Twitter Thread by Suhas S. Hardutt

Suhas S. Hardutt
@HarduttSuhas

FRANCIS XAVIER and THE GOA INQUISITION

A classic case of tampered history resulting in a Stockholm syndrome.

(Thread)



Francis Xavier was a Jesuit missionary who was sent to Indian colonies of Portugal by King Joao III of Portugal on a mission to convert Indians to xtianity.(1)

Francis landed in Goa, on 6th May 1542. Before his arrival, 2 Portuguese governors, Minguel Vaz and Diago Borba, had begun a Portuguese state sponsored pogrom for conversion of the native Hindu populationand carrying out large scale

demolitions of Hindu temples.(2)

Francis worked hard at converting native Hindus to Christianity. He manifested a deep distrust for Hindus and described them as "pagans" and ‘idolators’.His contempt towards Hindus and Hindu faith is reflected in his own writings in several places.(3)

From his compilation "The letters and instructions of Francis Xavier"(4)

When I hear of any act of idol worship, I go to the place with a large band of these (converted) children. They run at the idols, upset them, dash them down, break to pieces, spit on them, trample on them, kick them about, and in short heap on them every possible outrage.(5)

we pray thus: '*Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, grant us the grace to love Thee above all things;*' and then we say for this intention the Lord's Prayer. Then we all sing together, '*Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, obtain for us from your Son the grace to observe perfectly the first of His Commandments;*' and then we say the *Hail Mary*. So we go on through the other nine, changing the words of our little invocation as occasion requires. Thus I accustom them to ask for these graces with the ordinary prayers of the Church, and I tell them at the same time that if they obtain them, they will have all other things that they can wish for more abundantly than they would be able to ask for them. I make them all, and particularly those who are to be baptized, repeat the form of general confession. These last I question after each article of the Creed as it is recited, whether they believe it firmly; and after they have answered yes, I give them an instruction in their own language explaining the chief heads of the Christian religion, and the duties necessary to salvation. Last of all, I admit them thus prepared to baptism. The instruction is ended by the *Salve Regina*, begging the aid and help of our Blessed Lady.

As to the number who become Christians, you may understand them from this, that it often happens to me to be hardly able to use my hands from the fatigue of baptizing: often in a single day I have baptized whole villages. Sometimes I have lost my voice and strength altogether with repeating again and again the Credo and the other forms.

The fruit that is reaped by the baptism of infants, as well as by the instruction of children and others, is quite incredible. These children, I trust heartily, by the grace of God, will be much better than their fathers. They show an ardent love for the Divine law, and an extraordinary zeal for learning our holy religion and imparting it to others. Their hatred for idolatry is marvellous. They get into feuds with the heathen about it, and whenever their own parents practise it, they reproach them and come off to tell me at once. Whenever I hear of any act of idolatrous worship, I go to the place with a large band of these children, who very soon load the devil with a greater amount

When all are baptized I order all the temples of their false gods to be destroyed and all the idols to be broken in pieces. I can give you no idea of the joy I feel in seeing this done, witnessing the destruction of the idols by the very people who but lately adored them.(6)

ordered them all to ask God's pardon publicly for the sins of their past life, and to do this with a loud voice and in the presence of their neighbours still hostile to the Christian religion, in order to touch the hearts of the heathen and confirm the faith of the good. All the heathen are filled with admiration at the holiness of the law of God, and express the greatest shame at having lived so long in ignorance of the true God. They willingly hear about the mysteries and rules of the Christian religion, and treat me, poor sinner as I am, with the greatest respect. Many, however, put away from them with hardness of heart the truth which they well know. When I have done my instruction, I ask one by one all those who desire baptism if they believe without hesitation in each of the articles of the faith. All immediately, holding their arms in the form of the Cross, declare with one voice that they believe all entirely. Then at last I baptize them in due form, and I give to each his name written on a ticket. After their baptism the new Christians go back to their houses and bring me their wives and families for baptism. When all are baptized I order all the temples of their false gods to be destroyed and all the idols to be broken in pieces. I can give you no idea of the joy I feel in seeing this done, witnessing the destruction of the idols by the very people who but lately adored them. In all the towns and villages I leave the Christian doctrine in writing in the language of the country, and I prescribe at the same time the manner in which it is to be taught in the morning and evening schools. When I have done all this in one place, I pass to another, and so on successively to the rest. In this way I go all round the country, bringing the natives into the fold of Jesus Christ, and the joy that I feel in this is far too great to be expressed in a letter, or even by word of mouth.

The island of Manaar is about 150 miles from this place. Its inhabitants sent me some of their people to beg me to go there to baptize them, as they had determined to become Christians. I was occupied on affairs of the greatest importance, relating to the interests of religion, and so could not go myself; but I persuaded a certain priest to go instead of me

He was one of the first people to seek the court of inquisition to be established in India. Francis asked for the court of inquisition in Goa. In a letter addressed to king Don Joao III on 16 May 1545, he wrote:(7)

The necessity for the xtians is that your majesty establish the holy Inquisition, because there are many who live without fear of god. And since there are many who are spread all over the fortresses, there is the need of the inquisition and many preachers.(8)

The Court of Inquisition, set up in 1560 in Goa, lasted for 252 years.(9)

The cruelties this tribunal practiced were extreme and beyond measure. To an extent where they had to destroy the records upon its dissolution.(10)

The Goan Inquisition resulted in mass eliminations and exodus of both Hindus as well as of other faiths.(11)

The Inquisition brutally punished those who had converted but were suspected of practising their previous religion in secret. The torture was inhumane.(12)

Many natives who were charged on this count were imprisoned, publicly flogged and executed. The Inquisitors also seized and burnt any books written in Sanskrit apart from razing temples and idols.(13)

The court prosecuted violators of prohibitions against the observance of Hindu festivals, or interfered with Portuguese attempts to convert non xtians using all means at hand.(14)

The Inquisition laws made reconversion to Hinduism a criminal offense.The inquisition was also a method of confiscating temple property.(15)

Amongst others the court set separate laws for xtians and people of other faiths which were discriminatory and hostile.(16)

A few of them were that no non xtian can hold public office, hindu marriages were banned, orphans were to be handed to missions for xtian upbringing.(17)

India and Indians need to reassess the cultural genocide, systematic oppression and torture of the local indigenous population which was carried out by missionaries.(18)