebrated
- ◆ Under pressure, the British Government sent Savarkar to Calcutta Ratnagiri Jail in May, 1921, later freed on 6 January, 1924 after 13 years of jail but imposed many restrictions

- ◆ Savarkar after coming out of jail and not in good health, involved himself in social service and started campaign against practice of untouchability
- ◆ He became medium in establishing a temple “Sri Patit Pawan” temple where everyone was free to offer prayers
- ◆ He was used to go among Dalits, had meals with them
- ◆ He also started “Shuddhi Movement” and reconverted many people into Hinduism who were converted from Hinduism on the basis of some offers

- ◆ Savarkar defined Hinduism as follows:
“Bharat Land spread from Sindhu (River) to Sindhu (Ocean), who accepts it as his ancestral land and pious land, He is Hindu.”
- ◆ British Government withdrew all sanctions over Savarkar on 08 May, 1937
- ◆ All Political Parties welcomed him and invited him to join, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru also invited him
- ◆ Savarkar choose his mission:- to work for Hindu Organisation

- ◆ Savarkar defined Hinduism as follows:
“Bharat Land spread fromSindhu(River) to Sindhu(Ocean), who accepts it as his ancestral land and pious land, He is Hindu.”
- ◆ However Savarkar praised Awadh ruler Wajid Ali and Rohilkhand rebel Chieftain Khan Bahadur Khan for fighting against the British,but he saw India nation as a nation based on Hinduness
- ◆ He defined the nation as based on the unifying Hinduness of its people and called as march for a combative spirit as a cohesive one if India were to retain its essence which was its Hindu civilisation and Hindu way of life
- ◆ He was of the opinion that Hindu is ancient, the letter ‘Sa’ in Sanskrit was often turned into ‘Ha’ in the Prakrit, therefore, the land of Sapta Sindhus was referred to as ‘Hapta Hindu’ in the ancient Persian scriptures. Thus, anyone who considered this nation as his/her Pitrabhu(fatherland) and Punyabhu(Holy land) was a Hindu

- ◆ Savarkar became active member of Hindu Mahasabha
- ◆ In 1941, Hindu Mahasabha Convention was planned at Bhagalpur, Bihar to be chaired by him but Bihar Government arrested him for a week, his powerful speech as read at the convention
- ◆ Savarkar opposed Cripps Plan and emphasised undivided India
- ◆ After division of India, in independent India, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Godse, Savarkar was arrested in this case but was later in February, 1949, freed

- ◆ When 26 January, 1950 republican system was officially declared and Dr Rajendra Prasad elected as first Indian president, Savarkar sent good wishes to him and Savarkar expressed his willingness to work for the country but India Government banned Hindu Mahasabha and RSS in the background of preparation of Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact implementation (Pact was signed on April 8, 1950 after six days hectic negotiations, aimed at to end communal riots and threat of war)
- ◆ Savarkar opposed the Pact, claiming that Indian Government would take care of minorities but dignity and life of Hindus in Pakistan would not be protected)
- ◆ Savarkar was kept in jail for one year in this respect
- ◆ India celebrated golden ceremony of 1857 independence battle in which Savarkar actively participated and expressed his views as chairman in the programme:-

GANDHI AND SAVARKAR

- ◆ Savarkar came to London on 24 June, 1906, Gandhiji came to London in October 1906 and met Savarkar
- ◆ Savarkar passed his Law examination in July, 1909, however Bar denied his certificate alleging involvement against British India Government activities. Gandhiji once again came in London in November, 1909. Gandhiji organised a meeting to celebrate “Vijayadashmi.” Savarkar requested him to participate, Gandhiji attended and in spite of differences with Savarkar, said that “May India bear the fruits of his sacrifice”
- ◆ In 1927, Savarkar was in internment in Ratnagiri and was very ill, Gandhiji visited town at a part of his tour to Maharashtra. Gandhiji met Savarkar on his invitation at his house and praised his patriotism and sacrifice.

- ◆ Savarkar was feeling restlessness after Indo China Conflict in 1962 and Indo Pakistan war in 1965, he already had warned Indian Government for these adventures
- ◆ His health gradually deteriorated, he virtually adopted process of Samadhimaran and slowly slowly left food, remained on water for few days and finally, left the world on 26 February, 1966.
- ◆ He can be a source of inspiration for younger generation in the building of strong India/Bharat

Thank you!