

Lecture 2

Western Versus *Bharatiya* View

Yesterday we had seen that even after 17 years of independence we have still to decide what direction we should adopt to realise our cherished dream of all-round development in the lives of our countrymen. Normally, people are not prepared to seriously consider this question. They think only of the problems which they face from time to time. Sometimes economic problems are viewed with concern and an attempt is made to resolve them, and at other times, social or political problems come to the forefront claiming attention. Not knowing fundamentally the direction in which we all are to go, these efforts are not accompanied by sufficient enthusiasm, nor do they give a feeling of satisfaction to the people engaged in these efforts. These efforts produce only a fraction of the results that they ought to have produced.

Modern Versus Ancient

However, there are two distinct types of people who do suggest some definite direction. There are some who suggest that we must go back to the position when we lost our independence and restart from there. On the other hand, there are people who would like to discard all that has originated here in Bharat and they are not ready to give a second thought to it. They seem to think that Western life and thoughts are the last word in progress and all of them should be imported here if we are to develop. Both these lines of thought are incorrect, though they do represent partial truths and it will not be proper to reject them altogether.

They, who advocate starting from where we left off a thousand years ago, forget that whether it may or may not be desirable, it is definitely impossible. The flow of time cannot be reversed. In the past one thousand years, whatever we assimilated, whether it was forced on us or we took it with willingness, cannot be discarded now. Besides, we too have original creations in the life of our society. We did not always remain mere passive witness to whatever new challenging situations arose, nor did we merely react to every alien action. We too, have attempted to reshape our life as was required to face the new situations. Therefore, we cannot afford to shut our eyes to all that has happened in the past one thousand years.

Similarly, those who would like to make Western ideologies the