

and the fruits of the tree. All these have different forms and colours and even to some extent different properties. Still we recognise their relation of unity with each other through the seed.

### **Conflict – Sign Of Cultural Regression**

Unity in diversity and the expression of unity in various forms have remained the central thought of *Bharatiya* culture. If this truth is wholeheartedly accepted, then there will not exist any cause for conflict among various powers. Conflict is not a sign of culture or nature; rather it is a symptom of perversion. The law of the jungle – ‘Survival of the Fittest’ – which the West discovered in recent years was known to our philosophers. We have recognised desire, anger, etc, among the six lower tendencies of human nature, but we did not use them as the foundation or the basis of civilised life or culture. There are thieves and robbers in society. It is essential to save ourselves and society from these elements. We cannot consider them as our ideals or standards of human behaviour. ‘Survival of the Fittest’ is the law of the jungle. Civilisations have developed not on the basis of this law, but by consideration of how the operation of this law could be reduced to the minimum in human life. If we wish to progress, we have to keep this history of civilisation before our minds.

### **Mutual Cooperation**

Cooperation also obtains in abundance just as conflict and competition in this world. Vegetation and animal life keep each other alive. We get our oxygen supply with the help of vegetation, whereas we provide carbon dioxide, so essential for the growth of vegetable life. This mutual cooperation sustains life on this earth.

The recognition of this element of mutual sustenance among different forms of life and taking that as the basis of an effort to make human life mutually sustaining is the prime characteristic of civilisation. To mould nature (प्रकृति) to achieve social goals is culture (संस्कृति), but when this nature leads to social conflict, it is perversion (विकृति). Culture does not disregard or deny nature. Rather it enhances those elements in nature which are helpful in sustaining life in this universe, makes it fuller and richer, and curbs others which obstruct or destroy life. Let us take a simple illustration. The relationships such as brother and sister, mother and son, father and son, are natural. These are same both in man as well as among animals. Just as