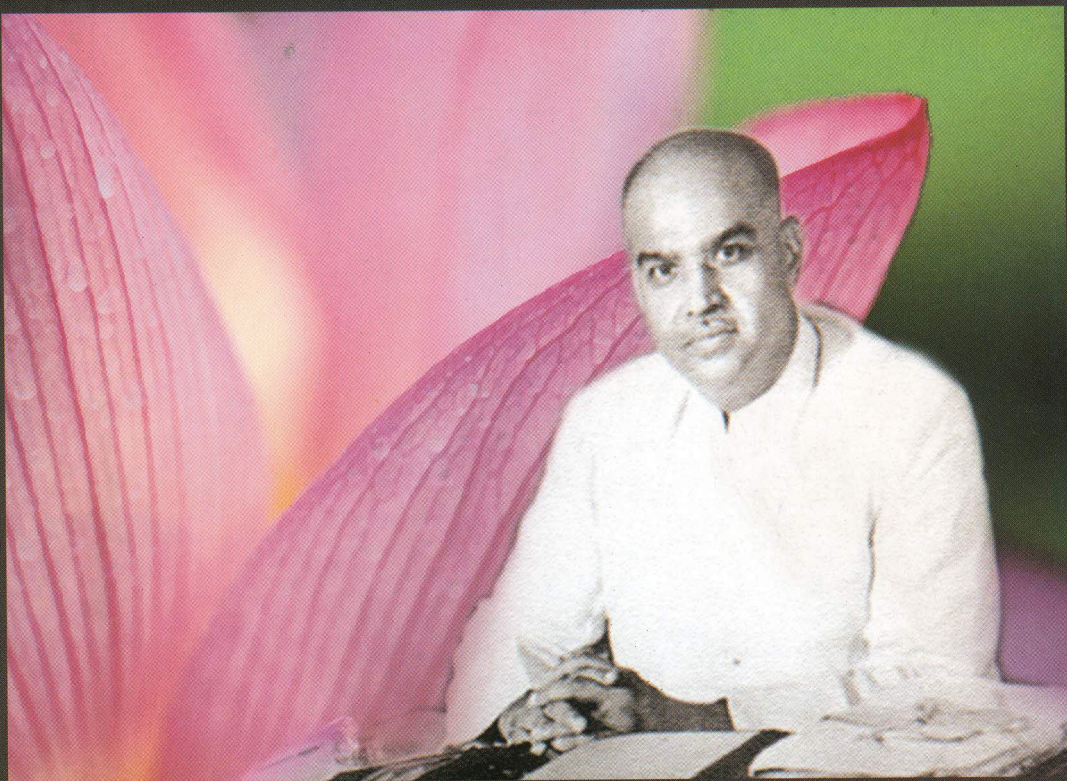


THUS SPOKE SYAMA PRASAD



*Selected quotes from the writings and speeches of
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee*

Foreword by- Madan Das



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

ज्ञानं जित्वा विद्यमानैः
विद्यमानैः जित्वा विद्यमानैः



Thus Spoke Syama Prasad
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Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Foreword by
Madan Das
Sah- Sarkaryawah, R.S.S.

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Foreword

Bengal has produced many noble souls who rejuvenated the nation's social and cultural milieu and contextualised nationalism for the millions who were fighting for the independence. Amongst them stalwarts like Bipin Chandra Pal, Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Ravindranath Thakur, Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda, Subhash Chandra Bose, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar have carved a unique place in history. In the same line of dedication and unparalleled scholarship of our era stands Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who bedazzled the world with his extraordinary achievements in the field of academics and politics. He was born and brought up in Bengal, became the youngest vice-chancellor of Calcutta University at the age of 33 and joined politics to safeguard the interests of the patriotic people.

Dr Mookerjee had nerves of steel and the resolve of a lion. That is why he was appropriately called -'the Lion of Parliament'. He was inducted into the first national cabinet led by Pt. Nehru at the insistence of Mahatma Gandhi. Some of India's first dams and steel factories were planned and sanctioned under his ministership. On the question of protecting Hindu rights he resigned from the Nehru cabinet and formed Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a great nationalist warrior-intellectual of Bharat who rekindled fire of patriotism throughout the nation. His life and works are an inspiration to every Indian who has the welfare and *Param Vaibhavam*, supreme glory of his motherland as the cherished goal of life.

Hence it's a matter of satisfaction and pleasure that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, a nationalist think tank bearing his name is bringing out a book containing selected quotes extracted from various speeches and writings of Dr. Mookerjee.

Dr Mookerjee stood for national integration and believed all Indians, whether Hindus or Muslims or Christians are the children of Mother India hence must work together for the nation. He appealed to the rich and the influential section to devote their energies and wealth for the emancipation



of the teeming millions. His idea of cultural rejuvenation was undoubtedly based on the Hindu civilisational moors, which according to him belong to all Indians irrespective of their faith or colour.

He said, as has been quoted in this book, 'do not for a moment minimise the need for social consolidation amongst all classes and sections of Hindus which can only be achieved by arduous and systematic work among the masses so that their standard of living and outlook may be raised and all artificial barriers broken down. I would go further and assert that such unity amongst Hindus must be accompanied, wherever possible, by a just and honourable understanding among all communities inhabiting this country.'

I am sure that this book will be welcomed by all and it will help spread the real spirit of nationalism.

I must congratulate Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation for having initiated such works in a short time span of its existence. This helps strengthen our ideological foundation. The initiators of this foundation and the present office bearers, Shri K.N.Sahani, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and specially its energetic Director Shri Tarun Vijay, who has earned his rightful place in the intellectual world through his strong nationalist writings and widely read columns and who conceived these projects, deserve our heartfelt appreciation.

MADAN DAS

Vasant Panchami, Viukrami 2066
Jan 31st 2009



Editor's note

This has been one of the most satisfying assignments I have ever undertaken. Exploring the mind scape of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was like diving deep into the ocean of scholarship and an enlightening nationalism.

Dr. Mookerjee was an eminent educationist, writer and a fire brand orator. He delivered more than twenty two convocation addresses at major universities, fought to ensure justice and fairplay for the persecuted Hindus in Bengal, became a great champion of communal harmony, supported Fazlul Haq govt. in Bengal and had an intimate friendship based on mutual love and respect with Kazi Nazrul Islam. His short stint as a cabinet minister in the Nehru cabinet left its imprint on India's industrial development. He never aspired for his personal comforts and luxuries of life and never compromised on principles. He resigned from the Nehru cabinet protesting against Nehru - Liaquat pact. Later he formed Bharatiya Jana Sangh to take up the cause of nationalism and safeguard India's unity.

He died protesting against the special status to Kashmir in the jail of Sheikh Abdullah. His mysterious demise, described by the then Jan Sangh leaders as 'brutal murder', was never probed into. That was Syama Prasad – who attained martyrdom at the age of 52 and still remains an inspiration to millions of Indians.

Dr. Mookerjee was a devotee of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother had great hopes from him to rejuvenate India. She believed that Dr. Mookerjee's death was unnatural and he was 'poisoned'. The following conversation appears in a book titled, India The Mother, sent to me by my friend and an ardent devotee Shri Anirban Ganguly.

Dated-June 7, 1967

The Mother: ...There is a group in the new Indian parliament, a group of people dissatisfied with the position taken by India, who have declared their wish to act according to Sri Aurobindo's ideal and instructions. And they've asked if we could send someone from here to hold conferences in Delhi...It's a "group" – naturally not the whole parliament.

It's something to be envisaged.

But the difficulty is to find "someone" because it should be a man who



knows Sri Aurobindo thoroughly to begin with, who is capable of receiving his inspirations directly (a very difficult condition), and has at the same time a very strong character with a power – a contagious power – and a force that can arouse the inert masses...for years I have been looking for that man, without finding him.

There was a man who would have done...very straight and strong – he was assassinated in Kashmir.

A devotee - Assassinated?

The Mother: He is the one who came here when we wanted to have a conference for the opening of the University; he presided over it [The Mother had selected Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee to preside over the conference which was held in Pondicherry on 24th April 1951 to initiate steps towards the creation of an University Centre at Pondicherry in memory of Sri Aurobindo. The Mother had appointed Dr. Mookerjee as Chairman of the Sri Aurobindo Memorial Committee for setting up of the University] A rather tall man, and strong...it was in Kashmir that he was assassinated (not officially, of course: he "fell ill.") [Michel Danino, Sujata Nahar, India The Mother, pp: 162,163, Mira Aditi Centre, 1998]

Most of the quotes re-produced in this book (unless otherwise mentioned) have been taken from his illustrious book, "Awake Hindusthan", first published in 1944. We are extremely grateful for the help and encouragement we received from Asutosh Memorial Institute, Kolkata, especially Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, Dr. Reena Bhaduri and Shri Amitabh Chatterjee, respectively the President, Secretary and Member of the above mentioned highly revered institute's governing body.

To keep the beauty and fragrance of the period in which Dr. Mookerjee spoke and wrote these words, we have taken care not to edit or change the old English usages that were in vogue in his time.

This work could not have seen the light without the help of Shri Kidar Nath Sahani (President, SPMRF), Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Secretary, SPMRF), Shri Shyam Jaju (Treasurer, SPMRF), Shri Ram Lal (Gen. Secretary, org, BJP) and other distinguished members of the Foundation.

TARUN VIJAY

Director,

Dr. Syama Parsad Mookerjee Research Foundation