INTRODUCTION

The erosion of values in our country now is something that has been virtually accepted because wherever one goes; corruption has been accepted virtually not only as a way of life, but also a philosophy of life. It is rampant in all spheres of activity, not just in politics but maybe politics is the worst. In all spheres of activity there has been widespread erosion of moral and spiritual values; to some extent this is true; it is especially tragic for a country like India, which has sought to base itself upon certain spiritual and moral values from the beginning of its civilization.

It is not that India has always lived up to these values or Indians are necessarily more moral than any other people; but it is certainly true that the conceptual and ideological foundations of Indian culture have been on the basis of moral and spiritual principles. This in fact, is the reason why, despite of tremendous upheavals and long centuries of foreign aggression and subjugation, India has retained some vitality, aggression and dynamism. If it had not been based upon fundamental principles, Indian civilization couldn’t have withstood the sort of repression, it had to undergo, that being said, our freedom movement also sought to base itself upon certain ideals. Whether it was the beginning of the Hindu renaissance with reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy with the Brahma Samaj and Devendra Nath Tagore with the Adi Brahmo Samaj, or R.K.Bhandarkar and M.G. Ranade in Maharashtra with the Prarthana Samaj, or Swami Dayanand Saraswati with the Arya Samaj, or whether it were great men in the mainstream of the Hindu tradition like Sri Ramakrishhna and Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and Lokmanya Tilak who enthused the Indian National movement. In each of these cases we will find a clear attempt to re-establish and recreate the spiritual foundation of India.

Another example is Gandhiji, who spent his entire life attempting to re-establish dharma in India, dharma in the broadest sense of term not excluding anybody, in fact including everybody.