

INSCRIPTIONS IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

It is in Parliament that the entire range of activities of a nation is discussed and its destinies are shaped and moulded. The deliberations of that august body are naturally to be inspired by the highest traditions of truth and righteousness.

There are several passages of noble words inscribed on the Parliament building which serve as the guiding spirit for the deliberations in the two Houses and they do not fail to arrest the attention of the visitor.

At the very entrance to the building a Sanskrit quotation reminds one of the sovereignty of the nation of which Parliament is the visible symbol. The following words are inscribed on Gate No. 1:

लो३क द्वारमपात्रार्णू ३३
पश्येम त्वां वयं वेरा ३३३३
(हुं ३ आ) ३३ ज्या ३ यो
३ आ ३२१११ इति।

(छन्दो. २२४८)

The English equivalent of the same is:

“Open the door to thy people
And let us see thee
For the obtaining of the
sovereignty”.

(Chandu 2248)

Entering the building and proceeding towards your right as far as Lift No. 1 you come across the arc-shaped outer Lobby of the Lok Sabha. Midway on this Lobby a gate leads to the inner Lobby and another opposite to it to the Central Hall. Here the visitor's eye catches two inscriptions.

Over the gate of the inner Lobby the quotation seen on Gate No. 1 is found repeated. Turning round and looking at the dome over the passage to the Central Hall one sees the

following Arabic quotation which says that it is the people themselves who can shape and mould their destiny:

इन्नलाही ला युगय्यरो मा बिकीमिन्।
हत्ता युगय्यरो वा बिन नफसे हुम ॥

The English meaning of the above is:

“Almighty God will not change the condition of any people unless they bring about a change themselves.”

And inside the Lok Sabha Chamber are found overlooking the Speaker's Chair the words:

धर्मचक्रप्रवर्तनाय

The English meaning of the above is:

“For the rotation of the wheel of righteousness”

The path of righteousness is the ideal to which the rulers of India since ancient times dedicated themselves and the wheel which is symbolic of this path finds a prominent place in the National Flag and the Emblem of India.

As one proceeds to the Central Hall from Gate No. 1 of Parliament House, the following stanza in Sanskrit from Panchatantra greets one's eyes from above the Gate of Central Hall:

अयं निजः परोवेति गणना लघुचेतसाम्।
उदारचरितानां तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥

(पंचतंत्र ५/३८)

The English meaning of the stanza is:

“That one is mine and the other a stranger is the concept of little minds. But to the large-hearted the world itself is their family.”

(Panchtantra 5/38)

Another set of inscriptions — some of them in gold coloured letters — is seen on the domes near the Lifts. A clear view of these inscriptions can be had from the First Floor of the building.

On the dome near Lift No. 1 is a stanza from Mahabharata which reads as:

न सा सभा यत्र न सन्ति वृद्धा,
वृद्धा न ते यो न वदन्ति धर्मम्।
धर्मः स नो यत्र न सत्यमस्ति,
सत्यं न तद्यच्छलमभ्युपैति ॥

(महाभारत ५/३५/५८)

The English translation of which is:

“That's not an Assembly where there are no eldersmen,
Those are not elders, who do not speak with
righteousness,
That's no righteousness where there is no truth,
That's not the truth which leads one to deceit.”

(Mahabharat 5/35/58)

This and the inscription on dome near Lift No. 2 lay stress on the two cardinal virtues — truth and righteousness — that are to be observed by an assembly.

The inscription on dome near Lift No. 2 reads:

सभा वा न प्रवेष्टया,
वक्तव्यं वा समंजसम्।
अब्रुवन बिब्रुवन, वापि,
नरो भवति किल्बिषी।

(मनु ८/१३)

Its English rendering is:

“One must not enter either an Assembly Hall,
Or he must speak there with all the righteousness.
For one who does not speak or one who speaks
falsely,
Does himself in the equal sin involve.”

(Manu 8/13)

Proceeding on towards Lift No. 3 and looking up at the dome nearby, one reads the following Sanskrit quotation:

न हीदृभं संवननं,
त्रिषु लोकेषु विधते।
दया मैत्री च भूतेषु,
दानं च मधुरा च वाक् ॥

Its English rendering is as follows:

“Kindness, friendliness to all,
Charity and sweet tongue.
Such coincidence has not been found
(in one object) in all the three worlds.”

The inscription on the dome near Lift No. 4 also in Sanskrit refers to the qualities of a good ruler. It reads as:

सर्वदा, स्यान्नपः प्राज्ञः,
स्वमते न कदाचन।
सम्याधिकारिप्रकृतिः,
सभासत्सुमते स्थितः ॥

The English translation of the same is as follows:

“That Ruler must ever have true intelligence,
And he must never be a self-willed man.
All Subjects to the councillors must he entrust,
Must sit in Assembly and abide by good counsel.”

And finally, the Persian quotation on the dome near Lift
No. 5:

बरी रूवाके जबजर्द नविशता अन्द बजर,
कि जुज निकोई-ए-अहले करम नरवाहद मान्द।

Its English meaning is:

“This lofty emerald like building bears the inscription
in gold,
Nothing shall last except the good deeds of the
bountiful.”

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