

True Prosperity Lies in Islam, Not in Pagan Celebrations

News:

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday finalised all preparations for the three-day Basant festival to be held in Lahore from Feb 6 to 8, urging people to celebrate it in a safe manner. (Dawn)

Comment:

Basant is a well-known festival in Punjab, some link it to a history of a simple kite flying fun activity when the weather changes from the chilly cold to a pleasant spring air, others dig deeper and reach the origin of the festival linking it to a celebration for Hindu goddess Saraswati. The Punjab Government under the Chief Minister Mariam Nawaz has not only lifted the ban from this festival after 20 long years but is also giving it support and a State level platform by mobilising the whole Government machinery to prove it a success. Before we get into the history of the festival, we will see why it was banned in Punjab in the first place. Basant had begun to cause harm not only to the ones who practised it, like electrocutions near power lines and celebratory gunfire, but also saw to the death of many innocent motorcyclists, even young children one moment sitting on bikes with their fathers and next slaughtered by a glass/metal coated kite string. Reviving this pagan practice for pleasure is another example of the Government's thoughtless attempts to prove the dead system alive by decorating its corpse. The stench of the rot can not be hidden. This technique is centuries old and has been used as a strategy by politicians to control oblivious peoples to this day, you give people cricket, movies and concerts, and give some grants and empty promises and then do whatever you want. In 58 CE, the Emperor of Rome sent a ship loaded with gold to Egypt to bring sand to fill the Colosseum where the gladiator games are held. Like the fight between slaves, or the fight between humans and predators. While these ships were at sea, protests started because Rome was going through a great famine. There was not a single grain of wheat in the country, people uprooted the streets and destroyed the city. When the ships arrived in Egypt, the chief officer in charge of the convoy knew what had happened, the Roman ruler of Egypt asked him what he had to do, would he buy wheat with money to save Rome or do what Caesar Nero ordered and go back with sand. The governor was surprised by the question. Of course, he needs to get back to Caesar as soon as possible, being loaded with all the SAND he can. The scary thing is that when he returned with the sand and the games started, the people calmed down and the revolution ended.

The Government claims it to be an attempt towards cultural restoration bringing back a vibrant tradition, connecting people with their heritage, forgetting that vibrance now can only be felt by the elite, while the rest of the city suffers in silence. The Government also claims that this will cause economic stimulation, creating jobs for thousands, particularly in the kite-making industry, and providing a substantial boost

