

Khwaja Gharib-Un-Nawaz Welfare Centre

A Brief Report on Gandhiji's Struggle for Communal Harmony & Inter-Faith

On October 2nd of every year Mahatma Gandhiji's birthday is celebrated. This is popularly called "Gandhi Jayanthi". Gandhiji is universally known as an apostle of peace. On this day this year Khwaja Gharib-Un-Nawaz Inter-faith Centre (KGNWC) chose to arrange a talk by Mr.H.S. Doreswamy who is respected as a Gandhian and a freedom fighter. He delivered a talk on "Gandhiji's struggle for Communal Harmony and Inter-faith understanding". He narrated the various incidences of his attempts to remove misunderstanding between Hindus and Muslims on account of partition of the country. A bloodshed witnessed in different parts of the country, particularly in Naokhali in Bengal were very touchy. Mr. M.A. Jinha stood for his famous "Two Nation Theory". This resulted in dividing India into India and Pakistan. The refugees from Pakistan brought unbearable stories of their suffering in Pakistan. This infuriated the Hindus of India who wanted to retaliate. They in turn started killing some Muslims and looting their properties. Many Muslims appealed to Gandhiji for protection. Gandhiji had to stop bloodshed, protect Muslims and console the Hindus. Some of the Hindus were angry with Gandhiji. They said that Gandhiji was pro-Muslim.

Gandhiji went to many refugee camps of Muslims. His presence gave confidence to them. There was a demand that there should be exchange of population. Muslims of India should be sent to Pakistan and Hindus of Pakistan should be brought to India. Gandhiji opposed this. He was very particular that Hindus and Muslims should live like brothers, repose confidence in each other and leave in peace.

For all his sincere efforts to promote Communal Harmony, the prize that he got was a bullet that killed him. Some extremists who found fault with Gandhiji because of his sympathy for Muslims fired on him when he just concluded his evening prayer.

Gandhi is dead but Gandhiji's contribution for peace and harmony remains for ever. This is the essence of the talk delivered by Mr. H.S. Doreswamy. Children participated in questions and answers. There were about 50 children and 50 youths and adults representing different faiths. Before the talk by Mr. H.S. Doreswamy, a full length film on Gandhiji's life and achievements was screened which the children in particular watched with interest. A young student was dressed in Gandhian style. This attracted the gathering. Mr. Srinivas Alva, former Director General of Police presided over the function. Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan, Chairman, Executive Director of KGN spoke about the contribution of IARF and KGN to promote peace and harmony in the society.

Sweets were distributed to all those who were present at the programme. Gandhiji's photos were displayed very prominently.

Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan
Chairman,
Khwaja Gharib-Un-Nawaz Welfare Centre