

communism to the teeth. All sorts of people are arrayed on the Congress platform. If there can be a magic box which contains a cobra and a mongoose living together, it is Congress?

We must ponder whether we can progress under such conditions. If we stop to analyse the reasons for the problems facing the country, we find that the confusion about our goal and the direction is mainly responsible for this chaos. I realise that all the 450 million people of Bharat cannot agree on all or even on a single question. This is not possible in any country. Yet there is generally, what is called more or less, a common desire of the people of any Nation. If this popular longing is made the basis of our aims, the common man feels that the Nation is moving in a proper direction, and that his own aspiration is reflected in the efforts of the Nation. This also generates the greatest possible feeling of unity. The truth of the statement is borne out by the response of the people during the Chinese invasion of October/November 1962. A wave of enthusiasm swept across the country. A remarkable upsurge both in action and sacrifice was discernible. There was no barrier between the government and the public or between various political parties. How did this happen? The external threat made us recognise our Self. The government adopted that policy which reflected the widespread feeling of the people, and which enhanced their sense of self-respect with the call for sacrifice. As a consequence, we stood united.

The Root Of Our Problems – Neglect Of Self

It is essential that we think about our national identity. Without this identity, there is no meaning of independence, nor can independence become the instrument of progress and happiness. As long as we are unaware of our national identity, we cannot recognise or develop all our potentialities. Under alien rule, this identity is suppressed. The reason why nations wish to remain independent, is so that they can progress according to their natural bent and can experience happiness in their endeavour. Nature is powerful. An attempt to go against nature or to disregard her, leads to trouble. Natural instincts cannot be disregarded, but it is possible to elevate this nature to the level of culture. Modern psychology informs us how a person begins to suffer from different mental ailments when his various natural instincts are suppressed. Such a person remains restless and dejected. His abilities slowly deteriorate and become perverted. The Nation too, like the individual, becomes a prey to numerous ills when its natural instincts are disregarded. The basic cause of the problems facing Bharat is the neglect of its national identity.