

circumstances. In brief, we must absorb the knowledge and gains of the entire humanity so far as eternal principles and truths are concerned. Of these, the ones that originated in our midst have to be clarified and adapted to changed times, and those that we take from other societies have to be adapted to our conditions.

Nationalism, Democracy And Socialism

Western political thought has accepted Nationalism, Democracy, and Socialism or Equality, as ideals. Besides, now and then, there have been attempts directed at world unity which took the shape of the League of Nations, and after the Second World War, the United Nations Organisation. For a variety of reasons these have not succeeded. However, these definitely were attempts in that direction. All these ideals have in practice proved to be incomplete and mutually opposing.

Nationalism led to conflict between nations which led in turn to global conflict. Whereas if *status quo* is regarded as synonymous with world peace, the aspirations of many small nations to be independent would remain ever unfulfilled. World unity and nationalism conflict with each other. Some advocate suppression of nationalism for world unity, whereas others regard world unity as a utopian ideal and emphasise national interest to the utmost.

Similar difficulty arises in reconciling socialism and democracy. Democracy grants individual liberty, but the same is used by the capitalist system for exploitation and monopolisation. Socialism was brought in to end exploitation, but it destroyed freedom and dignity of the individual.

Mankind stands confused and is unable to decide what the correct path is for future progress. The West is not in a position to say with confidence that, "This alone and no other", is the right path. It is itself groping. Therefore, simply to follow the West would be an instance of the blind being led by the blind.

Claim Of *Bharatiya* Culture

In this situation, our attention is claimed by the *Bharatiya* culture. Is it possible that our culture can point the direction to the world?

From the national standpoint we shall have to consider our culture,