Contents

Preface

Chapter I: Introduction: Dr. Ambedkar in Search Of Religion - 13
1. Who was Dr. Ambedkar? - 14
2. Dr. Ambedkar’s Response to Religions - 18
3. The Indian Social Context - 20
4. Relevance of Dr. Ambedkar’s Perspective - 23
5. Religion, Society and Selfhood - 25
6. Aim and Contents of this Study - 28

Chapter II: Dr. Ambedkar’s Dilemmas with Religion - 33
1. Introduction - 33
2. Dilemma with Norms - 34
   2.1 Between Life and Right - 36
   2.2 Between Personal and Collective Interest - 38
   2.3 Between Justice and Utility - 40
3. Dilemma with Alternatives - 44
   3.1 Resistance to Reorder Society - 44
   3.2 Disinterest to Reconstruct Society - 46
4. Transcending the Dilemmas: Ambedkar’s Four Basic Principles - 47
   4.1 By Focusing on the Purpose of Religion - 48
   4.2 By Developing a Method to Assess Religion - 52
   4.3 By Determining Moral Norms to Test Religion - 53
   4.4 By Accepting the Religion of Principles - 55
5. Conclusion - 60

Chapter III: Response to Primal Religion - 62
1. Introduction - 62
2. Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes: avarnas and savarnas - 64
3. Worldview of Primal Religion - 65
   3.1 Ensuring Riddance of Defilement - 67
   3.2 Assuring Insulation from Contamination - 67
4. Relevance of Rituals in Primal Religion - 68
   4.1 The Occasion of Rituals - 69
   4.2 The Performance of Rituals - 70
5. Assessing Indigenous Primal Religion - 71
   5.1 Land: A Cause for Social Mobility - 72
   5.2 Blood-descent: A Basis for Social Stratification - 73
5.3 Animals: Root of Internecine Conflict - 74
6. Conclusion - 76

Chapter IV: Response to Hindus - 78
1. Introduction - 78
2. Hurdle for a Great Religion
   2.1 In Maharaja’s City - 79
   2.2 In Maharaja’s Service - 79
   2.3 In Mahatma’s Presence - 80
3. Exploring the Basis
   3.1 Scripture - 81
   3.2 Doctrine - 85
   3.3 Philosophy - 93
4. Unveiling Reasons
   4.1 Manú’s Laws - 94
   4.2 Dharma - 97
5. Reforming Seeds Inherent in Hinduism
   5.1 Clearing the Stage - 102
   5.2 Constructing the New Dharma - 103
   5.3 Philosophy for the New Dharma - 104
6. Conclusion - 104

Chapter V: Response to Muslims - 107
1. Introduction - 107
2. Islam: A Force to Reckon with
   2.1 Its Stupendous Global Spread - 108
   2.2 A Solid Oak in India - 110
3. Dream to be a World Community
   3.1 Pan-Islamism - 113
   3.2 Khilafat - 113
4. Dream to be a Nation: Pakistan - 115
5. Strange Bedfellows
   5.1 Treating equals as unequal - 119
   5.2 Inclusion by Exclusion - 121
   5.3 War for Peace - 122
6. Dr. Ambedkar’s Enigma - 123
7. Conclusion - 127

Chapter VI: Response to Christians - 128
1. Introduction - 128
2. A Paradoxical Religion in India - 129
2.1 Concerned yet Disregard for the Rejected People - 130
2.2 Equal yet Disjointed - 131
2.3 Scholarly yet Immoral - 132
3. Ancient yet Modern - 134
  3.1 The Ancient Tradition - 134
  3.2 Syrio-Latin Controversy - 135
  3.3 Protestant Missions - 138
4. Rulers but Weak - 141
  4.1 Social Status - 142
  4.2 Political Status - 145
  4.3 Economic Status - 146
5. Empowering but Powerless - 147
  5.1 Doctrine of Original Sin - 147
  5.2 Understanding of Christ - 149
  5.3 Sublimation of Poverty - 150
6. Dr. Ambedkar’s Dilemma - 150
7. Dr. Ambedkar’s Findings - 153
8. Conclusion - 157

Chapter VII: Response to Sikhs - 158
1. Introduction - 158
2. The Gurus and their Disciples - 159
  2.1 No Blood Heirs - 160
  2.2 Disciples and Equal - 161
  2.3 Vicarious in Death - 161
  2.4 Defenders of Dignity - 163
  2.5 The Learned Faithful - 163
3. Dr. Ambedkar’s Declaration for Sikhism - 164
  3.1 Indian Roots - 164
  3.2 National Loyalty - 167
  3.3 Political Vibrancy - 169
4. Dr. Ambedkar’s Reasons - 170
  4.1 Egalitarianism of Sikhism - 170
  4.2 No Change in the Poona Pact - 171
  4.3 Dignity of a Martial Race - 171
5. Incomplete Response - 174
6. Assessing the Sikhs - 176
7. Conclusion - 178
# Chapter VIII: Response to Jews

1. **Introduction** - 179
2. **History of the Jews** - 179
   2.1 The Biblical Story - 179
   2.2 The Indian History - 180
3. **Considering Judaism** - 182
   3.1 A Religion of Antique Society - 182
   3.2 A Religion of Modern Society - 184
4. **Values for a Good Religion** - 185
   4.1 Deity and Society - 185
   4.2 Fidelity - 187
   4.3 Justice - 187
   4.4 Equality - 188
5. **Inspiration of Israel** - 189
6. **Assessing Indian Jewish Society** - 190
7. **Conclusion** - 193

# Chapter IX: Response to Buddhists

1. **Introduction** - 195
2. **Stumbling Blocks for Buddhism** - 197
   2.1 Interpolation of Irrational Stories - 197
   2.2 Unintelligible Preachers - 199
   2.3 Disinterested Buddhist Countries - 199
3. **In Defence of Buddhism** - 201
   3.1 Rationality in the Religious Lore (Prajna) - 201
   3.2 Love as a Universal Value (Karuna) - 202
   3.3 Equality for all Human Beings (Samata) - 202
4. **Dr. Ambedkar’s Alternative: Neo-Buddhism** - 203
   4.1 It would be Moral - 204
   4.2 It would have Monastic Communities - 204
   4.3 It would Welcome the Poor - 205
   4.4 It would Develop the Mind - 206
   4.5 It would follow Christianity - 208
5. **Gautama Buddha in Dr. Ambedkar’s Perspective** - 211
   5.1 A Human Being - 212
   5.2 A Moral Being - 213
   5.3 A Social Reformer - 213
6. **The Dhamma of Buddha according to Dr. Ambedkar** - 214
   6.1 What is Dhamma? - 215
   6.2 What is Adhamma? - 217
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.3 What is Sadhamma?</th>
<th>- 218</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.3.1 Insight (Pradhnya)</td>
<td>- 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.2 Virtue (Sila)</td>
<td>- 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.3 Compassion (Karuna)</td>
<td>- 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.4 Friendship (Maitri)</td>
<td>- 220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 7. Conclusion | - 222 |

**Chapter X: Conclusion: Righteousness Must Transcend Religion** - 225

1. Introduction - 225
2. Dr. Ambedkar’s Problem - 225
3. Dr. Ambedkar’s Theory of Religion and Society - 226
4. Dr. Ambedkar’s Response to Indian Religions - 230
5. Dr. Ambedkar’s Reductionism - 232
   5.1 Diminution of Religion - 232
   5.2 Communitarian Religion - 233
   5.3 Inconsistent Approach to Religion - 234
   5.4 Partial Engagement with Religions - 234
6. Applications for India - 235
   6.1 Contribution of Religion to the State for National Integration - 236
   6.2 Inter-religious Dialogue for establishing a shared-moral-standard - 237
   6.3 Active-Reconciliation for Restoring the Selfhood of Dalits - 237
7. Epilogue - 239

**Nederlandse samenvatting** - 241

**Bibliography** - 250