

This process of deterioration can set in the various institutions of a society due to a variety of reasons. If the soul of the society weakens, then all the different limbs of the society will grow feeble and ineffective. Any particular institution may be rendered useless or even harmful. Besides, the need and the usefulness of any particular institution may change with time, place and circumstances. While examining the present state of an institution, we ought, at the same time, to think of what it should be like. Mutual complementarity and a sense of unity alone can be the standard of proper conduct. Family, Community, Trade Union, *Gram Panchayat*, *Janapada*, State and such other institutions are various limbs of the Nation and even of mankind. They are interdependent, mutually complementary. There should be a sense of unity through all of them. For this very reason, there should be a tendency towards mutual accommodation in them, instead of conflict or opposition.

State Is Not Supreme

The State is one of several institutions, an important one, but it is not above all others (सर्वोपरि). One of the major reasons for the problems of the present-day world is that almost everyone thinks of the State to be synonymous with society. At least in practice, they consider the State as the sole representative of society. Other institutions have declined in their effectiveness, while the State has become dominant to such an extent, that all the powers are gradually being centralised in the State.

We had not considered the State to be the sole representative of the Nation. Our national life continued uninterruptedly even after the State went into the hands of foreigners. The Persian nation came to an end with their loss of independence. In our country, there were foreign rulers now and then in various parts of the country. At some time, the Pathans seized the throne of Delhi, and then the Turks, the Mughals and the British too established their rule. Despite all this, our national life went on, because the State was not its centre. If we had considered State as the centre, we would have been finished as a Nation long time ago. In some tales for children, it is described how an evil spirit resided in a parrot and to kill the evil spirit one had to kill that parrot. Those Nations whose life centred in the State were finished with the end of the State. On the other hand, where State was not believed central to its life, the Nation survived the transfer of political power.