



**Swami Vivekananda**

(1863-1902)

**A TRIBUTE**

# WE ARE CHILDREN OF IMMORTALITY



“ ‘Children of immortal Bliss’ (Rigveda) – What a sweet, what a hopeful name! Allow me to call you, brethren, by that sweet name – heirs of immortal bliss....You are the Children of God, the sharers of immortal bliss, holy and perfect beings....”

# BE FEARLESS



“None will be able to resist truth and love and sincerity. Are you sincere? Unselfish even unto death? And loving? Then fear not, not even death. Onward, my lads!”

# YOU ARE YOUR OWN BEST FRIEND



“Pull yourself out of difficulties by yourself! Save yourself by yourself!....Be not afraid. Think not how many times you fail. ...Go forward; assert yourself again and again, and light must come.”

“You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul.”



# WE ARE INHERENTLY DIVINE



“Each soul is potentially Divine. The goal is to manifest this Divinity within by controlling nature, external and internal. Do this either by work (Karma-Yoga) or worship (Bhakti-yoga) or psychic control (Raja-Yoga) or philosophy (Jnana-Yoga)- by one or more all of these- and be free. This is whole of Religion.”

“My ideal indeed can be put into a few words and that is: to preach unto mankind their divinity, and how to make it manifest in every moment of life.”

# CONTROL YOUR MIND



“The mind uncontrolled and unguided will drag us down, down, forever – rend us, kill us; and the mind controlled and guided will save us, free us

“The purer the mind, the easier it is to control. Purity of the mind must be insisted upon if you want to control it.”

# BE TRUTHFUL, PURE, UNSELFISH



“Truth, purity, and unselfishness – wherever these are present, there is no power below or above the sun to crush the possessor thereof. Equipped with these, one individual is able to face the whole universe in opposition.”



# SELFISHNESS HARMS US



**"Be a Hero. Always Say,  
I have No Fear."**

"All outgoing energy following a selfish motive is frittered away; it will not cause power to return to you; but if restrained, it will result in development of power."



# THE MARK OF A GREAT MAN



“If you really want to judge the character of a man, look not at his great performances. Every fool may become a hero at one time or another. Watch a man do his most common actions; those are indeed the things which will tell you the real character of a great man.”

# THINK NOBLE THOUGHTS



“It is the thought which is the propelling force in us. Fill the mind with the highest thoughts, hear them day after day, think them month after month.”

# HOW CAN WE DO GOOD TO OURSELVES?



“It is the level-headed man, the calm man, of good judgment and cool nerves, of great sympathy and love, who does good work and so does good to himself.”

# LIVE WITH AN IDEAL



“Unfortunately in this life, the vast majority of persons are groping through this dark life without any ideal at all. If a man with an ideal makes a thousand mistakes, I am sure that the man without an ideal makes fifty thousand. Therefore, it is better to have an ideal.”



# TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR CONDITION



“We are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be. We have the power to make ourselves. If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, then it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act.”

# AIM FOR THE HIGHEST GOAL



“Do not go after glass beads leaving the mine of diamonds! This life is a great chance. Why do you seek then the pleasures of this world? – He [God] is the fountain of all bliss. Seek for the highest, aim at that highest, and you shall reach the highest.”

# HELP EVERYONE, CONDEMN NONE



“Condemn none: If you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If you cannot, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way.”



## HELP EACH OTHER

“Our duty is to encourage every one in his struggle to live up to his own highest idea, and strive at the same time to make the ideal as near as possible to the Truth.”



# THE TRUE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS



“What we call happiness and good here are but particles of that eternal Bliss [of the Atman]. And this eternal Bliss is our goal.”

# BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



“You cannot believe  
in God until you  
believe in yourself.”

# CONTROL YOUR SENSES



“Give the organ of taste (the tongue) a free rein, and the other organs will also run on unbridled.”

# CLINGING IS THE CAUSE OF SORROWS



“If we examine our own lives, we find that the greatest cause of sorrow is this – we take up something, and put our whole energy on it – perhaps it is a failure and yet we cannot give it up. We know that it is hurting us, that any further clinging to it is simply bringing misery on us; still, we cannot tear ourselves away from it.”



# DETACHMENT LEADS TO HAPPINESS



“Almost all our suffering is caused by our not having the power of detachment. So along with the development of concentration we must develop the power of detachment. We must learn not only to attach the mind to one thing exclusively, but also to detach it at a moment’s notice, and place it upon something else. These two should be developed together to make it safe.”

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN, ANIMAL AND THE DIVINE



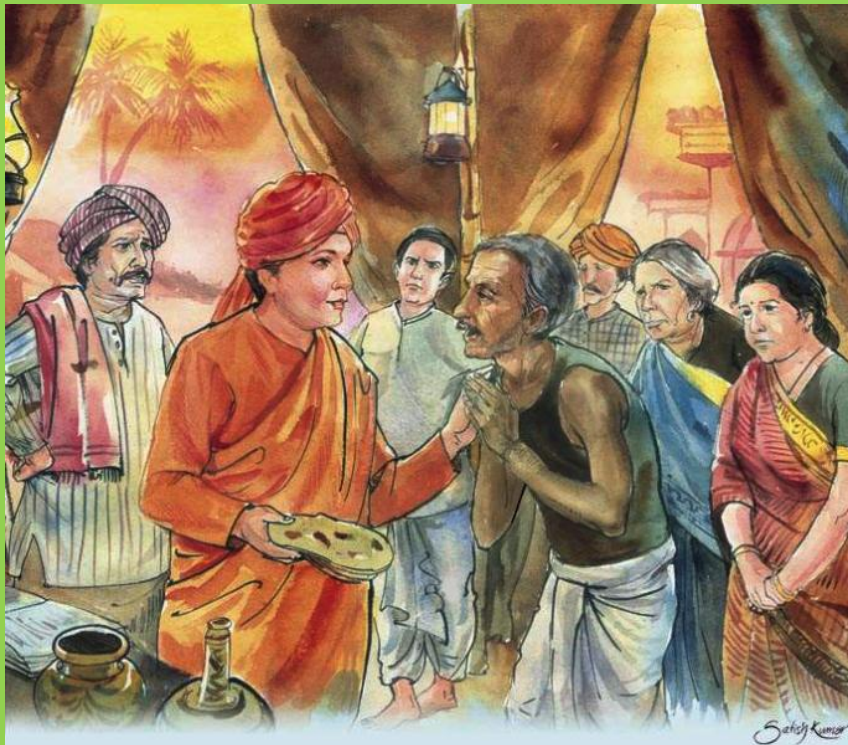
“The animal has its happiness in the senses, the man in his intellect, and the god in spiritual contemplation.”

# LOOK BEYOND YOUR NARROW LIVES



“The majority of us cannot see beyond a few years, just as some animals cannot see beyond a few steps. Just a little narrow circle – that is our world. We have not the patience to look beyond, and thus become immoral and wicked. This is our weakness, our powerlessness.”

# SEE GOD IN HUMAN BEINGS



“If you cannot see God in the human face, how can you see him in the clouds, or in images made of dull, dead matter, or in mere fictitious stories of our brain? I shall call you religious from the day you begin to see God in men and women.”



# AWAKE, ARISE!



“Let us proclaim to every soul: Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached (Katha Upanishad). Arise, awake! Awake from this hypnotism of weakness. None is really weak; the soul is infinite, omnipotent. Stand up, assert yourself, proclaim the God within you, do not deny Him.”

# WHAT IS TRUE LOVE?



“With love there is no painful reaction; love only brings a reaction of bliss; if it does not, it is not love; it is mistaking something else for love. When you have succeeded in loving your husband, your wife, your children, the whole world, the universe, in such a manner that there is no reaction of pain or jealousy, then you are in a fit state to be unattached.”

# THE BEST PRAYER TO GOD



“ “In search of wealth in this world, You are the only wealth I have found; I sacrifice myself unto You. In search of some one to be loved, You are the only one beloved I have found; I sacrifice myself to You.” – Let us repeat this day and night.”



If you have 'Zeroneess' in you,  
you can see 'Heroneess' of your  
Ishtadevata in you.



# WHAT IS RELIGION?



“To devote your life to the good of all and to the happiness of all is religion. Whatever you do for your own sake is not religion.”



# THINK POSITIVE



“If you think about disaster, you will get it. Brood about death and you hasten your demise. Think positively and masterfully, with confidence and faith, and life becomes more secure, more fraught with action, richer in achievement and experience.”

# HINDUISM IS NOT JUST BELIEFS



“Hindu religion does not consist in struggles and attempts to believe a certain doctrine or dogma, but in realizing; not in believing, but in being and becoming.”

# WHAT CAN GOD GIVE TO US?



“When I asked god for peace, he showed me how to help others.  
When I Asked God for Strength He Gave Me Difficult Situations to Face.  
When I Asked God for Brain Brown He Gave Me Puzzles in Life to Solve.  
When I Asked God for Happiness He Showed Me Some Unhappy People.  
When I Asked God for Wealth He Showed Me How to Work Hard.  
When I Asked God for Favors He Showed Me Opportunities to Work.  
Hard When I Asked God for Peace He Showed Me How to Help Others.  
God Gave Me Nothing I Wanted.  
He Gave Me Everything I Needed.”