

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak: a Radical Nationalist and his Political Philosophy

Mr. Dundappa B. Solapure
Asst.Professor,
K.L.E.Society's Law College, Bengaluru
Email: ksolapure8087@gmail.com

Abstract

The conquest of a nation by an alien power does not mean merely the loss of political freedom; it means the loss of one's self-confidence too. Due to economic exploitation by the ruling power, the conquered nation is deprived of its natural resources and the people lose their sense of self-respect. Slavery leads to moral degradation and it thus becomes essential to restore self-confidence in the people so that they become fearless enough to participate in the struggle for freedom.

It has been said that leaders are not nurtured with food but they nourished with values which helps them to emerge with time. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the first national leader who transcended provinces, communities, and languages to establish him in the hearts of millions who played a pioneering role in India's freedom struggle. Tilak was a fierce advocate of swarajya (self-rule) and his famous quote, "Swarajya is my birthright, and I shall have it!" is well-remembered even today.

Tilak's political philosophy was rooted in the Indian philosophy but it did not reject all that was western. He was inspired by the ancient Indian spiritual and philosophical works. In his view Swaraj was more than a political or economic concept. Swaraj was more than a law and order mechanism. It was also more than an economic order providing the necessities of life or the luxuries of a pleasurable life. According to him Swaraj was full self-government- political, social, economic and spiritual. Swaraj implied enlighten, self-control of the individual, inspiring detached performance of their duties. Tilak wanted men to rise above the level of animal pleasure through self-discipline and self-efforts and attain true happiness by sublimating their desires.

In this context the paper aims to unravel the political philosophy of Lokmanya Tilak and his outstanding contribution for present Independent, Sovereign and world's biggest Democracy.

Key Words: *Freedom, Philosophy, Political, Self-government, Swarajya,*