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Swami Vivekananda: The Youth Icon For National Integration

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Time had treated this great nation very badly. Foreign aggression on India started with Alexander and continued till 15 August 1947. They all shook Indian culture considerably and left long and deep impacts. The Muslims came to India as Plunderers and later as settlers. Then came the Europeans with Nefarious ends. India had to take all these and for a long time. Colonial rule resulted in the pauperization of the peasants and recurring famines.

Today, there is a tremendous erosion of human values. We are passing through a great crisis – a crisis of character. That is why we see all kinds of violence in the world, rampant corruption at all levels, brutality on women. Today the youth are suffering from a disease – not physical, but aimlessness. Who will give them direction? Only Swami Vivekananda as legendary flame of inspiration for youth can give them the right kind of direction. Why are these very unfortunate and painful things happening?

The life of Swami Vivekananda was the life of an ideal youth. Swami Vivekananda possessed all sterling qualities. He had multi-faceted talents; he was a great orator, a great poet, a singer, a social reformer, a great patriot and above all, a great spiritual leader of the world. That is why Swami Vivekananda is the only personality who can be a leader or a youth icon.

Swami Vivekananda the youth Icon, legendary flame of inspiration is considered as one of the most influential educationist and spiritual thinker of India. Vivekananda primarily was notable for its comprehensiveness and prevalent in the socioeconomic and moral structure of the country. This intellectual vision was immensely clear and he could easily penetrate into the currents and cross-currents that were manifested in the history of India.

India before Vivekananda was a land ruled by aggressors from outside and bunch of confused people. Swami Vivekananda appeared as Messiah to make India Renascent. Swami Vivekananda taught on both broad and very deep aspects and compassing Spiritualism, Universal values, Religion, Character building. His teachings influenced contemporaries, inspired innumerable followers and started of movements all over India. For over twelve years from 1890-1902, amidst much hardship's, suffering's and personal humiliation, Swami Vivekananda toured all over India and several places of abroad as itinerant monk, preaching and working on diverse problems. His main teachings may be summarized in terms of his views on education,

religion, character-building, womanhood, Hinduism, Spirit of Service and National Integration. According to Vivekananda, children should be given positive education, he also preached that truth is the basis of all religion and hence we must always practice tolerance towards other religion. Since the Country's future depends upon people, Vivekananda stressed on character-building and he called it man- making. On Womanhood, he opines that unless the condition of women is improved there is no chance of welfare in the world. He also worked among the masses fighting social evils and superstitions and tried to rejuvenate Hinduism and try to integrate best elements of Western culture into Hindu culture.

On National integration, he undertook tours to different parts of India and gave speeches to Rouse, Religious, and Consciousness for the national integration. To fulfill Vivekananda's vision we need to not only look at them from the national perspective but also consider how they have to be implemented at grass root level. The perennial message of teachers such as S.R. Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda transcends the barriers of time and place and influence the future of mankind. This influence can't be measured in terms of viable work done. What counts is the change it brings in the outlook of men leading to dedication themselves to noble ideas. Unless young man is made to follow and practice Vivekananda ideology, he will only remain an ideal and vision for India remain unfulfilled. He is a true messiah to take Indian masses to illumination.

If any young man/woman studies the life of Swami Vivekananda, he/she will definitely get inspiration and strength. There are many personalities at present who have become the great celebrities of the world in different fields. If we enquire, we will find that Swami Vivekananda inspiration was behind many of them. Swami Vivekananda emphasized on character building-particularly on man making and character building education. He not only wanted money making education, but man making and character building education along with. Swami ji would say that character is such a power which cleaves its way through the adamant wall of all difficulties. Now for that, "I want young men. It is the young. The strong and healthy of sharp intellect that will reach the Lord", says the Vedas.

Swami ji expressed this confidence in the youth of this country exactly 50 years before the end of colonial rule while speaking to a mammoth gathering of youngsters in Madras. Swami ji himself was the embodiment of youth, dynamism and vibrancy. The life and ideals of Swami ji are the greatest inspiration for the youth of our nation. In a short life of 39 years, 5 months and 22 days, this great man conquered the entire world with his message. Many great personalities both in India and across the world became deeply inspired by Swami ji. Vivekananda attached more importance to self confidence than even faith in God! "He is an atheist who does not believe in himself. Swami ji always believed that everything that is happening around us be it small, big, positive or negative gives us the opportunity to manifest the potential within.

Vivekananda wanted that all people should respect other religious because these are different paths to God realization. He believed in universal religion, of seeing God in

everyone and not having a narrow minded approach. A true Hindu will be an asset to society. He does not harm anyone. He respects other's religion and therefore, he wanted every Hindu to be proud of his religion. If the modern youth imbibe the great virtues of self confidence, renunciation, purity, non-violence and service to others as preached and exemplified by the glorious life of Swami Vivekananda, the life of the modern youth would be much better for themselves as also for society.

India is celebrating Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary It is indeed high time that we resolve to follow these ideals of Swami Vivekananda and take this youthful nation to greater heights as the leader of the world.

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