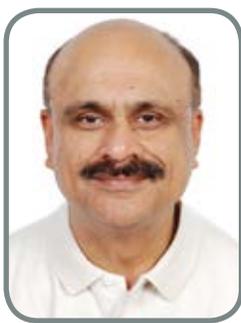


India's 25th Anniversary of the Night of Broken Bangles



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On the eve of January 19, 1991, young Americans were glued to the TV watching a pitched battle. History records that on that night Sergeant Slaughter defeated the Ultimate Warrior in the World Wrestling Federation final matchup for the Championship belt. The match was anointed by the aficionados of wrestling as The Royal Rumble. It featured treachery, with another wrestler outside the ring, hitting the Ultimate Warrior savagely on the head, knocking him out and leaving him defenseless for Slaughter to finish his job.

If there were even the faintest of ripples in India that on the day over 100,000 Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) had fled their ancestral homeland in the Valley of Kashmir to escape a coordinated and concerted plan to exterminate them then these certainly did not register in America. 250,000 more refugees would follow. During this period of horror terror tactics were employed and perfected which now in the public's consciousness are associated with ISIS. The Kashmiri Hindus fled to Jammu and other parts of India and some even spread to farther reaches on the globe. Many continue to languish in subhuman camps even today.

Sergeant Slaughter was fascinating to me as a Kashmiri Pandit. Not only had I lived in Eden Prairie in Minnesota where he had gone to high school but his keyfabe story, including his Indian "cobra clutch", had interesting parallels. While at one time he was a US Marine he had ended up switching sides and become turncoat. He was now joined by a shady character by the name of General Adnan and later on by the Iron Sheikh. He had started wearing Arab head dresses. The "camel clutch" was now his finishing coup de grace

move. He was reported to have desecrated the American flag.

The slaughter of the defenseless Kashmiri Hindus, the Ultimate Warriors of Kashmir, was sadly real. For decades their exile got little in the way of TV coverage. The perfunctory commiserations on the part of the authorities over the long years have not even met the standards of lip service. Slowly and steadily the forces inimical to them have destroyed the 5,000 year old culture that they had in the Valley. So much so that one well known and brainwashed Indian journalist castigated one of the Indian political parties for "importing" the Kashmiri Hindus when they exercised their legitimate voting franchise in the recently held State elections. As exiles go it is instructive to benchmark them. When Lord Rama was exiled it was for 14 years. The Pandits were in exile for 13 years. By contrast the Kashmiri Pandits will enter the 25th year of their exile in January 2015!

While miniscule in numbers the Kashmiri Pandits have steadfastly maintained their resistance. This year in a symbolic filing with the modern day St Gabriel, they have submitted a new entry into

the judgement records of Wiki pages under the heading of Kashmiri Hindu Exodus Day (19 January 1990). The preamble will state -

"Kashmiri Hindu Exodus Day (19 January) is the Memorial Day dedicated to the indigenous community of Kashmir valley, the Kashmiri Hindus (or Kashmiri Pandits as they are commonly referred as), who suffered in the foreign sponsored terrorism in the Jammu & Kashmir State while an entire civilization of Kashmiri Hindus was uprooted from their habitat.

The Kashmiri Hindus were driven from their homeland after a campaign of intimidation, persecu-

tion and harassment was launched against them by the secessionist forces during the height of insurgency in Kashmir valley in 1989-90. The chosen date is the anniversary of the fleeing of Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) from the Valley on that fateful day in January of 1990. It is estimated that around 100,000 Hindus migrated to safer havens of Jammu and other parts of India. Over 250,000 more would follow in the next few months. This ethnic extermination of Kashmiri Hindus has mostly gone unnoticed, globally.

One of the objectives of the Kashmiri Hindu Exodus Day and the associated awareness campaign is to remember the rich and wonderful contributions made by the peace loving, highly erudite Kashmiri Pandit population, not only in enriching the Indian civilization, but the world at large. The loss of this community and its deep rooted heritage, if allowed, will be a tremendous loss to the world."

The extensive wiki entry continues on to provide in graphic, empirical detail the suffering of the Kashmiri Hindus during that dark period. It is heavily annotated so as to provide scholar grade source materials for dissemination and study. Over time it will become the

repository of multimedia materials, a virtual holocaust museum of the Kashmiri Hindus. The effort is led by Kashmiri Hindus in the UK supported globally by their brethren. It will slay the lies propagated by the militant Islamists as to the causality and responsibility of what led to this cleansing.

A week later after Kashmiri Hindu Exodus Day India will celebrate its Republic Day. 2015 is special again because President Obama will be the chief guest. This is the first time that this has happened that a US President has graced the occasion. For all the right reasons it has attracted enormous buzz and expectations are high that the visit will lead to breakthroughs on several fronts with security being the number one priority.

As part of the celebrations President Obama will view the annual Parade where India will display both its military might and also its cultural diversity. While not generally known the US has had its own history of ethnic cleansing. Town such as in Forsyth County Georgia, Pierce City Missouri and Harrison Arkansas carry the legacy of the stamp of hate for expelling all blacks from their municipal borders and appropriating their lands. President Obama may well do

India a favor if he was to grab a private moment with Prime Minister Modi and share with him the lessons learnt on how to handle and heal the scars of injustice when an entire peoples were violently banished from their lands because of bigotry. He can share with Modi the principles which led the US to intervene in the Serbian initiative to cleanse their land and prosecute the perpetrators for having committed war crimes. If the Americans had followed all the niceties of International Law as the Indian politicians do with Article 370 and other federal state constraints between Kashmir and India the Serbians would have succeeded long ago with their nefarious objectives the way that the resident Kashmiris have with the Pandits. Yet the Americans did not let this constraint get into the way and they treated this issue with urgency and on a war footing. Obama can share as to what the US has done to put teeth into minority protection programs via setting up of federal task forces to monitor hate

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