

## THE GITA AND SATYAGRAHA

- M.K. GANDHI

- Gandhi believes that violence is more acceptable than cowardice when he was fatally assaulted in 1908, his son asked him whether he should save his father by his physical force or he should leave him to face the torture to follow non-violence. Gandhi suggested his son to save him choosing violence. Gandhi would like to defend India's honour by violence instead of cowardice. But apart from all he still believes that non-violence is superior to violence. Forgiveness adorns a soldier, because he is powerful. It is meaningless if forgiveness comes from a weak, helpless person. Gandhi considers India and all Indians as powerful so he does not want to use India's strength to punish General Dyer and his ilk for their inhuman activities. He wants to use India's strength for better purpose.
- Here, Gandhi does not mean about physical strength, he means the strength of one's will. A Zulu man is physically strong but still he fears an English boy because he carries a revolver. Having larger number of human beings than the English people in India, it should disclose her strength by forgiving. Though India wants revenge but Gandhi believes that India would gain more by waiving punishment in the long run.
- Being a practical idealist Gandhi says that we Indians have better work to do. The religion of non-violence is not only for rishis, saints; it is for common people also. The rishis who discovered non-violence were greater warriors than Wellington, greater geniuses than Newton. Non-violence does not mean weak submission to the evils, but the conscious effort against the will of the tyrant. Following this law a single individual can save his honour, his religion, his soul and regenerate the fallen empire.
- Gandhi offered his services at the time of Zulu rebellion, Boer war, he raised recruits in India during the late war, also raised an ambulance corps in 1914 in London. As a part of British Empire he did not leave any chance to serve the Government. He was asked two questions, what was his duty as a citizen of the Empire and what was his duty as a deep believer of non-violence.
- It was a misunderstanding for Gandhi that he thought himself as a citizen of British Empire. He thought wrongly that the British Government was willing to liberate India so he did everything he should do as a citizen's duty. He did not judge any right or wrong then and now as well. He offered his service honestly as a citizen in the time of the Empire. Gandhi expects the same honest dedication from every Indian's to independent India as he did for British Government. He admits that many English administrators are honest but they are blind as he was once. He considers himself as a pariah untouchable of the Empire. So he prays for radical reconstruction or total destruction for the Empire.