

## The 'Great Tragic Curve' that Perpetuated the Caste System in Indian Soil

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### Abstract

India stands obsolete with its caste system. Since the ancient times to the present, it has been remained the concealed agenda of the ruling classes to condescend upon the lower classes or rather the so-called lower castes. As an aftermath of this, the welter of castes perpetuated in the Indian soil and today, it has become part and parcel of social set up as such. For sure, to mark the great tragic curve in Indian history is possible when this heinous caste system with 'graded inequality' had settled in society as nervous system is to human body: it was the Gupta dynasty period during which the ecclesiastical texts and *puranas* were seen to be composed and the ideology therein was seen to be implemented. Brahmanism and not the tribal groups or even the law of natural selection had been responsible for this curse.

**Key words:** Brahmanic/ sm, caste system, endogamy, tribes, *candalas*

This has been the record of the world history that the ruling classes in the different civilizations have, with precious exceptions of course, shown one common feature of imposing injustices upon their subjects in one form or the other. These 'imposing injustices' are of different kinds and stature. Ideological ramifications of different civilizations support the argument that ruling group, in any society for that matter, 'prescribes' its ideology to the people it rules and the social discriminations radiate from it as a result. Provincial, racial and caste discriminations, for instance, have provided visibility to this observation in the course of time. In Althusser's understanding,

"Ideology is a particular organization of signifying practices which goes to constitute human beings as social subjects, and which produces the lived relations by which such subjects are connected to the dominant relations of production in a society." (Eagleton, 1991: 18).

Though the intellectual rendering of 'Ideology' here puts the term at neutral stance, the 'dominant relations of production', it has been the experience in all the civilizations of the world from their inceptions to the time, work at the concealed level.

Individuals in the different civilizations awake from within, in the first place, when they are ill-treated by others in the same province. To exemplify the earliest acts in this regard are from The Buddha (563 BC - 483 BC), the originator of a religious cult known as Buddhism and Dr. Martin Luther (1483 - 1546), the pioneer of Protestantism in Christianity. These were the first ever outstanding protests against the established orders. More these protests worked at religious level, deeper they reached in social structure. For Dr. B. R. Ambedkar,

"The first Social Reformer and the greatest of them all is Gautama Buddha. Any history of Social Reform must begin with him and no history of Social Reform in India will be complete which omits to take account of his great achievements." (Ambedkar, Compiled by Narake, 2008: 165).

Thus, religious movements permeate in social set up indispensably.

The term 'caste' comes from the Spanish word *casta*, meaning race. Secondly, 'Portuguese seafarers, who arrived on the west coast of India for trade in the fifteenth century