

# Our Debt to the Dynasty

## A Humble Proposal for Bringing About Greater National Unity

**Madhu Kishwar**

**W**E Indians are indeed a very ungrateful people. Morning, afternoon and evening, day after day, Congressmen of all shades and hues – loyalists and the not-so-loyal, alike – assure us that Sonia Gandhi alone, as the current head of the Nehru Indira Dynasty, can lead the nation. They never tire of repeating their claims that her Great Family has made Great Sacrifices for the nation over so many generations.

It is a shame that India's Prime *Bahu* along with her pretty princeling daughter should be made to suffer the ignominy of asking for votes just like any plebeian politician despite the aura of her Great Sacrificing Family. All this because her partymen are convinced that they dare not ask for votes in their own name. Having gotten used to being treated by the Great Ruling Dynasty of India like juvenile delinquents who could not be trusted with any independent charge, not even of their respective party units in districts and towns, it is understandable that Congressmen are feeling orphaned and insecure requiring the protection of a Rajmata who can use the fear of her wrath to stop them from cutting each other's throats. Their presenting Sonia as the Saviour of the Hour is based on an incredibly insightful calculation: If all Congressmen, despite their innate self destruct tendency, their propensity to undermine, stab, and destroy each other, can be "united" by the magical power of an icon from the Great Sacrificing Family, why not the entire Indian people?

But then too many Indians are foolish enough to have either forgotten or failed to appreciate those Great Sacrifices. Too many are mean enough to think that the nation has bled too much, too long, trying to repay a non-existent debt to a bunch of power freaks whose sufferings were more due to their own insatiable lust for power which led them into incompetent

blunders than a response to people's need for rational, democratic governance.

No wonder, a people with such profane ideas are being counted among the wretched of the earth. It is my humble belief that India cannot make progress unless we repay the long over due debt to the Dynasty through the following measures which will not only upgrade the 20th century Indira-Nehru Congress into the 21st century's Sonia - Priyanka Congress but also give India its place in the sun:

**One:** Pass a law named *Remembering the Great Sacrifices of the Nehru-India Dynasty Act (1998)*, which will stipulate that every Indian, irrespective of religion, caste, region, gender or IQ level will sing a *stuti gain* (hymn of praise) chanting the great sacrifices of this Great Family, just as the Sikhs chant to remember the martyrdom of their *gurus* through the daily *ardaas*. But with one difference. This new hymn of praise shall be sung at 5 a.m. sharp by every person — young or old, sick or healthy. One billion people chanting in unison would emit such a mighty sound that we will no longer require expensive toys like Bofors howitzer guns to frighten our puny, disrespectful neighbours. It would demonstrate that Indians as people are one and united behind the *Bahu* of the One Leading Family.

Failure to take part in the chant of praise will be interpreted as *lease majesty*, an anti-national, traitorous activity, and punished with life imprisonment or the death sentence, or both.

**Two:** Enact another law to facilitate the institution of a Gratitude Tax. Everyone — rich or poor, employed or unemployed, child or adult — will pay a fixed amount every day as tax to the First and Foremost Family of India as a lifelong debt repayment measure that will continue for at least the next millennium. This will eliminate the Family's dependence on kickbacks and



Courtesy: The Indian Express

**Replaced Kesri with Sonia?  
Good! Now, take out  
Gandhiji and make room  
for Priyanka**

corporate donations to run its empire, allow it to rule with imperial determination, keep the Congress party under its discipline, and ensure that no anointed scion of this gene stock need ever do any work to earn a living or undertake any similar plebeian activity.

**Three:** Enact yet another law to change the name of this country to Nehru-Indira Lok, This will eliminate the need for petty patronage seekers to name sundry airports, stadia, hospitals, universities, *jhuggi* colonies and endless number of roads and colonies after the names of illustrious members of this Great Dynasty, thus creating a misleading impression that the Dynasty is running a protection racket.

**Four:** Declare that the first and foremost family has eminent domain over the entire land presently known as India (now named Nehru-Indira Lok) without any requirement for due compensation to the former rights holders and ensure that citizens enjoy no more than tenancy or lease rights for whatever period the Dynasty pleases. The ownership rights of Nehru-Indira Lok may be administered through these (or other newly created) institutions with joint holding rights for the Dynasty: the Nehru Memorial Society, the Indira Gandhi Centre, the Sanjay Cronies Coterie, and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation or through other similar newly created institutions as surrogates for the Dynasty.

With characteristic foresight Indira Gandhi had prepared the groundwork for this legislation by eliminating the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights promised in our Constitution. So far only poor people, mostly farmers, have been made to surrender their lands for the nation's development and glory. Every now and then, some of them even foolishly resist this expropriation seeing others continue to enjoy the corrupting privilege of owning property. Let us now equalise everyone before the Dynasty so that all know once and for all whose *kripa* (goodwill and mercy) allows them to exist and survive in this land.

**Five:** The Parliament enact a law that henceforth and forever the Indian Republic will be ruled by a member of the Dynasty in recognition of their Divine Right to Rule. All other posts may be open to elections and questions but not the post of the Presiding Deity of India. What was denied Indira in her lifetime should be joyously offered unconditionally to her anointed progeny as a long overdue debt.

This measure will have an additional beneficial effect: thwart the emergence of megalomaniacs among our politicians. Even reasonably decent among them turn bizarre the moment they start fantasising themselves as potential PMs and start emulating the imperial style of the members of the Dynasty.



Courtesy: Indian Express

**Six :** In order to secularise the Indian mind, henceforth all temples in India will feature statues of Nehru and Indira and their dynastic successors as the principal deities so that we can inculcate god like reverence for them and make the people to get over their unmodern attachment to unsecular modes of worship.

**Seven:** All schools and colleges shall replace their present history syllabi with a single compulsory course on the Sacrifices made by the Nehru-Indira Dynasty and India's achievements under their rule so that no competing and corrupting loyalties ever find a place in their hearts.

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This is the barest minimum we can do to prove ourselves worthy subjects of this Great Dynasty. After all, ought not we to be grateful that under their beneficent rule:

○ They taught us the spiritual power of choosing poverty over riches by devising such genius policies that this naturally bounteous country of ours with the potential of producing enough for all its inhabitants to live well remained a country of poor malnourished people with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world and among the lowest per capita food consumption in the world.

○ They taught us to give a new and deeper meaning to the great spiritual tradition of India by indoctrinating us to accept debilitating hunger, malnutrition and disease as the eternal past as well as the inevitable future fate of the majority of Indians. We were taught to retain yogic calm and be proud of our great civilisation, even when we saw little children picking food from garbage dumps in the company of dogs and rats.

○ They taught us to value our innate genius as a people rather than acquire artificial book learning by making sure that *sarkari* schools functioned so dismally that most children kept away from them. Even those who cussedly stayed on were taught virtually nothing, thus bestowing on their Empire the proud distinction of nurturing the highest number of illiterate people in the world.

○ They showed us how to eliminate the threat of foreign subjugation through a brilliant protective scheme by devising health ministries and departments which ensured that even primary health care, clean water and minimal sanitation are not available in just about every part of India. Hospitals, if they function at all, merely add to the disease pool of their empire. The Dynasty, thereby, ensured that India became such a legendary disease ridden land that our plagues, filth and squalor frighten even fully immunised foreigners from daring to visit our great land of exotic culture and cheap pleasures as tourists, leave alone aspire to settle down and rule here. Some ignorant malcontents churlishly claim this might be a somewhat high price for the people to pay for such protection but they can't be considered *desi* patriots and, therefore, should be encouraged to migrate to foreign lands.

○ They honoured us by treating us to radical equality by making our rights strictly contingent on the whimsical decisions of the dynasty. From the mighty Tatas, Birlas and Jains to sundry chief ministers to humble ticket seekers (be it for local corporation elections or for parliament) — all learnt to appear as grovelling supplicants in the Dynasty's *darbar*, paying tributes in cash and kind to every PA and every humble peon in the service of the Dieties.

○ They initiated the Great Tradition (followed closely by our most successful politicians and bureaucrats) of stashing billions of dollars in secret foreign bank accounts. Their genius in financial management has added to the burden of wealth of those miserable nations that mistakenly value filthy lucre, while easing the difficulties of those of our intellectuals who need to celebrate the way our people have avoided the consumerism of other countries by our natural asceticism. This also serves another worthy goal: It reduces the work of our *sarkari* banks, whose primary function in any case is to aid in siphoning off money and to provide *naukris* rather than to encourage business.

○ They taught us their refined tastes and habits, so that we become revolted every time a Mayawati tries to emulate Indria *Mataji* in crude single minded pursuit of power. We expect our rulers at least to speak respectable English, dress in elegant ethnic chic, and behave imperiously if they want to be considered legitimate rulers entitled to get away with their sordid and corrupt deeds.



○ They taught us to live on slogans and promises, thereby providing another miraculous proof of the triumph of the spirit over physical needs in our supremely spiritual ancient land.

○ They achieved the secularisation of our religious places by letting politicians of all shades and hues, including those professing to be communists, compete with each other to take over and profit from our temples.

○ They nurtured, with characteristic genius, a machinery of governance that combined all the *mai baap* characteristic role playing of the British colonial *sarkar* with the *sarkari* socialism of the Soviet variety so that our government offices became places where the rich and



poor were treated alike. All were equally harassed, fleeced and routinely humiliated so that as a people we became adept at survival under the most trying of circumstances. We multiplied under conditions that would have induced any normal, self-respecting people to commit collective suicide. This resilience also helped many of our countrymen to become successful Non Resident Indians in varied countries of the world. Having been used to insults and grovelling, of *swadeshi* variety, Indians learnt to flourish in *videshi* lands where we are barely tolerated as third class aliens.

□ They set an example before our *netas* and *babus* of inventively improving upon the great Buddha's idea of the universal spiritual benefits that come with becoming a peripatetic *bhikshu* (beggar for alms). The Buddha naively believed that begging for *bhiksha* should inculcate humility among his followers. The Dynasty not only transformed India into a vast begging bowl but also trained our new *sarkari bhikshuk* to give pious and arrogant sermons to the rich and powerful governments of the world with perfect poise even while the world laughed, smirked and marvelled at the amazing lack of shame of these crumb gathering *netas*.

○ They saw to it that corruption was made respectable. Even the prime minister's office became a bribe collection centre so that every *babu* and *chaprasi* sitting in a *sarkari* office felt a new sense of confidence in fleecing the people, for he had illustrious examples to follow.

○ They kept our armed forces fighting fit by using them against our own people, since our neighbours did not oblige us with more than three brief border wars. The Army was made to prove its discipline and loyalty to the nation by dutifully launching search and destroy missions against all those regions and communities in India which revolted against the Dynasty's glorious imperial rule — the Sikhs in Punjab, the Nagas in the Northeast, and the Muslims in Kashmir, among others. Better still, the Dynasty, by projecting these as communal conflicts between the Hindus and the Sikhs, and between the Hindus and the Muslims, rather than an inevitable consequence of an over centralised, corrupt and incompetent rule, demonstrated to the world that the Dynasty could improve upon the renowned divide and rule policy of the British.

Nehru was mistaken in believing (and saying) that he was going to be the last Britisher to rule India. His daughter and grandchildren and their spouses have kept the tradition alive. So has the Congress party, by treating them like an Imperial Race.

However, the biggest tribute to the Dynasty is paid by its supposed opponents. Brahma-like, the political



Courtesy: The Indian Express

traditions set by the Dynasty have become all-pervasive. From left to right, the entire spectrum of opposition parties have studiously emulated the Congress culture, imbibed the political rhetoric, the xenophobic harangues and the flamboyant slogans made respectable by the Dynasty. So much so that neither the people nor the politicians can tell the difference between one party and the other. From the BJP to the CPM they sound and act alike so that in the true philosophical tradition of India they can treat their political warfare as *maya* — mere illusion! Thus, floor crossings, defections, buying and selling of MPs and MLAs have become the standard norm of government formation in India.

As for the rest of us — we rejoice thinking *Badnaam hue to kya hua, Duniya mein hamara naam to hua!* (So what if we have become notorious? At least we are known the world over!) □

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