



● 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 ●

Swami Vivekananda

ABHISARAN

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Relevance of
Swami Vivekananda's
 Thoughts in 21st Century

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Review On: Vivekananda As A Profounder Of Religion

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Introduction : Vivekananda's *Complete Works* indication of astonishing and with an revolutionary array, responding sagacious to vast human concerns and generating ingenious factors for assessing and civilizing both age-old and contemporary issues. The big canvas of the *Complete Works* cannot but leave a person breathless with its swerve sweep and vigor. To a very large extent it has been said and written about Swamiji's thoughts on various subjects but much can still be done—not only to explore and construe but also to imbibe and execute.

Efforts in these directions can be made on all occasion but especially when there is a significant event—such as the celebration of 150 years of the advent of this genius. Reading and responding to Swamiji's thoughts on religion in itself, highlighting the importance of religion. Swamiji was very clear on what religious tolerance meant and what it was to accept all religions as one and the same. He writes, "Our watchword then will be acceptance and not exclusion. Not only toleration, for so-called toleration is often blasphemy, and I do not believe in it. I believe in acceptance. Why should I tolerate? Toleration means that I think that you are wrong and I am just allowing you to live. Is it not a blasphemy to think that you and I are allowing others to live? I accept all religions that were in the past, and worship with them all. I worship God with every one of them, in whatever form they worship him. I shall go to the mosque of the Mohammedan; I shall enter the Christian's church and kneel before the crucifix; I shall enter the Buddhist temple, where I shall take refuge in Buddha and in his law. I shall go into the forest and sit down in meditation with the Hindu, who is trying to see the light which enlightens the heart of every one. Not only shall I do all these, but I shall keep my heart open for all that may come in the future. Is God's work finished? Or is it still a continuous revelation going on? It is a marvelous book—these spiritual revelations of the world. The Bible, the Vedas, the Koran, and all other sacred books are but so many pages, and an infinite number of pages remain yet to be unfolded. I would leave it open for all of them. We stand in the present, and open ourselves to the infinite future. We take in all that has been in the past, enjoy the light of the present, and open every window of the heart for all that will come in the future.

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Salutation to all the prophets of the past, to all the great ones of the present, and to all that are to come in the future!"

What is Religion?

Religion must be studied on a broader basis than formerly. All narrow, limited, fighting ideas of religion have to go. All sect ideas and tribal or national ideas of religion must be given up. That each tribe or nation should have its own particular God, and think that every other is wrong, is a superstition that should belong to the past. All such ideas must be abandoned. By studying the lives of all these great messengers, we find that each, as it were, was destined to play a part, and a part only; that the harmony consists in the sum total, and not in one note. There never was my religion or yours, my national religion or your national religion; there never existed many religions, there is only the one. One Infinite Religion existed all through eternity and will ever exist, and this Religion is expressing itself in various countries, in various ways. The whole world of religions is only a travelling, a coming up, of different men and women, through various conditions and circumstances, to the same goal. Every religion is only evolving a God out of the material man, and the same God is the inspirer of all of them. Religious quarrels are always over the husks. When purity, when spirituality goes, leaving the soul dry, quarrels begin, and not before. The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet preserve the individuality and grow according to his own law of growth. Religion is deeply rooted in man and his blood since many centuries ago. Still it has been dominating man and his way of thinking and behavior. Within the framework of human rights, religion is considered as an inherent and individual right of the man. Therefore religion is a very personal matter in man and his life. Within the Eastern Philosophical traditions we can find a great thinker and the religious man who was not limited to the East and the one who spread that new ideal of the religion to the Western world. He is Swami Vivekananda. He was born in 1863 and expired in 1902. Within that short period he did excellent contribution to the tradition of the Vedāntic religion.

Early days:

His pre-monastic name was Narendranath Dutta. Narendra, even from his childhood had started to practice meditation. At the age of six very easily he learnt by heart the whole of a Sanskrit grammar and long passage from the Mahabharata and Ramayana as a boy, he observed and questioned the nature of man. Once he asked, 'Why one human