

lives and property would be on a colossal scale. That catastrophe could be warded off by a change of attitude and a stroke of compromise. But no such wise course dawns in the mind of the unimaginative and undiscerning king. The direct action of God Himself is not understood by him.

All human endeavours ought to be in tune with the Will of the Divine, or in accordance with the Cosmic Plan. In that case the attempts would all be ethical and conducive to the progress of man. Subordinating the human will to the Divine does not mean drifting into pacifism and quietism. Activity depending on the Almighty is the right approach to life. And that is what the Pandavas did from the start to the finish. In contrast with it the Kaurava approach to life had its defects. It was all totalitarianism and defiance of the Lord Himself, not to speak of His grace. This way of life seems all prosperity at the beginning, but it ends in a tragic crash. A sound social life provides for enormous human endeavours based on dharma and faith in the Cosmic Integrity which is the *vibhūti* — glory of Iswara.

*Sri* is prosperity or *Rajya Lakshmi*. A vegetating earthly life unbecomes individuals as well as nations. Thriving and flourishing at all levels are the signs of robust living.

Leading the weak and helpless into captivity is no victory. It is the despotism of the demoniac. Vanquishing the wicked and taming them on the virtuous path is victory. When the undertakings of