

Ram and Hanuman

INSTEAD OF LAUNCHING A BIG exegesis on many Hindu symbols and concepts brutally soiled and bes-mirched by the spurious and theatrical Hindu, it is better to restrict oneself to just two characters of the epic Ramayana: Ram and Hanuman, victims of their vicious vandalism. Ram is the epitome of everything beautiful, an abstract ideal, poetically invested with the near absolute goodness. Ram is etymologically the Pleasant, the Handsome. The Ram projected by the saffronazis is farthest from any attribute even minimally approaching nobility or delight. Hindutva's Ram is an object of hatred and fear, emblematic of tyranny and terrorism, violence and villainy. This is how Christians, Muslims, and indigenes have been impressed. Now Ram, the haven of yogis, "in whom they revel (Ramantey yoginah Yasmin sa Ramah)" has been consigned for ever by the Hindu Taliban to their sectarian sullage spreading its stench all over India and far beyond.

Hanuman, the ideal of selfless service, and in Tulasidas's words, "pure knowledge" along with Valmiki (Vandey vishuddha vigyanau kaveeshwar kapeeshwarau) , a deity, unique in strength and humility, exemplar of power with restraint, ever popular with masses and classes, has been criminally re-made by Bajrang Dal into a vile vandal, a rampaging terrorist, a brutal thug, and a marauding monkey. The sanctity of Hanuman has been grievously impaired and fatally compromised beyond repair. Tulasi had called him "Gyaninam agraganyam", "Sakal guna nidhaanam", and "Atulit bala dhaamam" (Prime among the wise, Reservoir of measureless power, Treasure of all virtues). Nobody could have so denigrated Ram and Hanuman and turned them into objects of universal hate and contempt as Hindutva did so assiduously, so evilly. Deities - as tools and instruments, shrunk to serve the electoral fortunes of a bankrupt political party—BJP. This is the byproduct of an exigent mutant going by the name of Hindutva, a falsehood as big as it is bold.

The desecration of these two epic deities is the more hurtful since one, in popular perception, symbolized renunciation of power, and the other the ideal of unconditional and loyal service. Since Hindutva hoods, spoiling and desperate for grabbing power may never have seen, let alone read, Valmiki and Tulasi. □□□