



# Priests and Politicians Dominate Poor People

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*-Osho*

**I**f you go to the priests, they will teach you what is right and what is wrong. They will not give you insight, they will give you dead categories. They will not give you light, so that you can see in every situation what to do and what not to do; they want you to depend on them. They don't give you insight into things, so you have to remain dependent forever. They give you crutches, but they don't make you stand on your own feet.

Avoid the priests. Whenever you go to any kind of experts, their whole effort in fact is how to make you dependent on them.

India's whole creativity consists in bringing more and more children into the world. There is no reason to be surprised by India's poverty. Every day thousands are born. Medicine has helped people to live long, medicine has helped people to die later and later.

Now there are only two possibilities: either drop the birthrate or raise the deathrate. There are only two possibilities: either kill people



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in some way or other.... And that's what happens repeatedly -- natural calamities kill people, great diseases spread and kill people, wars come and kill people. But they are all lagging behind; they are not able to cope with modern medicine. Unless the birthrate declines there is no possibility for India to see good days. But the Indians are accustomed to having many children. It is very manly, it is thought to be a great blessing from God: the more children you have, the more blessed you are.

The politicians are afraid that if they enforce birth control. So they deliver sermons on 'brahmacharya', celibacy; they themselves are not celibate, and they keep teaching people celibacy.

they force birth control on the country then the people won't vote for them, so they cannot enforce birth control. So they deliver sermons on 'brahmacharya', celibacy; they themselves are not celibate, and they keep teaching people celibacy. And people love these ideas, these are the ideas they have loved for centuries so they feel very good: this is their culture, their culture is being praised. This is the right way to control population -- celibacy.

And how many people are going to do it? That is not the-satisfying.

point at all. A cultural idea, praised for centuries, feels very ego-satisfying.

Celibacy is not going to work. Birth control will have to be brought in. If people willingly accept it, good. If they don't accept it willingly, then it has to be forced on them. People cannot be left to destroy the whole country. But if you talk about enforcing birth control they say then you are not a democrat.

You stop people by force in many things: thieves are not allowed to steal -- is it non-sin; in fact it is a far bigger crime than murder. Things have changed, situations have changed. Now to bring an unnecessary child into the world is



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democratic? Thieves should be allowed, given freedom -- democracy means freedom! Murders are not allowed. Now giving birth to so many children is far more of a crime than stealing; in

fact it is a far bigger crime than murder. Things have changed, situations have changed. Now to bring an unnecessary child into the world is far more a crime than killing a person. It is not a question of democracy, it is a question of survival. Democracy is good, but democracy can exist only if the country can survive. The country is dying, starving. Unless birth control is enforced totally, this country cannot be rich.

My attitude is very clear, my approach is absolutely clear, but the country's old mind is not ready to listen. People come to me and they say, "What are you doing for India's poverty? Why don't you run hospitals, and why don't you distribute free food from the ashram?"

This has been done for at least ten thousand years. Ashrams have been distributing free food for ten thousand years: it has not helped. How is it going to help if one more ashram goes on distributing free food? There are so many hospitals - it has not helped; how is it going to help if we run a few more hospitals?

That is not my approach. I want to cut the very root of the problem, I am not interested in pruning the leaves. But people are duped and dulled by the saints, by the leaders, by the moralists.

Karl Marx seems to be right, at least in a certain sense, that religion has been used as an opium to dupe people and dull their intelligence. Real religion is not opium, but real religion is rare. It exists only when there is a living master -- otherwise priests go on pretending that they have the keys of religion. They don't have any keys; all that they do dominate people, together they

is serve the politicians. There is a conspiracy between organised religion and the state -- between church and state. Together they dominate people, together they reduce people into slavery. If the people are poor it is easier to force them into slavery; if people are poor it is easier to give them beliefs, superstitions. If people are poor they are always afraid of hell and always greedy for heaven. The priest can dominate them and the politician can also dominate them because they are so poor.

In poverty, people lose intelligence. Intelligence needs a certain nourishment. It is a well known scientific fact that if certain vitamins are missing in your food, you will not be intelligent. And I am really worried, because those are the vitamins which are missing in Indian food. Indian food is very deficient hence you see the intelligence is on a very low level. Even the so-called intelligentsia of India doesn't seem to be very intelligent. Intelligence is needed to transform this country, its poverty.

And that's what my work is here: to create more intelligence through meditation; to create more intelligent people by destroying their superstitions, beliefs; to create more alert people, so they can be more responsive to the real situation that exists in the country and in the world.

Only in this way can we cut the very root of the problem.

- Osho  
*The Book of Wisdom,*  
Ch 26.

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