

compromise whereby there might continue partial slavery to accommodate Southern states. He did not favour the policy of compromise. He categorically declared that the system of slavery was against tradition, the *Dharma*, the principles which were the basis of the American nation. Therefore the system of slavery had to be abolished. When the Southerners decided to secede, he told them, “You cannot secede”. On this point, there was a civil war and Lincoln did not compromise with *adharma*.

Here in our country, the situation in this regard is very much like the old Hindu marriage, where a married couple could not divorce even if both the parties wished. The principle was that their behaviour should be regulated not by their sweet will but by *Dharma*. The same is the case with the Nation. If the four million people of Kashmir say that they want to secede, if the people of Goa say they want to secede or some say they want the Portuguese to return – all this is against *Dharma*. Of the 450 million people of India, even if 449,999,999 opt for something which is against *Dharma*, this does not become the truth. On the other hand, even if one person stands for something which is according to *Dharma*, that constitutes the truth, because truth resides with *Dharma*. It is the duty of this one person that he treads the path of truth and changes people. It is from this basis that a person derives the right to proceed according to *Dharma*.

Let us understand very clearly that *Dharma* is not necessarily with the majority or with the people. *Dharma* is eternal. Therefore, it is not enough to say, while defining democracy, that it is the government of the people. It has to be a government for the good of the people. What constitutes the good of the people? It is *Dharma* alone which can decide. Therefore, a democratic government, *Jana Rajya*, must also be rooted in *Dharma*, i.e. *Dharma Rajya*. In the definition of democracy, viz. “Government of the people, by the people and for the people”; ‘of’ stands for independence; ‘by’ stands for democracy; and ‘for’ indicates *Dharma*. Therefore, there is true democracy only where there is freedom as well as *Dharma*. धर्मराज्य
८ *Dharma Rajya* encompasses all these concepts.

24th April, 1965.