



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar and Social Justice

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The entire philosophy of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar revolves around the creation of an egalitarian social order wherein there would be no place of graded inequality and oppressive social hierarchies of low and high, pure and polluted and Savarnas and Avarnas. He firmly believed in the most cherished moral value of fraternity which in turn needs to flourish in a society enriched with the equally cherished and valuable principles of equality and liberty. It is for the realization of trinity of equality, liberty and fraternity that he termed his struggle as spiritual. He was of the view that political freedom without social and economic parity is shallow that can't help create an egalitarian social set-up. In a socially segmented society like that of Hindu society, a large number of so-called Shudras and Ati-Shudras have historically been denied basic human and civil rights that are essential



for social, political, economic and spiritual growth of each and every member of the society. His sole objective was to restore the lost dignity and self-respect to the millions of downtrodden in the society and to prepare them to stand for equal rights on their own strength. He firmly believed that liberty, equality and fraternity should become the real strengths of India, which would lay the foundations of Indian democracy rooted in its social domain. For him political democracy should be based on social democracy. Social democracy in turn is dependent on equal opportunity available to all in the society where there should be no hierarchies and hereditary claims and special rights.

He was a practical visionary who produced voluminous of well-documented literature to put across his viewpoint and egalitarian social order. He was not an armchair scholar. He actually devoted his entire life while abdicating various opportunities to lead a rich and authoritative life. He worked with the people at the grassroots to up left them from the morass of social exclusion and terrified social and economic life. In order to awaken his people and to put across his viewpoint, Baba Sahib launched many papers like MookNayak, Janata, Bahishkrit Bharat and Prabudh Bharat. He believed that without acquiring political power the goal of egalitarian order is next to impossible. Therefore, he founded two political parties (Labor Party of India and Scheduled Castes Federation of India) and prepared a blueprint for the third (Republican Party of India). To give a practical shape to his social vision, Babasaheb tried all possible ways to bring social reforms within Hinduism in order to make it an all-inclusive religion where the Shudras and Ati-Shudras should not suffer on account of their so-called lower birth. (Contd. on page 3 & 4)



Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
www.ambedkarfoundation.nic.in


BABASAHEB DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR

APRIL 14 1891, RAMJI SAKPAL'S WIFE, BHIMABAI, GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.

LOOK AT HIS FACE! IT'S SO RADIANT. LET'S CALL HIM BHIM—A NAME BEFITTING ONE DESTINED TO BE GREAT.

YES, WE WILL GIVE HIM THE BEST UPBRINGING AND EDUCATION. IT WILL EQUIP HIM FOR GREAT DEEDS.

DESPITE HARDSHIPS, RAMJI SENT HIS CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. HE ALSO TAUGHT THEM HIMSELF.



IN HIGH SCHOOL, BHIM WAS OFTEN TREATED SHABBILY BECAUSE OF HIS CASTE. BUT HE FOUND AN OASIS OF AFFECTION IN ONE TEACHER NAMED AMBEDKAR.


GOOD! YOU HAVE SOLVED ALL THE SUMS CORRECTLY.

ONCE, THEY WERE EATING TOGETHER—

BHIM, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU MY SURNAME OF AMBEDKAR.

AS YOU WISH, SIR.

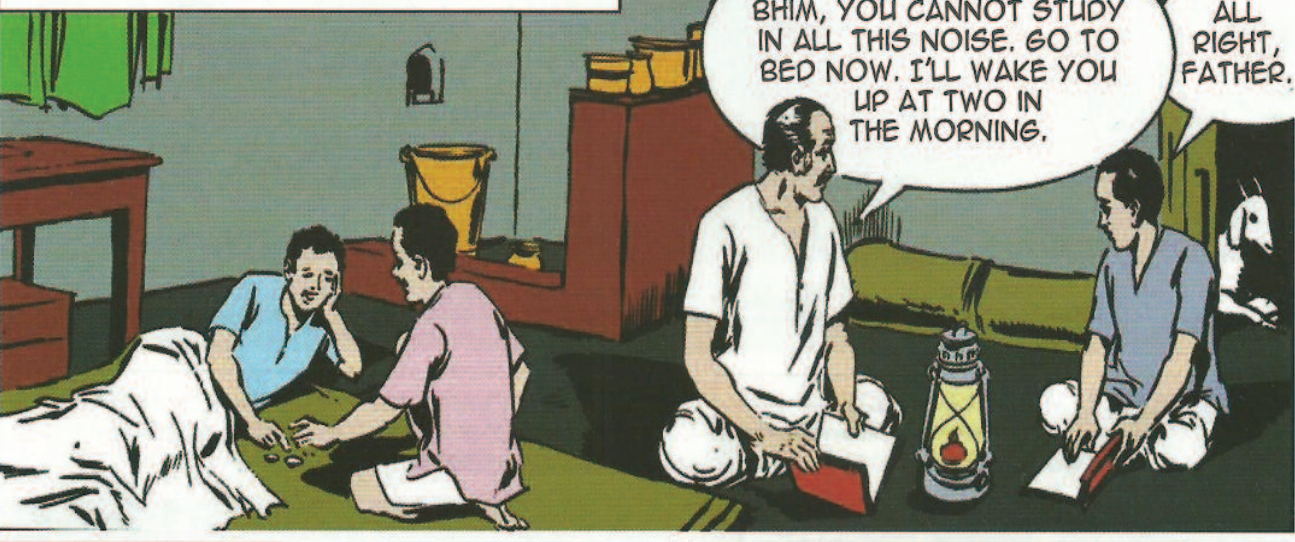
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL LET ME COME NEAR HIM.




AFTER SOME TIME, RAMJI MOVED WITH HIS CHILDREN TO BOMBAY. HE TOOK UP A ROOM IN A CHAWL IN THE MILL AREA AT PAREL. THE ROOM SERVED AS A KITCHEN, BEDROOM AND STUDY ROOM.

BHIM, YOU CANNOT STUDY IN ALL THIS NOISE. GO TO BED NOW. I'LL WAKE YOU UP AT TWO IN THE MORNING.

ALL RIGHT, FATHER.




BHIM STUDIED HARD WHILE THE OTHERS SLEPT.



HE USED TO GO TO THE CHARNI ROAD GARDENS TO STUDY. THERE, HE OFTEN MET K.A. KELUSKAR, A SCHOLAR AND SOCIAL REFORMER.

HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING, BHIMRAO?

I AM STUDYING HARD, SIR.



Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 15, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

Dr Ambedkar's portrait is unveiled at Grays Inn



Arun Kumar
General Secretary,
FABO, UK

2016 is the year of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary and is still being celebrated all over the World. This year is more significant in the UK as it completes hundred years of his coming to the United Kingdom and joining the London School of Economics (LSE) for his higher studies. His education in the West transformed his life. LSE with collaboration of the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) celebrated this year by organising a seminar in which top academicians and human rights activists spoke highly of Dr Ambedkar and his relevance in modern time.



At that time, FABO UK also had correspondence both with the Royal Society of Gray's Inn and Indian High Commission for a memorial in Gray's Inn. It is a World premier institution where Dr Ambedkar was called to the bar for his Bar-at-Law in 1922. Recognising Dr Ambedkar's services to the Indian Constitution and human rights issues, the Royal society of Gray's Inn honoured their illustrious student on 6 December, his 60th death anniversary by unveiling his portrait in their premises. This project was commissioned by the Government of India and the World renowned portrait artist, Hazel Morgan was entrusted to prepare the portrait. It is a matter of pride for all of us that Dr Ambedkar is the only Indian who found a place in the room with other prominent almonries. Rest are all British. Prior to
(Contd.. on next Page)

BHIM WAS THE FIRST IN HIS COMMUNITY TO PASS THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION. HIS COMMUNITY CONVENED A MEETING TO HONOUR HIM. SHRI KELUSKAR WAS ALSO PRESENT TO FELICITATE HIM. SHRI S.K. BOLE, A WELL-KNOWN SOCIAL REFORMER, PRESIDED.



AS A TOKEN OF MY BLESSINGS, I PRESENT YOU WITH MY NEW BOOK ON THE LIFE OF BUDDHA.

AFTER GRADUATION, BHIMRAO WAS SELECTED BY THE STATE OF BARODA TO STUDY ABROAD. IN JULY 1913, HE JOINED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK.



I FEEL SO FREE HERE. THERE ARE NO SOCIAL RESTRAINTS ON ME. I CAN STUDY AS MUCH AS I PLEASE!

THE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY IN THE USA WAS A NOVEL EXPERIENCE FOR BHIMRAO.

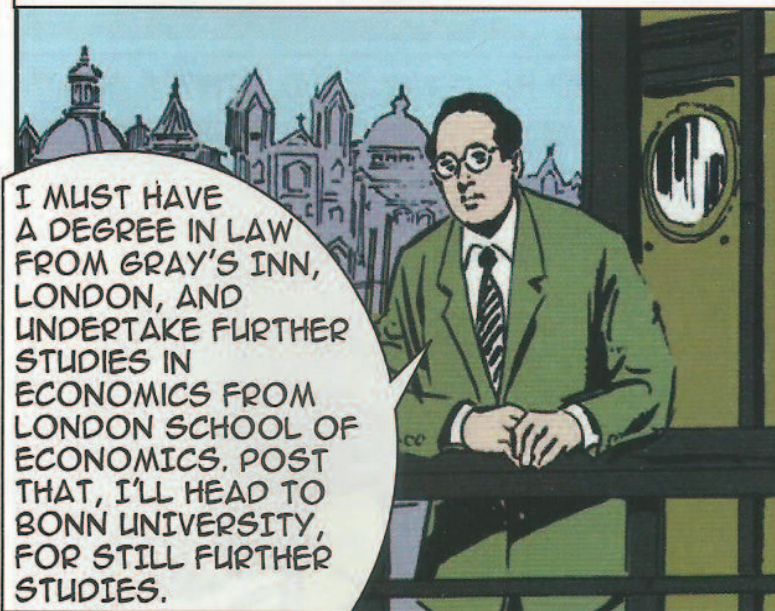
HE WORKED ALMOST 18 HOURS A DAY.



I WILL SAVE MONEY TO BUY BOOKS AND TAKE BACK TO INDIA.

IN 1915, HE ATTAINED HIS M.A. DEGREE AND LATER WAS AWARDED HIS PH.D.

HAVING COMPLETED HIS STUDIES IN THE USA IN LESS THAN THE STIPULATED TIME, HE PROCEEDED TO LONDON.



I MUST HAVE A DEGREE IN LAW FROM GRAY'S INN, LONDON, AND UNDERTAKE FURTHER STUDIES IN ECONOMICS FROM LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS. POST THAT, I'LL HEAD TO BONN UNIVERSITY, FOR STILL FURTHER STUDIES.

Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, 15, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

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Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

Dr Ambedkar's portrait is unveiled at Grays Inn

the unveiling ceremony, 'Dr Ambedkar Memorial Lecture: Power of Change' was organised in which the Acting High Commissioner, Mr Dinesh Patnaik spoke about the change taking place as a result of the values enshrined in India's constitution.

Earlier in the morning, rich tributes were paid to Dr Ambedkar by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) members. At 11Am, a short function at India House, Indian High Commission was arranged by FABO UK to pay homage to Dr Ambedkar. Acting High Commissioner, Mr Dinesh Patnaik garlanded the bust of Dr Ambedkar and gave an inspiring speech to remember Dr Ambedkar's contribution to the nation. Arun Kumar and Harbans Virdee of FABO UK also paid their respect by



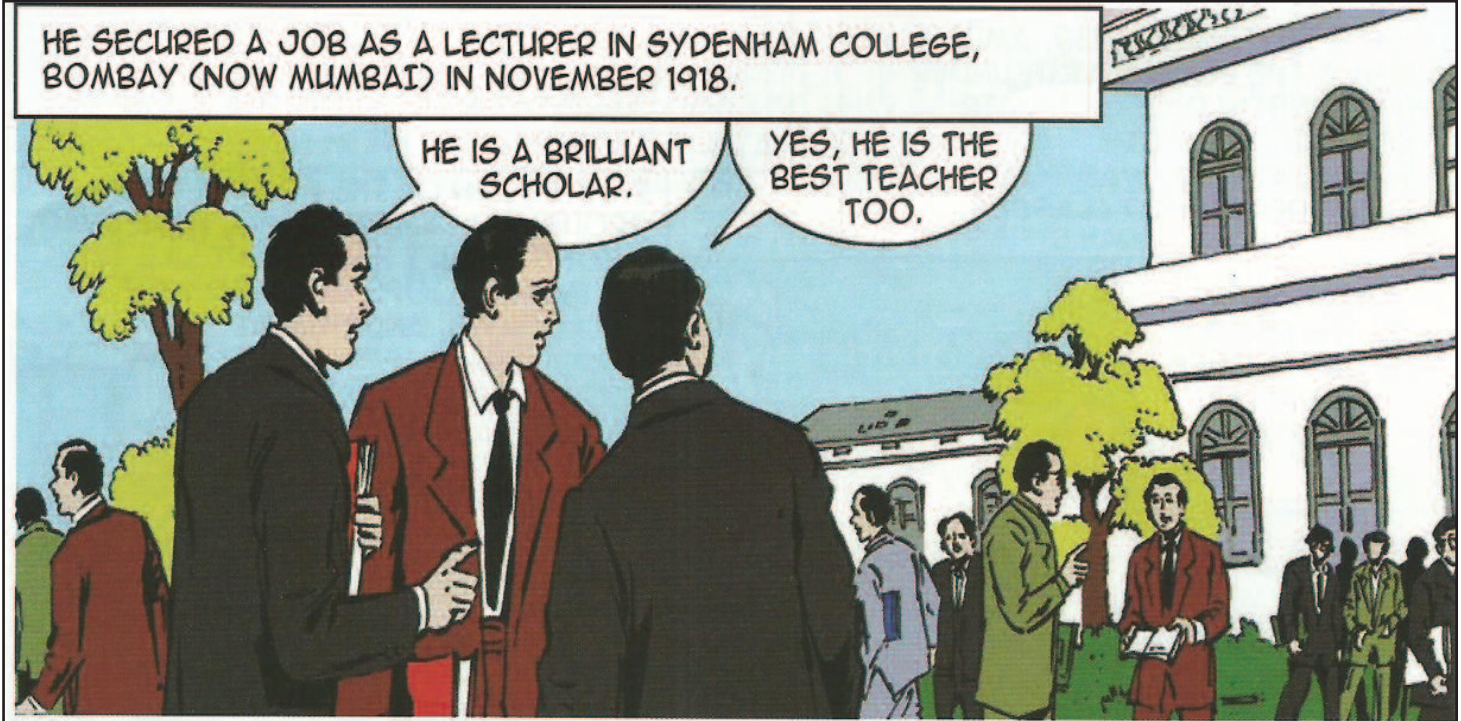
terming Dr Ambedkar as a nation builder. After the close of this function, everybody proceeded for a peace walk to the Ambedkar Museum, 10 King Henry's Road, London where Babasaheb stayed during his studies in 1921-22. After floral tributes, C. Gautam, Srikant Borkar, Ravi Kachre, Prashant Bhalesan, Arun kumar and Harbans Virdee paid homage to Dr Ambedkar.

On the way to this house, the caravan stopped at London School of Economics and garlanded the bust of Babasaheb. It turned out to be a memorable day for everybody as they witnessed history in making.

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He launched satyagrahas (non-violent struggles) for the entry of lower castes (then known as depressed classes) in to public places of utility and religious sites; organized common kitchen eatings; and advocated inter-caste marriages. When such measures failed to bring the desired results, he put forward the idea of abandoning Hindu religion. After giving it a deep thought (more than twenty years), he embraced Buddhism as a way to an egalitarian social order in India.

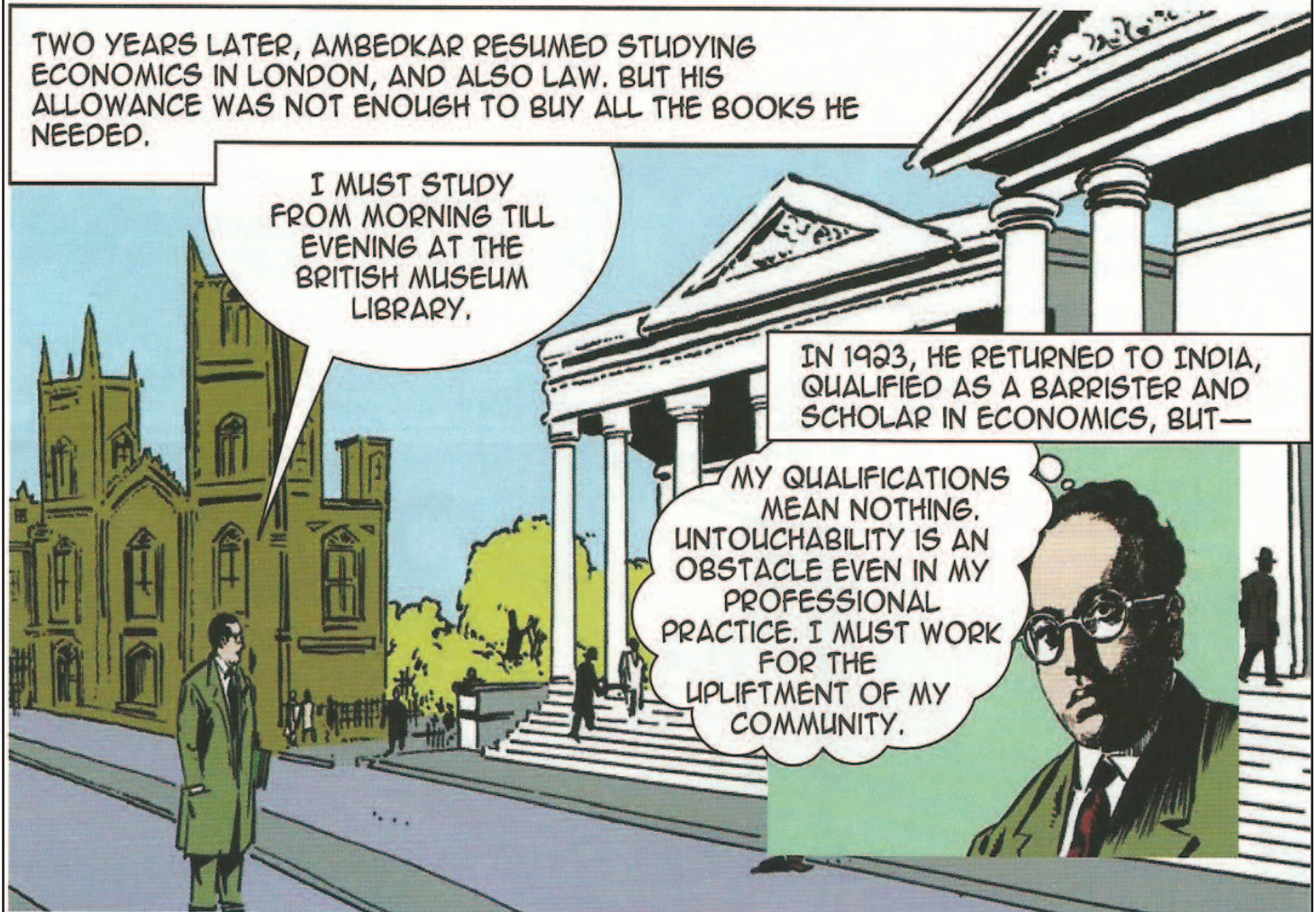
His people for whom he struggled throughout his life eagerly wait for the true realization of his goal. Their en
(Contd..on page 4)



HE SECURED A JOB AS A LECTURER IN SYDENHAM COLLEGE, BOMBAY (NOW MUMBAI) IN NOVEMBER 1918.

HE IS A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR.

YES, HE IS THE BEST TEACHER TOO.

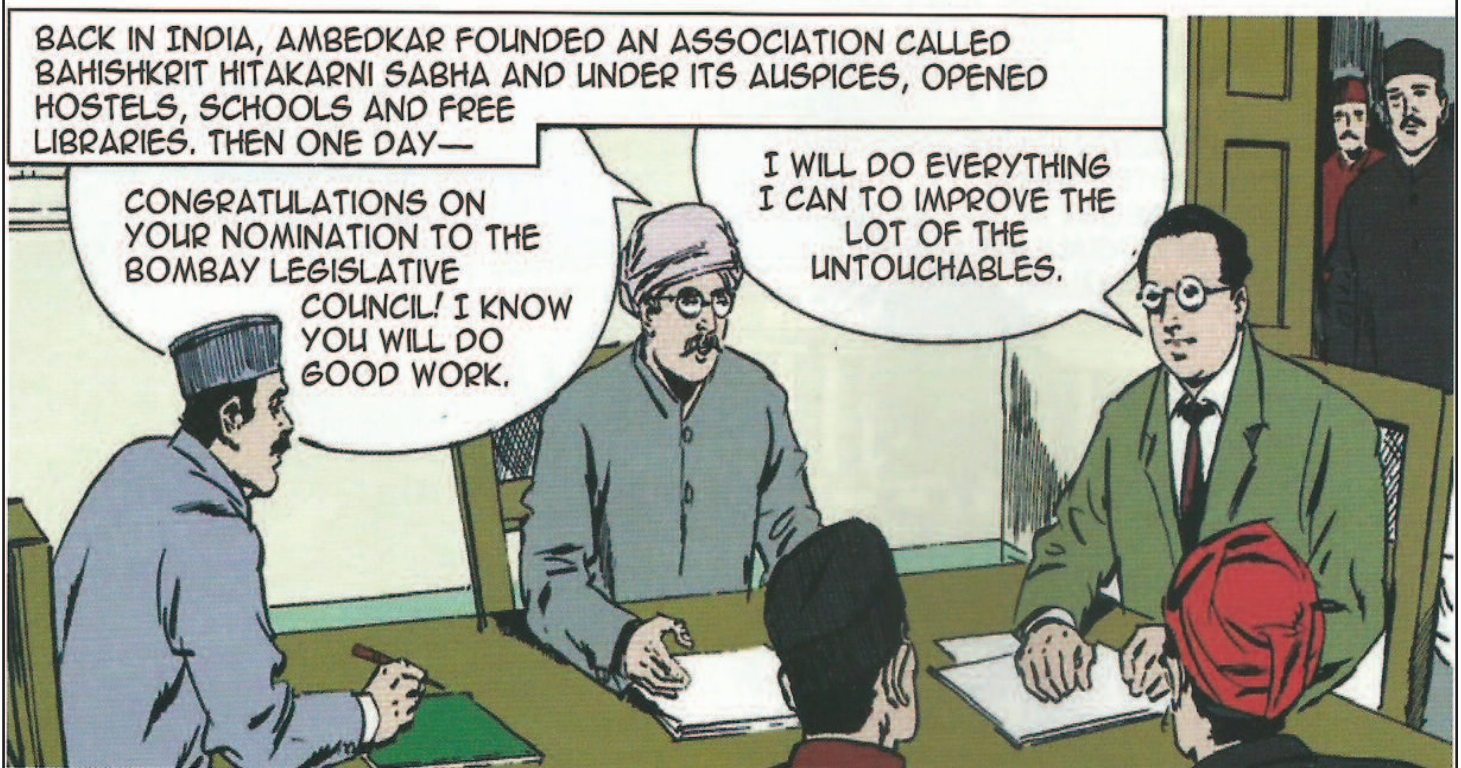


TWO YEARS LATER, AMBEDKAR RESUMED STUDYING ECONOMICS IN LONDON, AND ALSO LAW. BUT HIS ALLOWANCE WAS NOT ENOUGH TO BUY ALL THE BOOKS HE NEEDED.

I MUST STUDY FROM MORNING TILL EVENING AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY.

IN 1923, HE RETURNED TO INDIA, QUALIFIED AS A BARRISTER AND SCHOLAR IN ECONOMICS, BUT—

MY QUALIFICATIONS MEAN NOTHING. UNTOUCHABILITY IS AN OBSTACLE EVEN IN MY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. I MUST WORK FOR THE UPLIFTMENT OF MY COMMUNITY.



BACK IN INDIA, AMBEDKAR FOUNDED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED BAHISHKRIT HITAKARNI SABHA AND UNDER ITS AUSPICES, OPENED HOSTELS, SCHOOLS AND FREE LIBRARIES. THEN ONE DAY—

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NOMINATION TO THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL! I KNOW YOU WILL DO GOOD WORK.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE UNTOUCHABLES.

Parinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Jalandar – A Report



Today, December 6, was the Parinirvan Day of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (April 14, 1891 – December 6, 1956). The Day, the death anniversary, was observed at Ambedkar Bhawan at Jalandar in all solemnity and reverence to pay tributes to the greatest son of India. The function was organized by

Ambedkar Bhawan Trust, as usual like every successive year. It was a well attended function by cross sections of the community.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Rajnish Bahadur Singh, Head of the Punjabi Department of the local DAV College spoke with conviction and delivered a thought provoking lecture on the life and philosophy of Babasaheb Ambedkar. A staunch Ambedkarite and an old associate of Dr. Ambedkar, who is also a prolific thinker and writer on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Shri Lahori Ram Balley also paid glowing tributes to the great leader of contemporary India along with others namely; Dr. Ram Lal Jassi, Dr. Tarsem Sagar, Dr. Gian Chand Kaul. Poets Param Dass Heer and Sohan Sehjal regaled the audience with their excellent and inspirational poetic compositions.

Ambassador Ramesh Chander spoke spontaneously at the function to inform, brief and solicit support of the audience and the community at large to his proposal submitted to PM Narendra Modi and EAM Sushma Swaraj to make a demarche to the UN at New York to declare April 14, birthday of Dr. Ambedkar, as the International Day of Equality to a befitting tribute to the leader and savior of humanity by his sterling contribution towards establishing a just world order by bring about the much needed equality and oneness which is also one of the cardinal principles of the UN.

The function concluded with a Langar (Community Kitchen) served by the volunteers of Samta Sainik Dal.

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thusiasm can be seen from the way they throng the Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi of their beloved Babasaheb who had died on 6th December 1956. Large crowds of people from all over the country gathered at the "Chaitya Bhoomi" (Dr. Ambedkar's memorial) at Dadar in order to pay reverence to the Messiah of downtrodden. They offered their love-laced feelings by touching the "Chaitya Bhoomi" reverently. This shows his great legacy that his people carrying forward to make his dream come true. A true tribute to Baba Sahib Dr. B.R. Ambedkar would be to follow his footsteps towards the creation of egalitarian social order free from the bounds of pure and impure, and high-low social statuses.

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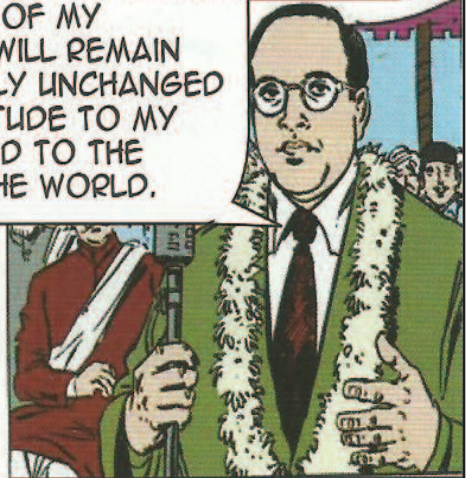
ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1932, AMBEDKAR SIGNED THE POONA PACT, UNDER WHICH, INSTEAD OF SEPARATE ELECTORATES, MORE REPRESENTATION WAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

THE DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE ON CASTE LINES HAS BEEN AVERTED.



IN 1939, THE SECOND WORLD WAR BROKE OUT. THE CONGRESS MINISTRIES RESIGNED. IN JULY 1942, THE VICEROY APPOINTED AMBEDKAR AS LABOUR MINISTER IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AT A RECEPTION GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR—

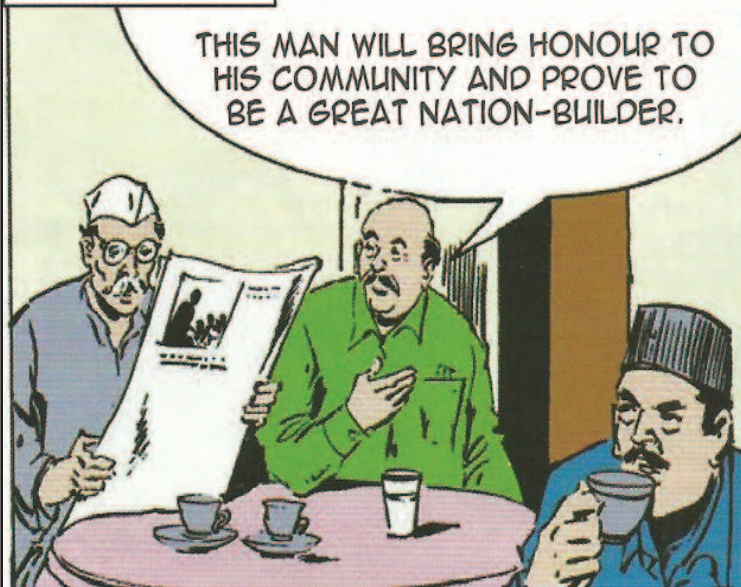
I WAS BORN OF THE POOR. I WAS BROUGHT UP AMONG THEM, HAVE LIVED AMONG THEM. I HAVE SLEPT LIKE THEM ON DAMP FLOORS COVERED WITH SACK-CLOTH, AND SHARED THE SORROWS OF MY PEOPLE. I WILL REMAIN ABSOLUTELY UNCHANGED IN MY ATTITUDE TO MY PEOPLE AND TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



HE FORMED THE ALL INDIA SCHEDULED CASTES FEDERATION IN 1942.

WHEN INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT IN AUGUST 1947, AMBEDKAR BECAME THE FIRST LAW MINISTER OF INDEPENDENT INDIA.

THIS MAN WILL BRING HONOUR TO HIS COMMUNITY AND PROVE TO BE A GREAT NATION-BUILDER.

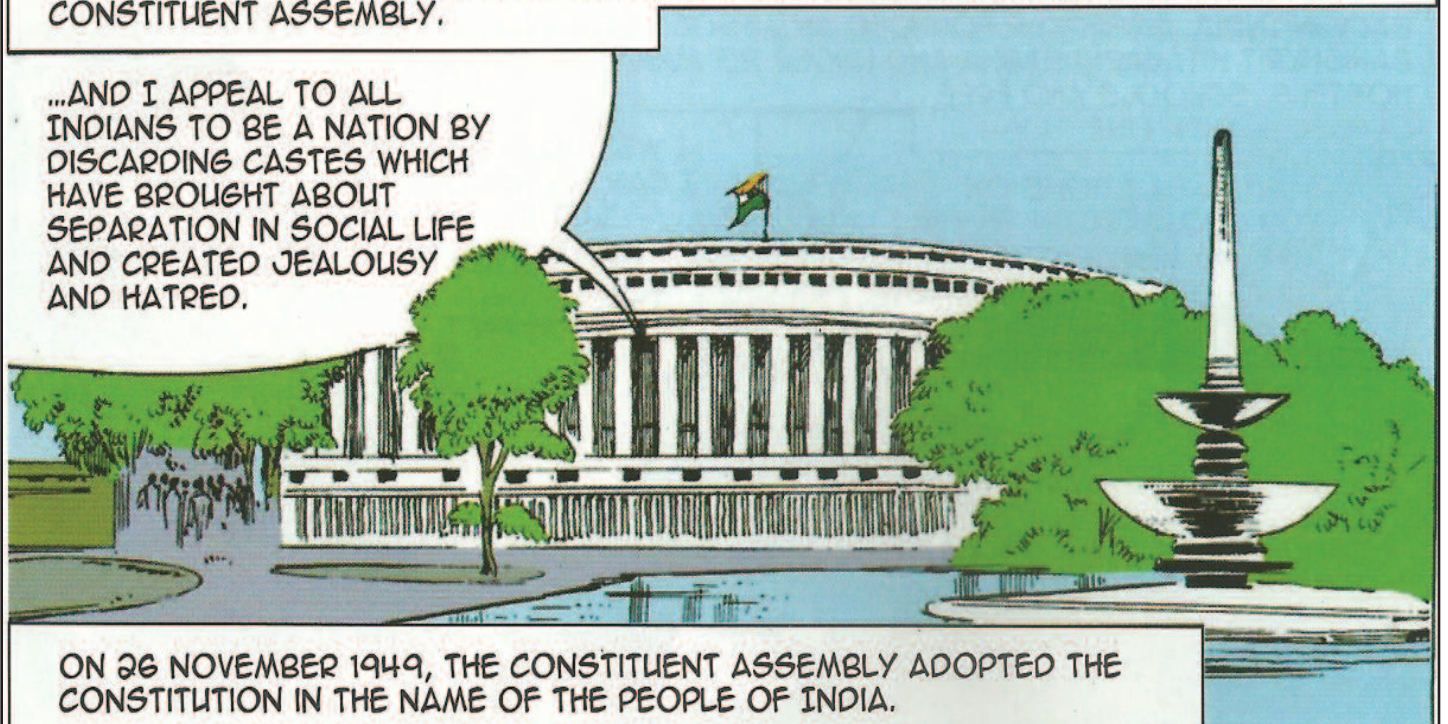


THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPOINTED DR. AMBEDKAR AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FORMED TO DRAFT THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA. AND THE BURDEN OF PREPARING A CONSTITUTION FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY FELL UPON HIS SHOULDERS.



ON 4 NOVEMBER 1948, DR. AMBEDKAR PRESENTED THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

...AND I APPEAL TO ALL INDIANS TO BE A NATION BY DISCARDING CASTES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT SEPARATION IN SOCIAL LIFE AND CREATED JEALOUSY AND HATRED.



ON 26 NOVEMBER 1949, THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE CONSTITUTION IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.