**Some Comments on Rakesh Kaul’s Article, The Triumphant Trinity:**

**A Statecraft That Can Reinvent Kashmir**

Maharaj Kaul

1. The author knows more about Kashmir’s ancient politics than about the present one in the Valley of Kashmir. Valley of Kashmir because the politics we are talking about does not involve the two other parts of J&K Sate, Jammu and Ladakh.

The majority of the people of the Valley struggled first from 60’s onward for breaking with India and joining Pakistan. Later, after realizing that Pakistan was a benighted nation which was not even able to take care of itself decently, they sought independence of Kashmir Valley. In fact, they would want it to be Islamic State of Kashmir. Their objective has always been creation of a religious state, not of a more democratic state than they have now. They know Pakistan practices much less democracy than India does. But what makes them restless to the extent of making them mentally perturbed is the fantasy of living in an Islamic state, even though they know it is politically and economically not feasible for them to be independent. India could never give them independence since it would put it into a security jeopardy with two of its arch enemies, Pakistan and China. And also, even if the independence were granted under the mandate of U.N. Pakistan would seize Kashmir, one way or other, and put its foot on it, for it has been tormenting and struggling hard over 69 years.to acquire it.

The anarchy in Kashmir is about the creation of a religious state and not about democracy, economics, or the quality of justice dispensed by its local or central government.

1. So, the panacea for the Kashmir civil war prescribed by the author, *Lihaz,* is not applicable. That would have been the right medicine if the the ongoing war was about Kashmir Muslims’ intolerance of the other religious groups in the Valley: Pandits, Sikhs, and Buddhists. It is not so because they are miniscule in size. By the way *Lihaz* is more a cultural entity than a state generated policy. Although a state could promote such a policy but its feasibility could only be effectively achieved through cultural ambiance. In the ancient times states could more or less enforce such a policy but in modern environment of democracy such a tolerance is achievable only through the spontaneous growth of culture. You can have all the laws on the books but respect among people in a society is a function of the peoples’ cultural health.
2. In conclusion, the article goes tangential to the solution of the Kashmir Problem. The only remedial steps that India can take are:
3. India should raise its anger with Pakistan to a full pitch for its interference in Kashmir. There is no need to be timid and shy.
4. Stop the Middle East Muslim countries’ funds flowing to Kashmir. Indian should lodge strong protest with them. India has not been doing it because they are considered friends. What a travesty of government’s functioning.
5. Shut the mosques which are managing and funding *hartals* in Kashmir. They are successful because strikers are paid to go on strike. Otherwise, shopkeepers could not afford to close their shops, for without bread on the table no revolution can take place.
6. The cell phone, email, and social media accounts of all the established separatists should be canceled.
7. All the non-governmental money entering Kashmir must to be monitored.
8. Frequent and blunt messages from high level BJP and other party leaders should tell Kashmiri Muslims that they cannot be given independence. Such messages should be given on ground in Kashmir. Separatists should realize that under no circumstances can independence be given to them. The bubble of the fantasy of Islamic State of Kashmir should be forcefully burst.
9. The separatist leaders, Gilani, Malik, and others should be house-arrested outside J&K, as Abdullah was for several years. There is no need to give them a platform in the Valley.
10. India should open the claim to Azad Kashmir and Baltistan areas, which have been illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947. It has tremendous merit in keeping it off-balance and garnering sympathies for India from other countries.

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