

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To do research has been an intellectual passion since the days of my academic assignment at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, to whom, I say, 'grand old mother, I owe my daily bread to thee'. The strong desire, though not tempestuous as the tri-modular passions of Bertrand Russell, has got relegated to the back of my mind during the days of my Ulysssean wanderings spread over a decade in search of greener employment pastures. My insolent idea then was that bright minds would always go to browse upon fresh pastures. In retrospect, my changed calling of the career in administration makes me see the mentally ugly and spiritually decrepit image of mine in the bathroom mirror. George Orwell, too, recognized his impoverished image when it got reflected in the mirror of a way-side shop, passed by him, only after much dithering. His initial refusal to recognize himself in the mirror and the truth dauntingly dawning upon him leaves a leaf for me. After passing through a couple of stormy years of intellectually 'dishonest decade' of my official career, I got a lull around the latter part of the 80s; (rest after work and calm after storm, arn't they the laws of nature)? The caved-in demon of research got the upper hand during the unguarded moments of the lull period.

During my official placement in Siliguri, an up-start commercial town in the foot hills of Darjeeling, I approached Prof. P.K. Mukherjee, Head of the Department of English,

North Bengal University with the secret blue-print.

The patient and the physician thought alike. Dr. Mukherjee suggested George Orwell as the possible research area.

I grabbed the suggestion recollecting what one of my students boisterously told me about 'Animal Farm' somewhere in 1976. During the course of my arduous research journey I have understood that the litterateur Orwell is as oversized as the physical Orwell. The politico-economic topic, 'democratic Socialism', as the area of focus has been identified during the course of my 'love-hate relationship' with Orwell. The physical and the emotional kinship between the researcher and the researched could be an area for further probe. However, the inalienable links like, deep distrust of authority though both wield the rod of authority, deep religious convictions with secular orientation, belonging to 'hard-core' social class and love for lone journey with self-reliant mind and unflinching faith like Bunyan's Pilgrim in the arduous path of self making, individualism misconstrued as rigidity and taking off-beat social, economic tracks and unpopular societal postures, have enabled us not to become strange bed fellows. Discretion makes me to remain silent on the physical similarities between us.

The socio-economic topic, 'democratic Socialism' littered over the writings of Orwell has sharpened my

perception about political economics, initially expounded by Adam Smith reaching finesse in F.A. Hayek. Subjects like politics, economics, environment, religion and literature have been searched out to trace the historical genesis and the organisational framework of the political idea, 'democratic Socialism'. The idea deserves a worthwhile re-trial when the citadels of Communism and Socialism crumble in Russia and Eastern Europe and more than two dozen Arab nations are on the last leg of monarchical, oligarchical and oligopolistic rule. The three historical forces sweeping across the five continents viz., democratisation of Eastern Europe, integration of Western Europe and the thaw in the cold war relationship of the Super Powers make me suggest a theatre trial and experimentation of the political idea of 'democratic Socialism' in these geographical units.

During the course of my search for the deeper connotations of the political idea of Orwell I have allowed George Orwell, with his colossal appearance, to take me, the pigmy, through the labyrinthine original and critical writings. The British Council Libraries in Calcutta, Trivandrum and Delhi where critical books on Orwell, without replication, are stacked have been of immense help. The National Library, Calcutta has provided the material for supplemental reading and a couple of out of print books on Orwell could be referred to over there.

The annual book exhibition of Calcutta enables me to possess a couple of critical books on Orwell without scouting for them.

During the four year old struggle with the subject concurrent with my official assignments, I have tried to maintain the ethical posture of first the official duties and using what is left over time for the detour with Orwell. I have used the amenities of North Block in the Finance Ministry for giving concrete shape to my Orwell reading. The dictation, manuscripts, corrected versions and drafts have undergone various permutations and combinations before their concretisation through the nimble fingers of Dr. Mukherjee. The invaluable help given by Shri Ravinder Nath Sharma in the secretarial part of the research is my life long desire.

The intellectual indebtedness to Dr. Mukherjee, the academic obligations to North Bengal University for allowing me the nestling as a migratory bird, the official relationship with my erstwhile colleagues of Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority, to the Department of the Environment of Government of West Bengal and to the Ministry of Finance of Government of India are their credits of call money. To acknowledge the obligations to the noble personages of my geneological roots, institutions, organizations and people who have helped me in the building of my intellectual

infrastructure prior to the research is kept reserved for a future occasion. The sacrifice of my wife Emily has enabled me to love Orwell at her expense. My thanksgiving, to the God of Bible for the positioning of favourable circumstances and personages for guiding me according to His plan, which I acknowledge as 'Grace of God', is the Core idea and key factor of the Acknowledgement.

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