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### **Ideology of Swami Vivekananda**

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Swami Vivekananda is considered as one of the most influential spiritual educationist and thinker of India. He was disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and the founder of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. He is considered by many as an icon for his fearless courage, his positive exhortations to the youth, his broad outlook to social problems, and countless lectures and discourses on Vedanta philosophy. For him, "Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riots there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas." It is rightly said that, "The Swami's mission was both national and international. A lover of mankind, he strove to promote peace and human brotherhood on the spiritual foundation of the Vedantic Oneness of existence. A mystic of the highest order, Vivekananda had a direct and intuitive experience of Reality. He derived his ideas from that unfailing source of wisdom and often presented them in the soul stirring language of poetry." For example:

"All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction.  
Love is therefore the only law of life.  
He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying.  
Therefore love for love's sake,  
because it is law of life, just as you breathe to live."

Swami Vivekananda's personality was notable for its comprehensiveness and deep sensitiveness to the evils prevalent in the socio-economic and moral structure of the country. He preached both monistic asceticism and social service. His intellectual vision was immensely clear and he could easily penetrate into the currents and cross-currents that were manifested in the history of India.

As Vivekananda was a great observer of the human mind and the human society at large. He understood that undertaking any social change needed enormous energy and will. Hence he called upon the youth to not only build up their mental energies, but their physical ones as well. He wanted 'muscles of iron' as well as 'nerves of steel.' He wanted the youth to possess indomitable will and the strength to drink up the ocean. What he wanted was to prepare the youth both physically and mentally to face the challenges that would lie ahead of social workers. He was also practical enough in warning the young of the pitfalls ahead and the way Society reacts to such endeavours. He said, "All good work has to go through three stages. First comes ridicule, then the stage of opposition and finally comes acceptance Swami Vivekananda is a treasure of motivation and inspiration for all of us, whether we are students, teachers, common people or any other professional. He said a lot which can be formatted in very simple quotations for everyone. Here is a beautiful collection of Swami Vivekananda's ideas:

- “Stand up, be bold, be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, & know that you are the creator of your own destiny.”
- “Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached.”
- “To be good and to do good - that is the whole of religion.”
- “Strength is life, Weakness is death.”
- “All the power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that; don’t believe that you are weak. Stand up and express the divinity within you.”
- “Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourself weak, weak you will be; if you think yourself strong; strong you will be.”
- “Stand and die in your own strength; if there is any sin in the world, it is weakness; avoid all weakness, for weakness is sin, weakness is death.”
- “Neither money pays, nor name pays, nor fame, nor learning; it is CHARACTER that cleave through adamant walls of difference.”
- “He is an atheist who does not believe in himself. The old religion said that he was an atheist who does not believe in God. The new religion says that he is an atheist who does not believe in himself.”
- “The greatest sin is to think yourself weak.”
- Religion is not in doctrines, in dogmas or in intellectual argumentation; it is being and becoming; it is realisation.
- And this religion is attained by what we, in India, call
- Yoga – union. To the worker, it is union between man and the whole of humanity; to the mystic, between his lower self and higher Self; to the lover, union between himself and the God of love; and to the philosopher, it is the union of all, existence. This is what is meant by Yoga,
- In studying books we are sometimes deluded into thinking that thereby we are being spiritually helped; but, if we analyse the effect of the study of books on ourselves, we shall find that, at the utmost it is only our intellect that derives profit from such studies, and not the inner spirit. This inadequacy of books to quicken the spiritual growth is the reason why although almost everyone of us can speak most wonderfully on spiritual matters, when it comes to actions and the living of a truly spiritual life, we find ourselves so awfully deficient. To quicken the spirit, the impulse must come from another soul.

According to Vivekananda, “Three things are necessary to make every man great, every nation great”:

- Conviction of the powers of goodness
- Absence of jealousy and suspicion
- Helping all who are trying to be and do good

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