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**A Critical Analysis of the Concept of Liberation in Hindu
philosophy (Saiva Siddhantam) and Christianity (Liberation
Theology) towards
a Just Society**

By

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Abstract

'Liberation for the oppressors' is the crux of this dissertation, which is essential to advocate for a just society.

In the light of the critical analysis of the philosophy of Saiva Siddhantam, based on Siva Gnana Bodham and the Latin American Liberation Theology of Gustavo Gutierrez, I have brought out the above thesis and named it as 'Liberation Philosophy.'

The Saiva Siddhantam helped to understand the power and dynamics of evil or sin and enable to work towards the liberation of the souls along with the grace of Lord Siva. The Latin American Liberation Theology enables to reflect the liberation especially began with social awareness to liberation with the social context.

I have critically analyzed and refute the ideas 'Liberation for the oppressed, Salvation only for human, Salvation only after death, and Liberation only for individual not for communities.

The urgent need is the acknowledgement of the need of the 'liberation to oppressors, because, all are oppressors. There is no oppressed exist in this cosmos and all are engage in oppression consciously or unconsciously, but their degree of oppression certainly differ from each other. In other words, we have to acknowledge that all are in the path or way towards liberation and they are in different degree in their progressiveness.

The liberation is a process, which certainly include all beyond humanity. There is no place for exclusivism in the dynamics of Liberation. All can attain liberation

through the awakening experience initiated by God and God's community along with the grace of God. The liberation only for human in isolation is not appropriate which the symbol of ego centeredness. So our reflection about the liberation is to all the Souls not for few.

Life cannot compartmentalize as life between birth to death and life after death. Life is a process. The liberation takes place in every stage of the life. Get over or eradicate the cause of evil or oppression namely ego centeredness, selfishness, desire, greed is the comprehensive liberation. And it is very necessary for a just society. A society became just due to the liberation of the community from evil and oppression.

The selfishness-based individualism is the source for many conflicts. Eradication of the selfishness is essential in liberation. However, even religions advocate the liberation for individual, which is unhealthy for a just society. The needful paradigm shift is from 'I only' to 'community liberation'. So the experiencing of the communion with each other as community is the real essence of liberation which goes with the values of the Reign of God and human values.

Therefore, the religions need to update themselves and allow the updated version of the revelation of God for implementation, which always bring just society in the midst of ongoing struggle towards human values or the values of the Reign of God.