

6, Jantar Mantar Road,
New Delhi,
2-11-50.

My dear Krishnadas,

Thanks ~~you~~ for your letter and the cutting. I spoke in Hindi. The English translation is not quite correct. I know whether I used the expression "Be as bad as you like you". However, I will tell you what I must have said, because it is a general position that I take when I talk in public meetings. I am not in a habit of preaching morals to individuals to regulate their conduct. What I want from them is Citizens's morality, public morality, and I do not think, like Bapu, I am competent ~~xxxx~~ to preach private morals. As a political worker I would be satisfied if ~~xxxx~~ people in their behaviour show that they are for the good of the Nation, and are patriotic. I do not want the virtue of patriotism even to those whose private morals are according to some standards, be doubtful. I have read in History many people whose conduct in private life was not ideal yet they loved their country and benefitted it. We have plenty of such examples. Even Bapu did not institute a censorship if he had judged even the best by his moral standards, I think he would have rejected them for the cause of the Nation. Clive, Hastings and others were not ideal people in their conduct but they did benefit their nation. A Doctor may have doubtful morals, but if my dear child or wife is ill I would call him rather than one who had good morals but worse skill as a Doctor. Also I would call a good carpenter to make my furniture without making enquiries about his private morals. From politicians I would require public honesty, integrity and efficiency and love of their country. As their private morals are concerned I would leave it to the moral reformer. ~~xxx~~ Yet I believe if they are to be patriotic servants of their country they must keep to the average morals of society. They must not create ~~xxxxx~~ any public scandals. If they create public scandals about their private morals they will be injuring the character of the Nation. Only that much emphasis I place upon their character; -- the rest is a matter between them and their conscience.

I would not mind if the Prime Minister or any other Minister were to make a mess of his private life if he conducted the Government ~~xxx~~ of his country efficiently, honestly and in a manner which will benefit the masses of the Nation. Of course I would be happy if he did not make a mess of his private life and also performed his public duty well and efficiently. But unfortunately we cannot have everything. We live in a world of average men ~~xxx~~ and so far as I am concerned I have to emphasise public morals. This will give you an idea of my philosophy.

I have never preached Bapu's morals for private life. I am afraid I can not live upto them myself; how can I then keep them before the Public? It will be hypocritical. But I hope I live upto something of his standards in public and these I keep before the Public.

write the
private life
of those who
were with
him for rather
whisper

