

an elected government allows people to go against *Dharma* and does not punish them, then that government is in reality a government of thieves. Even the general will cannot go against *Dharma*. Imagine what will be the situation, if by some manoeuvring, thieves gain a majority in the government and send one from their ranks as the head of executive. What will be the duty of the minority, if the majority is of thieves and elects a thief to rule? The duty clearly will be to remove the representative elected by the majority.

Majority Is Not Always Right

During the Second World War, when Hitler attacked France, the French army could not stall the onward march of the Nazi troops. The then Prime Minister of France, Marshall Petain, decided to surrender. The French public supported the decision. But de Gaulle escaped to London where he declared that he did not accept the surrender. France is independent and will remain so. From London, he formed a Government of France in exile and eventually liberated France. Now if the majority rule is to be considered supreme, then de Gaulle's action will have to be condemned. He had no right to fight in the name of Independence. De Gaulle derived his right from the fact that the French nation was above the majority public opinion. The national *Dharma* is above all. Independence is *Dharma* for every Nation. It is the duty of every citizen to preserve its Independence, and to strive for regaining it when it is lost. Even in our country, a majority had not risen against the Britishers; only a few had. Some revolutionaries sprang up, some brave people stood and fought. The Lokmanya declared, "Freedom is my Birthright". He did not declare this birthright with the support of a majority or a referendum of the people. Nowadays, people advocate that the merger of Goa should be decided by referendum, that there should be a plebiscite in Kashmir, etc., etc. This is wrong. National unity is our *Dharma*. A decision concerning this cannot be made by plebiscite. This type of a decision has already been taken by nature. Elections and the majority can only decide as to who will form the government. The truth cannot be decided by the majority. What the government will do, will be decided by *Dharma*.

You all know that in the U.S.A., where Americans swear by democracy, Lincoln did not accept the wrong public opinion on the question of the abolition of slavery. When the Southern states declared their intention to secede, Lincoln stood firm and told them: "You have no right to secede even in a democracy". He fought against this and did not allow them to secede. Nor did he tolerate slavery. He did not show readiness for a