Between the Mystic and the MLA

One is a mystic and the other is a people’s representative; Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and Dr Jayaprakash Narayan in conversation meant, a serious debate on morality, ethical conduct, corruption, politics, (role of parties and criminals), religion and politics

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One is a revered spiritual guru, a visionary, a savant who works for the spiritual and physical upliftment and well being of the people, a mystic and more. The other is a medical doctor by training who entered the Indian Administrative Service only to take voluntary retirement after 16 years of service to set up the political party Lok Satta and dedicate himself to reforms in governance and redressal of public grievances and is currently Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. So, one can imagine the nature of the conversation between Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and Dr Jayaprakash Narayan.

It was a packed hall at the N Convention where serious issues like morality, ethical conduct, corruption, politics, (role of parties and criminals), religion and politics were debated upon infused with some characteristic crackling wit from Sadhguru’s side, spiritual insights given and even solutions offered. Sadhguru emphasised on how the unity of the nation has been maintained and stressed the role of the businessman is crystall in today’s context. The questions and answers were articulated well by both the personalities. Sadhguru’s answers were simple, straight-forward and pragmatic too. His ability to explain at a simple and fundamental level too was laudable.

Sadhguru importantly underscored the need to identify a human being as a human being and not by his race, caste, creed, religion. One of the important things Sadhguru mentioned was that “the laws of the country have to be simplified. What exists now is complex and ambiguous. The English created the ambiguity and we retained the same laws. These laws were good to control foreign nations if you were to occupy them.”

What drew the most applause is the statement “there is no corruption in India, there is only banditry! For a comment by Dr Narayan that in the recent election in Andhra Pradesh about 500 crores of rupees seem to have been spent to get the votes, Sadhguru was quick to retort “Not spent but invested! That again got him another round of applause.”

Sadhguru urged citizens to not to be mere spectators but to be more participatory. “Democracy has various ways in which one can participate in governance. There has been no education on democracy. Even the government has not educated people. Although everything changes – language, food, culture - every 100 kilometres, people have referred to us as a nation – as Hindustan, Bharat varsh even though there are many entities. It was one ethos. The only thing that keeps us together is spirituality. We have been a nation of seekers and not a nation of believers. The spiritual thread is keeping us together. If we do not strengthen the fundamental spiritual ethos we’ll break up into entities,” Sadhguru mentioned. He also spoke about the need to bring an experience of inclusiveness into people, which is something that the spiritual process naturally does. He mentioned that unless a sense of inclusiveness is present in everyone, especially in the leadership, no real transformation could take place in the nation.

Sadhguru said - if we value India as a nation we must strengthen two-three national parties. People have to come to a place where they are willing to give up caste and creed to do economically well. Economic opportunity is most important. Economic development should happen.

Such conversations should not be restricted to mere conversations in an auditorium but go beyond them and be brought in the public domain in order to reach citizens who missed them.

The profound thoughts/ideas/suggestions expressed could perhaps be taken up by individuals/organisations/governments for execution and implementation wherever possible. After all, such things are for the betterment and welfare of the individual and society!