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My dear young friends,
Affectionate greetings.

Prior to enslavement, India's judicial system was simple, quick, decisive and equitable. It was known as "Panchmukhi Parmeshwar". As a result, rural folk lived in harmony and rural life was marked by amicability, mutual cooperation and secured.

During Mughal rule, changes were effected in the judicial system prevalent in cities and towns, but that of the villages was left untouched.

Following their victory in the Battle of Buxar in 1765, the British began to institute their modes of administration. They took control of taxation and the judicial system. Combining Bengal, Bihar and Orissa into one big region, they divided it into districts. An English collector was appointed in every district. He functioned both as tax collector and judicial magistrate. Later, civil and criminal courts were established at district level. English became the language of the courts. Lawyers thus became a necessity. In 1828, during the stewardship of Lord William Bentinck, the legal profession was institutionalized. That system continues unaltered even today and the English language continues to dominate our courtrooms.

I was fortunate enough to be born in a village and my life's mission has been in rural areas. As a result, I have frequently had to visit district courts.

More than 95 per cent of the petitioners crowding district courts are from villages. They surround the lawyers, each wanting to have his case taken up.

The class of lawyers is educated, well-versed in the intricacies of law, skilled in debate and imbued with qualities of leadership. Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal