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Part 2
Slavery
 by
Mahatma Phule

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Matsya and Shankasur

SLAVERY (Under the cloak of Brahmanism)

A CONVERSATION (DIALOGUE),

BETWEEN

JOTIRAO (PHULE)

AND

DHONDIBA (NAMDEV KHUMBAR)

Dhondiba : How many hordes of the Aryans may have come to India before (the time of) Waman?

Jotirao : Many hordes of the Aryans came to India in ships (by the sea).

Dhondiba : Did the first horde come in a warship?

Jotirao : There were no warships at the time. So they came in small boats (canoes). These canoes moved swiftly over the sea, like fish. That is why the Captain of the whole crew may have come to called as Matsya.

Dhondiba : Then how have the Brahmin historians written in their (spurious) books (like 'the bhagwat') that the said Captain was born of a fish?

Jotirao : A little reflection will convince you how different man and fish are in their physical structures, of food, sleep, sex habits and procreation etc. Similarly, they are totally different from each other in respect of their brains, hearts, lungs, intestines, wombs and (genitals). Man lives on land. He is easily drowned in water and dies subsequently. The fish is an aquatic species. It dies immediately if taken out of water. A woman gives birth to usually one child at a time. But the female fish lays many eggs which are hatched in due course of time. It was not possible for the female fish to take

the fertile egg out of the sea and hatch it subsequently, for she could not subsist outside the water. Supposing she hatched the egg in the water, how can the young fish resembling a human child survive in water? Supposing she hatched the egg in the water, how can the young fish resembling a human child survive in water? Someone may put forth a novel theory that some expert human diver may have dived into the sea, identified the fertile egg containing the fish-embryo resembling a human embryo, and brought it safely on land. Granted it was so. What clever man must have brought out a human baby out of the fertile fish-egg?

There are many famous medical doctors in Europe and America these days. We doubt if anyone of these expert doctors would vouchsafe to bring forth a living fish out of the fertile fish-egg. What clever (immortal) fish may have informed the expert human diver of the presence of the said fertile egg at the bottom of the sea? And how could the human diver understand the language of the fish-messenger? Many such doubts and questions remain un-answered even after perusing the spurious books of the Brahmins. So we shall be justified in concluding that some cunning Brahmins may have interpolated this fiction in their ancient scriptures at a later date. the better to serve their interests.

Dhondiba : Where did the Captain of the Matsya horde land along with his crew?

Jotirao : He came to India across the Western (Arabian) Sea and disembarked at a port on the western coast.

Dhondiba : What did he do on disembarking?

Jotirao : He killed a Chieftain (Satrap) Shankasur by name and usurped his kingdom. It was under the control of the Aryans until the death of the Matsya Captain. When Matsya died, the followers of (subjects of) Shankhasur launched a terrific attack on the Matsya hordes.

Dhondiba : With what result?

Jotirao : The Matsya horde was vanquished and took to their heels. They, then, hid themselves in thicket on a mountain side to save themselves from the pursuing victorious followers of Shankhasur. Just then another Aryan horde from Iran came in boats over the Western sea and landed at the said port. These boats (Kachawas) were slightly bigger than the canoes, and hence used to move over the waters like tortoises. Hence, the Captain of the horde was nick-named as 'Kacchha'

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