

LETTER

SANITISING THE SUPREMO

It is worth noting that the anniversary celebrations of Golwalkar, have brought into short focus the discomfort experienced by his followers over his controversial legacy. Of course it need be underlined that as far as basic understanding of the project of Hindutva is concerned there does not seem to be any divergence of views. The 'successful social experiment' which witnessed genocide of innocents in Gujarat in the year 2002 bears testimony to his followers unabiding allegiance to the Golwalkarian project of 'nation building'. To be very frank, their unease has arisen over the packaging or presentation of the project.

The feverish attempts by his followers to tell the outside world that he was not the author rather translator of the controversial book '*We or Our Nationhood Defined*' despite facts to the contrary, or their daily new 'discoveries' of participation in the independence movement or their claims from rooftops about 'untouch-ability' having no place in hindu ethos, just go to show that the celebrations are also an occasion for them to present before the gullible public a more acceptable and more humane looking Golwalkar. In his Preface to '*We or Our Nationhood Defined*' dated March 22, 1939, Golwalkar himself claims authorship of the book. The American scholar Jean a. Curran who did a full length study on RSS in early fifties, '*Militant Hinduism in Indian Politics: A Study of the RSS*' (1951) confirms that Golwalkar's 77-page book was written in 1938 when he was appointed RSS General Secretary by Hedgewar and he calls it as RSS's 'Bible'.

Looking at their foolish attempts to 'sanitise' their own Supremo, one is rather reminded of George Orwell's novel 1984 where the Rulers of Oceania, by their language of newthink and process of doublethink, convinced the masses that statements formerly considered irrational were rational. In other words, virtual reality became actual reality and the Party's slogans, accepted by the ruled, were "War is Peace", "Freedom is Slavery", and "Ignorance is Strength".

Perhaps the Sangh thinkers assume that India has already metamorphosed itself into their very own Oceania, the Hindu Rasthra of the Supremo's dreams.

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