

Swami Vivekananda- An Apostle of Philosophical Insight in the West

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Abstract

Great men are of no particular race or class. They are the flagbearers of knowledge, wisdom and intellect for the entire human race. Few people have influenced the psyche and psychological aptitude of generations as Swami Vivekananda has. When we make a list of the most virtuous, most dedicated persons who tried to bring about an evident change in the outlook of the people around them, three or four names come to our mind- Aristotle, Socrates, Leo Tolstoy and that young ascetic from India- Narendra Nath or the more popular name- Swami Vivekananda. Their literature, their teachings and the core of their intellect were not the sole property of the countries they belonged to but were the storehouse of wisdom for the generations to follow all across the globe. They never minced words to call a spade a spade. The authority of the conservative state could not suppress the voice of these iconic men who were simplistic, clear sighted, concerned about the society around them. They made it a point to be the spokespersons for the uncountable human beings who needed a torchbearer to guide them on the path of righteousness, steadfastness and truth; the things curbed and trampled underfoot by the governments of their times. The present paper is an elaborate effort to compile the philosophical outlook of Swami Vivekananda as was witnessed by his disciples and the society during his stay in the West.


Keywords: naïve, cosmopolitan, conscientiousness, satvika, fecundity, sectarianism, blackguardism. Great men are not born great, they grow great. Mario Puzo

Narendra Nath was one of the major influences over the people of his nation as well as of the U S A. Few people would deny the fact that the people who came across his theory of the Vedanta were not influenced by the naïve, frank and straight forward approach of this sanyasi from the East. It is a noteworthy fact here that the great souls of this world have lived for a very short period on this planet and left for their heavenly abode at a young age. Jesus Christ, Alexander the Great, Swami Vivekananda- all belonged to this select list of people of uncommon merit who came to this world with a mission, fulfilled it to a large extent and left the world with their indelible impress upon it. Swami Vivekananda went to the U S A to attend the Parliament of Religions at Chicago in Sept. 1893, introduced the Indian philosophy of the vedas and the upnishads and opened up the vista of an all inclusive cosmopolitan and worldwide universal toleration to the world. He began giving classes to the Americans, interested in Vedanta. He never for once wanted the limelight of public attention but wanted to sound reality to the Americans who had got only a glimpse of the Indian philosophy during his speech at Chicago. Truth and God were his guiding forces and they gave him the strength that he required for the purpose.

The young ascetic from India had become a name in philosophical discourse in the city of New York. His impetus was on teaching his students how to quiet the mind and while teaching them, he

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