



THE IMBECILE'S GUIDE TO PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

Edited by
Murzban Jal, Jyoti Bawane, and Muzaffar Ali



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This book studies the role of serious philosophizing in everyday life and looks at how authoritarianism negates philosophical and public reason. It sheds light on how philosophy can go beyond its life as a discipline limited to an esoteric group of academia to manifest itself via radical discursive practices in public life which enable us to understand and resolve contemporary socio-political challenges. It studies philosophy as a discipline which deals with one's orientations based on experience, the logic of reasoning, critical thinking, and most of all radical and progressive beliefs.

The book argues that the contemporary rise of capitalism in modern society, resonating Émile Durkheim's cautions on "anomie", has favoured individualism, differentiation, marginalization, and exploitation, balanced on an eroding collective consciousness and a steady disintegration of humanity and reason. Taking this into consideration, it discusses how philosophy, both mainstream and marginal, can revive democracy in society which then is able to confront global authoritarianism led by the figure of the imbecile. Finally, it also provides a range of new perspectives on the questions of civic freedom, hegemony of language, social justice, identity, invisible paradigms, gender justice, democracy, multiculturalism, and decolonization.

This book is an invigorating compilation of essays from diverse disciplines, engaging the need to create a humanistic public philosophy to transcend the state of imbecility. It will be of great interest to students, scholars and researchers of philosophy, contemporary politics, history, and sociology, as well as general readers.

Murzbhan Jal is Professor and Director at the Centre for Educational Studies, Indian Institute of Education, Pune, India. He was Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and Senior Fellow at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, India. He is the author of twelve books including *The Seductions of Karl Marx* (2010), (ed.) *Zoroastrianism: from Antiquity to the Modern Period* (2012), *The New Militants* (2014), *Why We Are Not Hindus* (2015), (ed. with Zaheer Ali) *What Ails the Indian Muslims* (2016), (ed.) *Challenges for the Indian Left* (2017), *In the Name of Marx* (2018), *Zarathushtra and the Inmates of Paradise* (2018), *Yusuf and Zuleika: On the Return of the Despot* (2019), *The Prison House of Alienation* (2019), *Theory and Praxis: Reflections on the Colonization of Knowledge* (ed. with Jyoti Bawane, 2020), and *The Legacy of Karl Marx* (2020). He has published extensively in various national and international journals.

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