

Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion (One of the Human Rights) in the Context of Gorakhsutras

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ABSTRACT

When we ask someone, "What is the debt this civilization owes to Greeks? The first thing that comes to mind is their contribution in literature and art : The second thought which comes to mind may be that our deepest gratitude due to them is as the originators of liberty of thought and discussion. Here in this paper the authors have tried to showcase that perceptions about west as originator of freedom of thought: conscience and religion may be so but East also had discussed, deliberated and dwelt upon this for quite long: Ram Rajya had numerous examples where freedom of thought and expression was given lot of respect ; Rama sending Sita to sage Valmiki just on the saying of a washerman can be taken as the best example of freedom of thought and expression. The authors having a special interest in "Gorakh Sutras" have tried to highlight through Gorakhsutras that this freedom was dwelt upon equally by Gorakhnath a 11th century who is thought to be propagator and perpetuator of "Hath Yoga".

Keywords- Gorakhnath, Gorakhsutras, freedom of thought, freethinker

INTRODUCTION

Freedom of thought is the freedom of a lesson to hold or consider a fact, viewpoint, or a thought, independent of others' view points. It is definitely different from and should not be confused with the concept of freedom of speech or expression.

REVIEW:

Freedom of thought is the precursor, preclude and progenitor of other liberties which includes :

- **freedom of religion**
- **freedom of speech**
- **freedom of expression.**

Although freedom of thought is axiomatic for many other freedoms they are in no way required for it to operate and exist. Normal belief is that it is very important concept in the Western world and nearly all democratic constitutions protect these freedoms; This beliefs holds true today but the fact is that East talked about this long back.

The "Bill of rights" contains the famous guarantee in the first amendment that Laws may not be made that interface with religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof us. Supreme court justice Benjamin cardozo reasoned in Palko vs. connectucut (1937)

Freedom of thought... is the matrix, the indispensable condition, of nearly every other form of freedom. With rare aberrations a pervasive recognition of this truth can be traced in our history, political and legal.

These ideas are also a part of international human rights law. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), "freedom of thought" is listed under Article 18:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

The United Nations' Human Rights Committee states that this, "distinguishes the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief from the freedom to manifest religion or belief.

It does not permit any limitations on the freedom of thought and conscience or on the freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of one's choice. These freedoms are protected unconditionally".

Article 19 of the UDHR guarantees that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference.

It is impossible to know with certainty what another person is thinking, making suppression difficult

Free thought is a philosophical viewpoint which holds that positions regarding truth should be formed on the basis of logic, reason, and empiricism, rather than authority, tradition, revelation, or other dogma.

In particular, free thought is strongly tied with rejection of traditional social or religious belief systems.

Regarding religion, this viewpoint holds that there is insufficient evidence to support the existence of supernatural phenomena. According to the Freedom from Religion Foundation, "No one can be a freethinker who demands conformity to a bible, creed, or messiah. Most freethinkers consider religion to be not only untrue, but harmful."

However, Bertrand Russell in 1944 wrote about the "The Value of Free Thought:"

What makes a freethinker is not his beliefs but the way in which he holds them. If he holds them because his elders told him they were true when he was young, or if he holds them because if he did not he would be unhappy, his thought is not free; but if he holds them because, after careful thought he finds a balance of evidence in their favour, then his thought is free, however odd his conclusions may seem.

History of Development And Suppression

It is impossible to know with certainty what another person is thinking, making suppression difficult. The concept is developed throughout the Bible, most fully in the writings of Paul of Tarsus (e.g., "For why should my freedom [eleutheria] be judged by another's conscience [suneideseos]?" 1 Corinthians 10:29).

Although Greek philosophers Plato and Socrates had discussed Freedom of Thought minimally, the edicts of King Ashoka (3rd century BC) have been called the first decree respecting Freedom of Conscience. In European tradition, aside from the decree of religious toleration by Constantine I at Milan in 313, the philosophers Themistius, Michel de Montaigne, Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, Voltaire, Alexandre Vinet, and John Stuart Mill have been considered major proponents of the idea of Freedom of Conscience.

Queen Elizabeth I revoked a thought censorship law in the late sixteenth century, because, according to Sir Francis Bacon, she did "not [like] to make windows into men's souls and secret thoughts".

During her reign, philosopher, mathematician, astrologer, and astronomer Giordano Bruno took refuge in England from the Italian Inquisition, where he published a number of his books regarding an infinite universe and topics banned by the Catholic Church. After leaving the safety of England, Bruno was eventually burned as a heretic in Rome for refusing to recant his ideas. For this reason he is considered by some to be a martyr for free thought.

However, freedom of expression can be limited through censorship, arrests, book burning, or propaganda, and this tends to discourage freedom of thought. Examples of effective campaigns against freedom of expression are the Soviet suppression of genetics research in favor of a theory known as Lysenkoism, the book-burning campaigns of Nazi Germany, the radical anti-intellectualism enforced in Cambodia under Pol Pot, the strict limits on freedom of expression imposed by the Communist governments of the People's Republic of China and Cuba or by right-wing authoritarian dictatorships such as those of Augusto Pinochet in Chile and Francisco Franco in Spain.

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, which states that thought is inherently embedded in language, would support the claim that an effort to limit the use of words of language is actually a form of restricting freedom of thought.[citation needed] This was explored in George Orwell's novel 1984, with the idea of Newspeak, a stripped-down form of the English language lacking the capacity for metaphor and limiting expression of original ideas.

Gorakhnath an 11th Century saint with lot of mystical powers and propagator and perpetuator of Hath Yoga in his sutras called Gorakhsutras has dwelt upon the aspect of freedom of thought, conscience and religion way back and prior to people like Voltaire and others to know and comment about it

As per him

**egaen egaen u dfj dkth egEen dk
fo"k fopkjaA**

egaen gkFk djn ts gksrh ykSgs ?kM+h u lkjaAA

gs dkth egaen egaen er djks D;ksafd rqe eqgEen dks tkurs ugha gksA eqgEen dk fopkj cgqr xEHkhj gSA tSls vki lksprs gSA fd eqgEen ds gkFk esa tks Nqjh Fkh og u yksgs dh Nqjh Fkh u bLikr dh ftlls tho gR;k gksrh gSA rqe lksprs gks fd tho gR;k djds rqe eqgEen ds ekxZ dk vuqlj.k djrs gks ,slk ugha gSA

Oh! Kazi don't when Mohammad 2 . you don't understand Mohammad. You feel that knife in the hand of Mohammad is to kill people while it is not so. The thought of Mohammad is much serious and deeper.

lcns ekjh lcnSa ftykbZ ,sls eksgEen ihja

rkdS Hkjfu u HkwykS dkth lks cy ugha ljhja

og f'k";ksa dh HkkSfrdrk dks bl Nqjh ls ekjrs gS ftlls og fo"k; oklukvksa ds fy, ej tkrs FksA ijUrQ mudh ;g 'kCn dh Nqjh oLrq% thou iznkf;uh Fkh D;ksafd mudh cfgZeq[krk ds u"V gks tkus ij gh mudk okLrfod vkH;arj vk;/kfRed thou vkjEHk gksrk Fkka eqgEen ,sls ihj FksA gs dkft;ks muds Hkze esa u Hkwyks rqe mudh udy ugha dj ldrsA rEqkjs vUnj og vkfRed cy gh ugha tks eqgEen esa Fkka

ukFk dgarka lc tx ukF;k xksj" k dgrka xksbZ

dyek dk xj egaen gksrk igys ewoka lksbZ

'kCnksa ds cká vFkZ ij ugha tkuk pkfg, budk rRokFkZ xzg.k djuk pkfg,A blh rRokFkZ n`f"V ds vHkko esa ek;k dks vius o`k esa j[kus okys ^^ukFk** dk uke ysrs gq, Hkh lkjk lalkj ek;k ds }kjk ukFk Mkyk x;kA xksj[k dk uke ysrs gq;s Hkh

dkSbZ vk;/kfRed thou xkS.k gh jg x;kA blh izdkj [kkyh dyek ds 'kCn Hkh fdllh dk m¹/₄kj ugha dj ldrsA dyek dks pykus okys eqgEen Hkh cps u jg ldsA

He used to kill the physical thinking of his pupils with the knife as a result they were cut off from the physical world and ultimately they could start off their journey to the inner world. He further exhorts Kaazi's that neither you can immitate Mohammad nor you have that spiritual strength.

One should not go by the extraneous meaning of the world's. one should try to understand the real meaning and the understanding of this meaning is only possible with freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

CONCLUSION:

The authors have tried to show that East had respect for freedom of thought and conscience and it is not a concept only of the Western World. Reference has been taken from Gorakhsutras to prove their point. Further studies may be required to dwelve deeper into it. Infact, Scientist like Giordano Bruno, Galiceo, Nicolaus Copernicus, Kepler faced lot of harassments even death sentence for expressing their thoughts while in India we gave respect to all the reformers who dared to be different from the orthodox views.

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