

HINDU MONK SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND HIS PHILOSOPHY

Swami Vivekananda took *Hinduism* to its Vedic roots. He was born on 12th January, 1863. He said : “Courage is what the *Upanisads* speak to me from every page. This is the one great thing to remember, it has been the one great lesson I have been taught in my life. Be courageous O man, be not weak”.

Swami Vivekananda said, “Everything that we have had as a race has weakened us”. It seems as if during that period the national life had only one end in view, viz., how to make us weaker and weaker, till we have become real earthworms crawling at the feet of every one who dares to display his sword and put his foot on us.

What I want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel, inside which dwells a mind of the same material as that of which the thunderbolt is made, worship strength and manhood.

All power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that; do not think that you are weak. You can do anything and everything you like, without even the guidance of anyone. All power is there. Stand up and express the divinity within you.

Your people require heroes; be heroes. Stand firm like a rock. Truth always triumphs. What masses want is a new electric fire to stir up a fresh vigour in the national veins. Be brave, man dies but once. My disciples must not be cowards. I hate cowardice. Keep up the deepest mental poise; take not even the slightest notice of what puerile creatures may be saying against you. Indifference! Indifference! Indifference! All great undertakings are achieved through mighty obstacles. Put forth your manly effort.

What makes you weep, my friend? In you is all the power, summon up your all powerful nature, oh, mighty one! and this whole universe will lie at your feet. It is those foolish people who identify themselves with their bodies that piteously cry, weak, weak, we are weak, what the nation wants is action and scientific genius. We want great spirits, tremendous energy and boundless enthusiasm. It is the man of action, the lion-heart that the goddess of wealth resorts to. No need of looking behind. Forward!

We want infinite energy, infinite zeal; infinite courage, and infinite patience; then only will great things be achieved.

Veda recognizes no sin, it only recognizes error; and the greatest error, says the Veda, is to say that you are weak, that you are a sinner, a miserable creature and that you have no power and you cannot do this or that.

Strength is life, weakness is death; strength is felicity, life is eternal, immortal! Weakness is constant strain and misery. Weakness is death. Positive thoughts of being strong, helpful should be cultivated in your mind from the very childhood.

Weakness is one of the causes of suffering. We become miserable, because we are weak. We lie, steal, kill and commit other crimes, because we are weak. We suffer, because we are weak. We die, because we are weak. Where there is nothing to weaken us, there is no death, no sorrow.

Strength is the one thing needed. Strength is the medicine for the world's disease. Strength is the medicine which the weak must have when tyrannized by the strong. Strength is the medicine which the ignorant must have when oppressed by the learned. And it is this medicine that sinners must have when tyrannized by other sinners.

Stand up, be bold, be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, and know that you are the creator of your own destiny. All the strength and succour you want is within yourselves. Therefore make your own future.

Thinking all the time that we are diseased, will not cure us; medicine is necessary. Being reminded of weakness does not help much. Give strength; and strength does not come by thinking of weakness all the time. The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength.

Either in this world or in the world of religion, it is true that fear is the sure cause of degradation and sin. It is fear that brings misery, fear that brings death, fear that breeds evil. And what causes fear? Ignorance of our own nature. Each of us is heir-apparent to the Emperor of Emperors, the *Ishwara*.

Know that all sins and all evils can be summed up in that one word-weakness. It is weakness that is the motive power in all evil-doing. It is weakness that is the source of all selfishness. It is weakness that makes men injure others. It is weakness that makes them manifest what they are not in reality.

What our masses now want are muscles of iron and nerves of steel; strong willpower which nothing can resist, which can penetrate into the mysteries and secrets of the universe and will accomplish their purpose in any fashion even if it means going to the bottom of the ocean and meeting death face to face.

We have wept long enough; no more weeping, but stand on your feet and be a man. It is the man-making religion that we want. It is the man-making theories that we want. It is the man-making education all round that we want. And here is the test of truth, anything that makes you weak physically, intellectually and spiritually, reject; there is no life in it, it cannot be true. Truth makes you strong. Truth is purity. Truth is all knowledge. Truth must strengthen, must be enlightening, must be invigorating.

We speak of many things parrot-like, but never do them; speaking and not doing has become a habit with us. What is the cause of that ? Physical weakness. This sort of weak brain is not able to do anything. We must strengthen it. First of all our young men must be strong. Religion will come afterwards. You will understand the mighty genius and the mighty strength of Krishna only when strong blood flows in you. You will understand the Upanisads better and the glory of the *Atman* when your body stands firm upon your feet and you feel yourselves as a man.

Be moral, be brave, be a strictly moral man, brave unto desperation. Cowards commit sin, brave men never. Try to love anybody and everybody. Get up, and set your shoulder to the wheel, for how long is this life? As you have come into this world, leave some mark behind. Otherwise where is the difference between you and the trees and stones? They too come into existence, decay and die.

Be bold ! My children should be brave, above all. Not the least compromise on any account. Preach the highest truths. Do not fear losing your respect or causing unhappy friction. Rest assured that if you serve truth in spite

of temptations to forsake it, you will attain a heavenly strength, in the face of which men will quail to speak before you things which you do not believe to be true. People would be believing in whatever you say to them, if you can strictly serve truth for fourteen years continually, without swerving from it.