

Life and Achievements of Pandit Taranath (1891-1943)

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Abstract

Pandit Taranath was one among the glittering gems of Karnataka. As a yogi, specialist in Ayurveda, Unani and medicine, teacher in National Education, guru in religion and philosophy, leader in freedom struggle and so on was a jack of all things. His 'Premayatana' was shelter point to the patients who were suffering from the diseases and a asylum to the orphans, a center of yoga for yogis, political centre for the freedom fighters, a think tank of thinkers and philosophers in wholesome it was a school of learning to the newcomers. Taranath was one an eternal model to our coming generations. His ideals are guidelines today's political leaders, religious gurus and teachers in the centres of learning.

KEYWORDS: Medicine, Premayatana, Humdarad, Ayurveda, Unani

Introduction

Pandit Taranath was one of a multi faceted personalities of Karnataka. He served for the protection of Kannada land and language, art and culture, patients and poorer, suppressed and depressed classes, his yeoman service in the field of education made him a role model to the youth of this Hyderabad Karnataka region. Pandit was well versed in fourteen languages and he become a thinker, teacher, yogi, actor, artist, doctor, musician and so on. These all virtues moulded in a single statue called "Pandit Taranath".

Early life of Pandit Taranath:

Taranath was born in Mangalore on 5th June, 1891. His father was Rangarao, a Saraswat Brahmin and mother Rajeevamma. He had one brother and three sisters. Taranath got his traditional education by his mother and influenced by the personality of Lord Manik Prabhu of Humnabad. The art of acting and music were learned by his father in his childhood. But at early age Taranath was last his parent and given shoulder to the yoke of family.

Thereby his family moved to Hyderabad from South Canara. In 1931 he was married with Sumatibai a close associate to his sisters Leelavati and Bhamabai in Madras.

In Hyderabad, Taranath completed his intermediate course and joined the medical college, where he got fame as the pet disciple of Vice Principal Dr. Abdul Gani. By the way he was studied the Ayurved and Unani system of medicine at Srihari Govindrao, was a Nizams family doctor. Immediate after completion of his medical degree he was appointed as science teacher in Bidar. But a short while he resigned to his government service as a teacher as it was the symbol of protest to the tyronic rule of Nizams.

Taranath as a Journalist:

Pandit Taranath was as well versed in fourteen languages, so he decided to start the art of journalism. In 1924 he was published the paper namely 'Prema', with intention to teach the medical sciences and editing knowledge among his student community. The paper 'Prema' was published for the period of quarterly in English and Kannada languages. Later a few years it run as a whole Kannada monthly as 'Kannada Prema'. It was published about nine years from Dharwad, few of Taranath's friends holds their yoke to publish it 'Kannada Prema' was the first Kannada monthly had published the science articles on women in India. Pandit himself wrote many articles on superstitions, child marriage, position of widow and the wholesome illegal activities of the contemporary society.

Taranath traced a special sign on the letter writing in varied linguistic styles. He was sending many articles on art, literature and music to the numerous Kannada magazines. Also Panditji delivered very useful lectures on journalism to the many interested youths in his Premayatana.

Pandit Taranath was started a paper on Ayurveda, its name was 'Dhanvantari'. He continuously attended the conferences regarding ayurveda across the state. His scholarship and yeoman service in the field of ayurveda made him unanimously the chairperson of the Sammelan (conference).

Taranath's many articles published in America's world famous journal called 'ASIA'. Few of the well wishers of Panditji in America started a School of Theology in California from where the thoughts of Taranath was published in various papers in the name of Decamaning. Rajarao of an Indian settled in France, popular as international journalist, who was translated many of magnumopus articles of Taranath into the papers of European continent. Rajarao's wife Madam Kama, a professor in a University of France, she came to contact with Taranath and short a while stood in the premayatana. Alexander Wiggord of Poland, Countaee Polelasky Gosken and Dr. Widd were visited the Premayatana, a shelter bank to the patients and helpless poor of the villagers on the bank of Tungabhadra.

Taranath and his works:

Pandith Taranath's work culture not only confine to the field of journalism, he was also jack of all types of Kannada literature.

1. **Nisarga:** It is a short story written by Taranath on the demand of 'Tuntara Tanda' of Belagvi for one ana (One Paisa) series. The great journalist of Kannada Journalism Pyati Shamrao become the editor to the publications of 'Ana Series' from Belagavi. The story 'NISARGA' shall capable to bring down the pride horns of the ego men in the society.
2. **Devara Maga:** This is also a short story composed by Taranath Jagala (the quarrel) is the first arch of 'Taragrantha Male' series. In this work the author exclaimed the thoughts of freedom movement flawlessly.
3. **Dharma Sambhava:** It is a intellectual writing of Panditji, later in 1931 Alur Venkatrao published in the form of a book.
4. **Tayandirige (to the Mothers):** It is the composition of research articles on supplement to the social work.

5. 'Sulabha Chikitse' and Rasaushadhigalu are the works written by him on medicine and ayurveda respectively.
6. Prema Bhajanawali: In 1933 these Bhajan songs composed by Taranath and sung in the Asylum Daily by the devotees. In 1991 birth centenary committee of Taranath published these songs in second edition.
7. Deenabandu Kabir: A composition of songs on Kabir and was also composed by Pandit Taranath and got very popular in the 'Ashrama' and surrounding villages as Bhajan songs. Taranath also composed a drama on Kabir.
8. Taranath speeches
9. Premayatana mail box (Letters)
10. Selected writings of Pandit Taranath are also written by Taranath on different moods and motivations. But the texts like 'Tarasmrane' and "wit and wisdom of Taranath" which deals about Taranath and they edited and composed by various authors and published by the Pandit Taranath Birth centenary committee Raichur.

Taranath and freedom movement:

As early as in 1920, Pandit collected a fund to help the Khilafat movement to its national leader Moulana Shoukat Ali but it felt him as traitor by the Nizam state. As part of Khilafat movement Rao Bahadur was arrested by the Nizam in orcott district of Tamil Nadu, where Bahadur was arrested for his public speech. Hence, Taranath supported the deeds of Bahadur and lettered to the Nizam, whereby Taranath was farmaned to arrest. Then Taranath was supported by his numerous like minded friends and suggested him to settled at Rampura village on the bank of Tungabhadra river, 30 kilometers from Raichur.

Taranath was an intellectual freedom fighter. He taught against the Tyrannic Yoke of Nizams in Hyderabad. Taranath had a good quality of friends across south India, even he had many friends in rest of India and abroad. Taranath was published numerous articles on the despotic rule of Nizams in the name of Raobahadur. In fact Rao Bahadur was beloved pupil of Taranath and teacher in the Humdard School at Raichur. But later the Hyderabad government traced him and imprisoned on the grounds of traitor ship at Kalaparni.

That was the time of under ground activities and on ground movements in Hyderabad state, Taranath published his flawless articles in English to the papers like Hindu, Daily mail, Swaraj and others. On that reason Taranath was arrested with lawyer Raghavendra Sharma. Finally tortured them in the prisons and deported from Hyderabad state. Hence, he came to Tungabhadhra and settled at 'Premayatana' it was belonged to Bellary district in the Madras presidency of British India.

Taranath as a doctor:

Panditji well versed in the English medicine and as well as in Ayurveda and Unani. Taranath was served a yeoman service to the people of Bidar when they suffered from the malaria and cholera. Later settled at Rampura village, Tarantah tried day and night for the Medicare of villagers from the epidemics. So, the people of surrounding villages to the Rampura were ready to shed their blood for the impartial service of Panditji. Bheemrao Kulkarni of Rampur gave a land to Panditji, where Taranath's Asylum 'Premayatana' was built and many free tent houses and huts were erected

depending to the Premayatana. Within time span of three years of Premayatana, the couple of Panditji nurtured and medicare about 16000 patients.

Taranath as Educationist:

Taranath was a great patron of art and education. In 1920, he was started Humdard middle school in Raichur, in shortly which will go for celebrate its birth centenary (1920-2020) with the vision 2020 of our Abdul Kalamji. Later Humdard middle school extended to high school and pre University College levels. Many of the student learnt in these schools now a days became a great freedom fighters, political leaders, lawyers and responsible citizens in this region.

Taranath gave importance to mind building it of material building in the premises of Humdard. Even in 1940s he called and brought many outstanding scholars as teachers to his school. It become a great boon to the student community of Raichur to earn eternal knowledge in the auspices of the great teachers like Dr. H. N. Laxminarasimha Shastri, (when he awarded his Ph. D. in Toronto-Canada), Moulvi Saheb P. Krishnarao and others. Krishnarao was virtuous person. He was only leader and famous lawyer in Raichur. He was influenced a lot on government and the people of Raichur. Krishnarao got close associate with the merchants like Timmanna Ganadinni, Jai Narayan Seth and Madisetty Govindaiah were helped him to run the Humdard middle school. Govindarao was one of the another close associate to Krishnarao, was a lawyer by profession, worked as right hand to him.

Today, Humdard School become a moving force behind the Taranath Shikshana Sanste (TSS) of Raichur. It runs Laxmi Venkatesh Desai LVD Degree College of Arts and Science, Bankatlal Rajaram Boob, BRB College of Commerce, Soma Subhadramma Ramanagouda, SSRG Women's Arts and Science College in Raichur, now TSS had a big force of Alumnees in the region of Hyderabad Karnataka.

Taranath as Role Model:

In many fields of knowledge Taranath become a role model to the contemporaries. Vedamurthy Alakur Shrinivasa Shastri and Prof. R. V. Jahagirdhar (Shri Ranga) visited his ashram at Premayatana.

Once the formerly high court judge of Madras, V. V. Iyengar came to Tungabhadra for discourse on religion with Panditji. T. P. Kailasam suffered a lot from the opponents after he wrote the Tollu-Gatti play. When Taranath inspired Kailasam to write further works. Even in the matter of A. N. Krishnarao (Anakru) in the beginning of his first novel 'Jeevana Yatre', it was original a story told him by Taranath.

The great actor of Bellary T. Raghava, Dharmavaram Krishnamachar, Muliya Govardhanrao, M. Gopalakrishnarao, Siddavanahalli Krishnarao and others deeply influenced by the gravitational personality of Taranath.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Sarojini Naidu, Mahatma Gandhi, T. Raghavacharya, Prof. S. Radhakrishnan and nurmours foreigners were having harmonious attitude towards Panditji. Once Panditji cleared the doubt regarding the 'Mayavada' of Sri Shankaracharya to Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. The foreigners like Prof.

Madam Kama, Moolard of France, Alexander Ugard of Poland, Prof. Weede of Netherlands, marries Freedman a close associate of Gandhi, Father Elvin were known the deep knowledge and experience of Taranath in the field of medical sciences.

Dr. Meylord of Paris, a superintendent of Tuberculosis Hospitals in France lettered to Taranath to come to Tungabhadra for learning in “Ayurvedic thoughts”. Dr. Mitz of Denmark come to India and become associate with Panditji for a short period and lived in Tungabhadra. Many foreigners, who visited the Prachya Vidya Parishat of Mysore and enjoy the debate with Taranath in various aspects of knowledge. But they were surprised by the method and style of debating and font of knowledge of Taranath.

Estimate of Taranath:

In a whole, Pandit Taranath was not a man, he was a superman. He worked like an organisation. He had the attractive personality. Taranath expressed many difficult things in flawless manner. In every comment Taranath mixed up the song, yoga, medicine, Vedanta, science, poetry, art and literature. Siddavanahalli Krishna Sharma rightly says “he was an intellectual and revolutionary mutineer. The victory of oratory is the victory of personality”. His thought like a love of life and life is a love. Only love the rest is a poison. Taranath flown his think from vanaspati to Vedanta, humour to humanity, literature to law, sachchidan to social reform, polity to play ground and yoga to raaga. As educationist, social reformer, freedom fighter, mentor to mendicant society, artist, musician. Taranath was one of the creators of modern Karnataka.

Suggestions:

Pandit Taranath’s principles are taken as role models in moulding the healthier society. His all works and published papers collectively republished by the government as hand fully available to our last men in the society. Government will introduce some educational reforms in his name and the Raichur post Graduate Centre to be renamed as ‘Pandit Taranath University of Raichur’.

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