

Mahatma Gandhi And His Attempt To Solve The Conflicts Between Hindus And Muslims In India

Mahatma Gandhi was a political and spiritual leader of India who was most successful in solving the conflicts between Hindus and Muslims by means of Satyagraha. The Satyagraha was a principle that he created from the synthesis between Indian Religions - Hinduism and Jainism and the western philosophy - Ruskin and Tolstoy. The Satyagraha means "to hold onto the Truth" because The Truth or Satya is God. By means of Non - Violence or Ahimsa in all activities, plus his special characteristics of honesty and his charisma, he was successful upto a certain degree in solving the conflicts between Hindus and Muslims.

In reality, there has been the problem of conflicts between Hindus and Muslims in India for more than ten centuries. All these originated from their religions that are extremely different from each other and from brutal wars between them. All these gave rise to the uncompromised habit for both. Afterwards, their hostile subconsciousness came into the open in process of cultural and religions revivals in the 19th century. The problem of communalism became more acute when democracy as a form of government was introduced into India. For the Muslims were afraid of the Hindu majority. The conflict led finally to the partition into India and Pakistan when independence was obtained in 1947.

Mahatma Gandhi's role in solving the conflicts between Hindus and Muslims started when he came back from South Africa in 1915. Gandhi's efforts can be divided into 3 periods as follows:

1. Between A.D. 1919 - 1922, he encouraged The Revival Movement for The Ottoman throne or All - India Khilafat Movement because it was a protest against the British who ruled with untruth. But when this movement chose the violent way, Mahatma Gandhi withdrew his support.

2. Between A.D. 1939 - 1947, he tried to fight against the Partition of India and the creation of Pakistan by the Muslim League led by Mr. Jinnah. Although Gandhi was unsuccessful, he was right in his opinion that the Partition would lead to violence and bloodshed.

3. During the second half of the year 1947, after the Partition, the violence became non - stop. He took up the difficult task of making peace. He traveled to stop the civil war in various places by himself, it had been most successful. It was unfortunate that his plan to travel for peace to Pakistan had to be canceled, because he was assassinated on 30 January 1948. So the conflicts remains unsolved until now. Behind the Kashmir problem between India and Pakistan lies the conflict between Hindus and Muslims.