

SINS OF SAVIOURS

- Jagdamba Mall

Pope John Paul I was poisoned to death within 33 days of coronation as Pope in his Vatican Palace by nexus of the Archbishops, Cardinals and Mother Superiors responsible for Vatican affairs. (In the Name of God by David Yallop). The torture story of **Maria nun** when published created tremor in Christian world. The **Pope John Paul II** once revealed in an interview in **Time** magazine that there was shortage of celibate bishops to be promoted as Archbishops and Cardinals because most of the bishops in western countries were keeping concubines to quench their concupiscence. Many of them were keeping gay partners. In Bharatvarsh, too, the situation is almost same. A nun was murdered a decade ago in **Margherita** in Tinsukia district of Asom. Another nun allegedly committed suicide in 1st week of this month (March 2009) in a mission school in **Morigaon** district of **Asom**. The reason is revolving around sexual exploitation of the victim nuns. The state of Kerala, where thousands of nuns hail from, is worst for nun torture leading to murder and suicide.

Sister Abhaya (19) was murdered in 1992 in Kerala because she refused sex in the convent. Last summer, a 23 years old nun committed suicide and left a note saying she had been harassed by her Mother Superior. Similar such reports very often appear in the media. The nuns of this country submitted a joint memorandum highlighting their grievances and mental agony to **Pope John Paul II** first at the time of his visit during **Rajiv Gandhi's** regime and 2nd at his another visit during **Vajpayee's** rule. **The Illustrated Weekly of India** carried in mid-nineties the story – **The Great Nun Bazaar** wherein it was reported that **Father Puthenpurackal** of Kerala was selling Christian girls through his nunnery to western masters. The erring priest was collecting the girls for giving nurse training in USA, France and other western countries but on landing on foreign soil the girls found that they had been trapped in a net but they were helpless. The innocent girls had a hobby of becoming a nurse but against their wishes they were forced to join convents as nuns to do menial works. Many of them were murdered when they refused to be used as concubines, several of them committed suicide by jumping from the roof of multi-storey buildings when the torture crossed all human limits. They were not allowed to communicate with their parents. The report of the Illustrated Weekly found resonance in **Parliament**. As a result, an enquiry commission was constituted and the priest was temporarily expelled from the Church and suspended from priest-hood.

These incidents caused several shock waves in the closely guarded Church. The latest in such cases is the publication of a former nun's autobiography which reveals that priests forced nuns to have sex with them and that suicides of victim nuns were common.

Now the big question is: **Are Church and well-ironed spotless white-gowned priests are as clean as they are shown in Hindi films?** In most of Hindi-films, the Hindu mandirs and monasteries are pictured as the den of deceptive and degraded people. Brahmins and Pujaris are presented as sinful and hypocrite. When a lady victim of an accident shelters in a mandir, it is often shown in Hindi films that the pujari rapes her. On the contrary, if that unfortunate lady shelters in Church, the priest showers ocean of love and care as shown in the same Hindi films. The mandirs, monastery or Church was not created by God, these are established by human-being and therefore, human weaknesses also surface. The conception that human weaknesses occur only in mandirs and all the Churches, priests and nuns are clean, is beyond truth. In fact, the Church – Catholic and Protestants both, is the worst victim

of human feebleness because Church administration is well-shield and properly-guarded which maintains perfect secrecy. The priests, nuns, employees and staff members of Church are administered the oath of secrecy and confidentiality. They are trained committed member of Church not to leak out the secrecy in any circumstance which may tarnish the image of Church. **But these weaknesses are bound to recur because priests, nuns and other Church workers are not taught to have self-control on mind and senses through dietary restrictions, meditations and practice of yoga as Hindu sanyasins do.**

Dr. Sister Jesme, the author of the book- “**Amen - An Autobiography of a Nun**” is a Ph.D. in English literature. She was the principal of **St. Marry’s College** in Trichur (Kerala) run by Trichur Church. After continuous service of thirty years, she ventured to expose the malpractices in Church and sexual and physical torture of nuns by priests. The Catholic Church in Kerala is much in talk intermittently for such news. **Finally, two priests and a nun were arrested on 19th November 2008 after 16 years in Sister Abhaya murder case. The dead body of Sister Abhaya was recovered from a well situated in the campus of Pious Convent on 17th March 1992. Under the pressure of Church, the police tried their level best to suppress and close the case by declaring it as a case of suicide but due to legal action taken by the court, CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) was compelled to bring forth the truth.** Recently, the sexual exploitation of nuns prevalent in Church is sole reason behind the alleged suicide of **Sister Anoop Marry**. The family members of Marry have charged the senior priest and superior nuns of Marry’s physical, mental, psychological and sexual exploitation.

Several unholy deeds of these holy men remain suppressed because of “**secrecy culture**” and “**lessons of confidentiality**” administered by the Church to its followers, more so, to her nuns and priests. When an **archbishop** is promoted to the post of **Cardinal**, he takes an “**oath of secrecy**” in presence of **Pope** that he will keep secret all such information which, if leaked out, would cause harm to Church or bring bad name to priests and nuns. This is the reason that even after the news of sexual exploitation of nuns rotating very much in air, it was first and foremost duty of Church and its men to conceal the truth. **It is no wonder that Dr. Sister Jesme maintained surprising silence over three decades after her first rape at the age of thirty.** Though, she kept mum and tolerated being repeatedly raped by priests, she at last mustered the courage and complained to a senior sister when a lesbian nun, too, started exploiting her sexually. The nun mentioned above advised Dr. Jesme that the lesbian relations were better because there was no danger of pregnancy.

Church ideologically claims the celibacy of priests and nuns but the reports reveal that nuns are abused, harassed, tortured and raped by priests. The senior nuns and Mother Superiors also do the same. Dr. Jesme says – “**When a woman is molested, sexually harassed, will she speak out? Only one out of a thousand will speak out. So think of nuns! They will never speak out. They fear that their nun hood will be lost**”. The priests pick up their prey from most committed nuns and other devotees. The devotee families are taught that they should have an unflinching faith on priests and they must pay honors to them. The Bishop-tortured-devotee-families are trained to believe that if these sinful acts of priests and nuns are leaked out, the faithfuls of Church will be traumatized. **The Church spends crores of rupees each year on compensation to victims of carnal pursuits of priests. The Church leaders show the compensation payments against the expenditure for relief, rehabilitation, medicines and economic developmental projects.** Actually, these compensation payments are made to silence the complainant victims and prevent others from coming forward with more complains. Dr. Sister Jesme has revealed in an interview to

an English daily that **Church spent several crores of rupees to set Sister Abhaya murder case at rest.**

The sexual exploitation and trauma of nuns by priests are very often reported in the media but since Bharatiya Christians are very much under the pressure of Church, most of such cases remain concealed. Whatever few cases come to the notice of court and society, they also are denied the justice due to hobnobbing of pseudo-secularists. These secular hypocrites quickly declare such incidents as **“deep-rooted conspiracy of Hindu Organizations”** with mala fide intention to tarnish the “clean” and “divine” image of Church, priests and nuns. Few years before, Melvin D’Silva, the manager of the missionary school in Bhavanikhera village in Rajasthan was arrested against charges of sexual exploitation of students. While reporting this incident, a TV news channel had said, “The Christians of Rajasthan are now the target of Hindus. Last month, a priest of a missionary school in a village of Ajmer was arrested for sexually abusing school students. Since then, the Hindus are active to bring them back to their original Hindu Dharma”. These biased attitudes of media are still the same.

The brutal acts of priests describing their sexual exploitation of nuns as “divine union” were bared by a report published in a daily – ‘La Republica’ published from Rome. The survey report gathered from 23 countries narrated that the priests compel the nuns to use contraceptive pills before their “divine union”. The report said that if the nuns conceived even after the use of pills, the pregnant nuns were forced for abortion. Many of them die during the abortion process. **Is this the testimony of celibate and ascetic life?** The erring priests and nuns quote the obscene verses from the **Song of Solomon** – a chapter in Bible in support of their sinful deeds.

Dr. Sister Jesme is the living testimony of carnal pursuits of lush and lust-breathed priests. She describes – **“While traveling through Bangalore, I was once directed to stay with a purportedly pious priests who took me to a garden and showed me several pairs cuddling behind trees. He also gave me a sermon on the necessity of physical love and described the illicit affairs that certain bishops and priests had. The priest took me to his home, stripped off his clothes and ordered me to do the same”.**

Because of trauma and torture, she writes, the convents have become house of torture and the Church has become a formidable fortress. Does the Church admit this folly?

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