

# DEMOCRACY - ITS MEANING AND ITS WORTH

## Democracy's Parody in Today's World

### Intent of the Story

- ✓ *To be aware of the injustices, very often done, in the name of democracy.*
- ✓ *Are democratic procedures really democratic or rather autocratic?*
- ✓ *Is likely that those in power will give equal opportunities to those who are not?*
- ✓ *In fact, are elections, in all world democracies free and with parity of opportunities to all the parties?*

### THE STORY

Many years ago far away from us, there was a densely populated country. It was economically rich, culturally learned and technologically advanced nation. The population of that country was equally divided into two halves. One of those halves about 50% of the people used to dress in white clothes while the other half, in black. From times immemorial, the "white-dressed" half population controlled all the Government posts, the industry, the banking and finance, the press the radio and T.V., the schools and colleges, the judiciary, the army and the police They called themselves the "majority rule".

At election times, when the polls were held, with all the means of power under their control, the white dressed population always secured a large majority of votes.

The "black-dressed" citizens resented the injustices done to them. Time and again, they demanded free and fair democratic elections with equal access to all for propaganda, organization and supervision at the polls. They organized themselves, they offered resistance, they protested, they went on strikes; they used even violence, but to no avail. The "white dressed" people having all the power in their hands, suppressed them, crushed them. Thus, time and again, by hook or by crook, the "white-dressed" people remained in power.

In the course of time, many "black-dressed" people discouraged and disgusted with the situation, lost interest in politics, others opted for silence, still others, being opportunists, become "turned coats" and joined the "white-dressed" ruling clan. After many years, the number of the "black-dressed" people still loyal to their group dwindled to a 25% of the population.

Only, at this juncture, the "white-dressed" party, finally sympathized with the black dressed minority. In repentance, they told the black dressed minority "Understanding your wishes and aspirations, from now on, we shall respect your rights. Yes, we shall

have truly free and democratic elections. Of course, those who win will be ruling the country."

At election time, a land-slide victory gave the power again to the "white-dressed" people. From that day onwards the word "DEMOCRACY" began appearing all over the papers, in the radio, T.V. and in all official documents.

But the wise men of that country blotted out the word "DEMOCRACY" from their vocabulary.

*An adaptation of a script of a Spanish Audiovisual*

### **POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

Attention Moderator! The plot of the story, although trivial, lends itself to discuss very important problems, affecting modern life, such as:\

- Meaning of democracy and democratic structures
- Power and authority in society.
- Social structures.
- Power apparatus.
- Power politics.
- Class struggle.
- Manipulation of "democratic ideals" for personal interests.
- Structural "social injustice".
- Dishonesty in political life.
- The phenomenon of politicization of life is a common phenomenon in all the countries of the world.
  - Every sphere of human life is being ruled and tampered with by politics and politicians
  - If we lose the control on politics, we shall end by losing control of every sphere of our lives.
  - In modern societies no one can remain neutral on the face of major issues, such as education, business, publicity, leisure, social services, public morals, health services, defense, law and order, judiciary matters. Everything has taken a "political undertone.
  - To get involved in clean and selfless politics is today a moral obligation for all citizens.
  - Unless we succeed in obtaining truly democratic controlled structures we shall become puppets in the hands of our governments.
  - Democracy, in many instances, turns to become a "monochratic dictatorship 'by the ruling party'" Citizens once they cast their vote, become powerless and emasculated persons
  - For more ideas and helps to develop the ideas touched by this story "democracy" confer our notes on "**Socio-political Analysis**"

### **QUESTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS.**

1. What does the story "Democracy" tell us about our modern democratic societies and their governments.
2. Who in real life are the "white-dressed" and the "black-dressed" people? What are their characteristics and attitudes? Describe them.
3. What's their position in society?
4. Mention and analyze the means the "white-dressed" men have at their disposal to dominate others.
5. How do they use those means? For whose advantage?
6. What about the minorities and that not in power? What can they do?
7. What is true democracy?
8. What goes as democracy today?
9. Use the story "democracy" to exemplify what is going on today in the political sphere, both in India and in our world.
10. Many good and honest "black-dressed" people gave up the struggle, why? Does this giving up take place in our world? Why?
11. What are the effects of many good, honest and capable people losing interest in politics?
12. Who are those who at the end became "turned coats" and joined the ruling clan? What do you think of them?
13. Which are – *do you think* - the real forces with "Effective power" to change society? How to influence them?
14. Explain the last words of the story: "But the wise men of that country blotted out the word 'Democracy' from their vocabulary."
15. Should we blot it out also from our vocabulary? Why?