

It is said about the British Parliament that it is sovereign and can do anything. They say that “British Parliament can do everything except make a woman a man and vice versa”. But is it possible for the Parliament to legislate that every Englishman must walk on his head? It is not possible. Can they pass an act that everyone in England must present himself before the local authority once everyday? They cannot. England has no written constitution. They have high regards for their tradition. But their traditions too have undergone change. What is the basis for making changes in their traditions? Whichever tradition proved an obstacle in the progress of England was discarded. Those which were helpful in the progress were consolidated.

Traditions are respected everywhere, just as in England. We have a written constitution, but even this written constitution cannot go contrary to the traditions of this country. In as much as it does go contrary to our traditions, it is not fulfilling *Dharma*. That constitution which sustains the Nation is in tune with *Dharma*. *Dharma* sustains the Nation. Hence we have always given prime importance to *Dharma*, which is considered sovereign. All other entities, institutions or authorities derive their power from *Dharma*, and are subordinate to it.

We Need A Unitary Constitution

If we examine our Constitution from the point of view of the growth of the Nation, we find that our Constitution needs amendment. We are one Nation, one people. That is why we did not entertain any special rights on the basis of language, province, caste, religion, etc., but gave everyone equal citizenship. There are separate States. Yet there is no separate citizenship of State and of Union. We are all citizens of Bharat. By the same token, we have denied the right to secede to any individual State. Not only that, the power to demarcate the boundaries of States and to choose their names is vested in the Parliament and not in the Assemblies. This is as it should be, in tune with the nationalism and tradition of Bharat. However, despite all this, we made our Constitution federal, whereby what we have adopted in practice, we have rejected in principle. In a federation, the constituent units have their own sovereignty. But these powers are given to the Union. It has no power of its own. Thus the federal constitution considers the individual States as fundamental powers, and the Centre as merely a federation of States. This is contrary to the truth. It runs counter to the unity and indivisibility of Bharat. There is no recognition of the idea of *Bharatmata*, our sacred motherland, as enshrined in the hearts of our people. According