HINDUTVA REAWAKENED



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G.S. HINGLE

This book tells the story of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar who has reawakened Hindutva. He is the man who rediscovered that cosmic formula of strength which had been the cornerstone of our national energy and which had governed our national life successfully in the past through millenniums and which, in future too, can control and govern our national life successfully through all types of times and climes. He drew upon that formula, based the model of his vision on its philosophy and finally worked it out in the form of an organization called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, popularly called RSS. But this search of his was a very long and hard one. As *Amrita* was extracted after a great churning of the *Kshir-Sagar*, so was evolved the model of his vision after a long process of churning of the socio-political and historical forces of his days and the forces that had kept India alive through all the AGES and through all the vicissitudes of TIME.

In simple words, this book tells the story of the birth of RSS: how the seed was laid in the mind of Bal Keshav, how the seed sprouted into a tiny plant under the sunshine of the Militant School of Nationalism, how the tiny plant grew into a small tree when he left the path of Militant Nationalism and began to walk along the Gandhian path of Truth and Non-violence, how the small tree grew into a strong and sturdy one in the form of a burning urge in him to seek that panacea which could cure all the ills of the Mother when he left the Congress in disgust in 1924, and how finally the tree bore fruit in the form of RSS in 1925.

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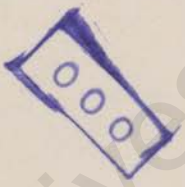
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To
Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar
"The latest guide and guardian
of
Hindu psyche"

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PREFACE

This book tells the story of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar who has reawakened Hindutva. He is the man who rediscovered that cosmic formula of strength which had been the cornerstone of our national strength and which had governed our national life successfully in the past through millenniums and which, in future too, can control and govern our national life successfully through all types of times and climes. He drew upon that formula, based the model of his vision on its philosophy and finally worked it out in the form of an organization called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, popularly called RSS. But this search of his was a very very long and hard one. As Amrita was extracted after a great churning of the *Kshir-Sagar*, so was evolved the model of his vision after a long process of churning of the socio-political and historical forces of his days and the forces that had kept India alive through all the AGES and through all the vicissitudes of TIME.

In simple words, this book tells the story of Dr. Hedgewar upto 1925, the year he founded the RSS.

However, it is not a biography of Doctor Saheb in a technical sense, nor it is a history of the socio-political forces of his days upto 1925; is it a psychological study of Doctorji's growth of mind in relation with the forces that worked on him from the early days of his childhood to the days of his total illumination when he founded the RSS in 1925. It tells the story of his growth in three successive stages, viz., (1) from a man of religion for the self to a man of religion for the nation (First Phase of Life), (2) from a man of militant nationalism to a man of truth and non-violence of Gandhian concept (Second Phase of Life), and (3) from a man of active politics to a man of silent *sadhana* and *tapasya* for the motherland (Third Phase of Life — Doctorji never

left the field of politics but his approach to problems changed altogether.)

In relation with the RSS, this growth tells how the seed of the Sangh was laid unobtrusively in the fertile mind of Bal Keshav at the early age of seven under the influence of the upright conduct of Bal Shivaji in the court of Bijapore, how the seed sprouted into a tiny plant under the sunshine of the Militant School of Nationalism in Calcutta, how the tiny plant grew into a small tree when he left the path of Militant Nationalism and began to walk along the Gandhian path of Truth and Non-violence from 1919 onwards, how the small tree grew into a strong and sturdy one in the form of a burning urge in him to seek that panacea which could cure all the ills of the mother when he left the Congress in disgust in 1924, and finally how the tree bore fruit at last in the form of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1925. In short, it tells the story of the birth of RSS at the level of psychological growth, stage by stage, of its founder Dr. Keshav Hedgewar against the backdrop of his socio-political and historical milieu.

The story is discussed in the context of the socio-political and historical forces that worked on Doctorji and influenced him to grow from one stage to another, finally leading him to that stage of REALIZATION/ILLUMINATION where he could see the model of his vision fully crystallized. (It is this journey of his which is extremely important from our subject-point of view.) Like Buddha he was led to light step by step. And the light he got at last after a long period of *sadhna* and *tapasya* was in the form SANGH METHODOLOGY — the model in which '*shakti*' and '*bhakti*' of the people are tapped against the background of Bhagwa Flag, symbolising Hindu Culture, in the interest of all — not only of the Indian people but of the mankind at large.

In one sense this book also speaks about a process (and the man behind the process) which is going to fulfil the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji used to say: "Hinduism is a relentless pursuit after truth and if today it has become moribund, inactive, irresponsive to growth, it is because we are fatigued; as soon as that fatigue is over, Hinduism will burst forth upon the world with a brilliance perhaps unknown before." And to remove that fatigue

Dr. Hedgewar set into motion a process in 1925, called RSS, which will surely enable Hinduism to burst forth one day upon the world with brilliance never known before. And that would be the gala day for the world because from that day on all its constituents will get to become members of one big family (*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*) and begin to move collectively for the welfare of all: **सर्वेऽपि सुखिनः संतु, सर्वे संतु निरामयाः** (Let everyone be happy, let everyone be free from all ills).

It is not an official publication of the RSS. But it has had the good luck of being glanced through by some eminent scholars and *pracharaks* of RSS. I am particularly thankful to Shriram Shankarrao Joshi, Sanghchalak Nagpur-Mahanagar; Shri Gopalrao Yeotikar, Pramukh, Rashtriya Sikh Sangat, Western Zone; Shri Ramkrishan Vishvanath Bondale, one-time Vibhag Pracharak, Vidharba Prant; Shri Kumaril Bhagwat, one-time Pracharak, Western Maharashtra; and, above all, Shri Bapurovji Warandpande, once a close associate of Dr. Saheb and who is considered today an authority on RSS. I am thankful to them all for correcting me and guiding me.

I am particularly thankful to Dr. Shridhar Bhaskar Warnekarji, the first Bal Swayamsevak, and today considered an acknowledged authority on Sanskrit at international level, for taking special interest in rendering the *Ekatmata Satotram* and *Ekatmata Mantra* (of which he himself is the author) into English. I am especially grateful to Shri Moropanth Pingleji, the seniormost and honourable member of Sangh Parivar, founder-member of Apte Samarik Samiti, trustee of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, member on the Executive Committee (RSS), one-time Sharirak Pramukh and Boudhik Pramukh at the all-India level of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and today serving the RSS as its Akhil Bhartiya Pracharik Pramukh and also looking after the activities of Itihas Sankalan Kendra. I am grateful to him for taking special pains in going through the manuscript at its final stage and giving it its final shape and form.

I am also thankful to Shri Chaman Lalji (Delhi) for his valuable suggestions without the incorporation of which the book would have remained lame, deficient and incomplete. My special

thanks go to Dr. R.S. Ahuja (Nagpur) for encouraging me to write this book.

My thanks also go to my wife, Mrs. Promila Hingle, for typing the manuscript and to my daughter, Mrs Renu Mehta, for going through the typed manuscript, editing it and finally undertaking the hazardous job of proof-reading and completing it most meticulously.

I am sure this book will provide a deep insight into the personality of Dr. Hedgewar in the context of the socio-political and historical forces he lived in and worked out that solution called Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which would prove a sure panacea one day to all the ills of the Motherland. And with this pious hope I am dedicating this book to all the great sons of the Mother and, especially, to Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the latest guide and guardian of Hindu pysche.

G.S. Hingle

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