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SWAMIJI FOR YOUTH

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Abstract

This paper deals with the inspiring and guiding light of **Swamiji**, the worthy son of **Bharat Mata** and his majestic voice roaring with vigour to **channelize** the **youth** from darkness of ignorance and inaction to the everlasting light of wisdom for humanity. In that ocean of awakening thoughts, the **youth** can overcome impatience, selfishness, weakness and cowardice to live a fruitful life as a real human being. He was a beacon of **universal humanism** and an open mind to the people who were quarreling among themselves in the name of caste, creed, religion and region. His message of **Universal Brotherhood** has an impact on the **youth** and his **dream** of **Samartha Bharat** can only be fulfilled by the **youth** in unity. **Swamiji** visualized **Bharat Mata** as the “**Jagadguru**”(the Teacher of the World).

Through this paper effort has been made to discuss Swami Vivekananda as a role model – a **Youth Icon** – the true Hero whom the world worships as a **Jnan-Surya** (the Sun of Knowledge) that never sets.

KEY WORDS: Swamiji, Bharat Mata, channelize, awakened, youth, universal humanism, Universal Brotherhood, dream, Samartha Bharat, “Jagadguru”, Youth-Icon, Jnan-Surya

INTRODUCTION

“There are two sorts of persons in the world. The one---strong-nerved, quiet, yielding to nature, not given too much imagination, yet good, kind, sweet, etc. For such is this world; they alone are born to be happy. There are others again with high-strung nerves, tremendously imaginative, with intense feeling, always going high one moment and coming down the next. For them there is no happiness; the last will have to run between ecstasy and misery. But of these alone what we call geniuses are made.”

Truly, **Swamiji** wants the **youth** of India to be of the first one and fight and clear their doubts and fear and be geniuses themselves. There is the need of social awakening, self-sacrifice and renunciation. He opined, *“Renunciation—non-resistance---non-destructiveness---are the ideals to be attained through less and less worldliness, less and less resistance, less and less destructiveness. Keep the ideal in view and work towards it.”*

Why **youths**? A question may arise. It is so, because they possess idealism and a certain amount of recklessness to jump into the ocean of struggle and transform idealism into practice. Moreover, they possess *“physical and mental energy to pursue the goal to its logical end. Only their energy has to be channelized.”* The time is propitious to place a worthy goal before them, so that they can pursue the same with utmost zeal and full enthusiasm. Isn't it the duty and responsibility of the elders to show them the right direction, give them the right education and a fruitful motivation besides the proper guidance and practical advice on the right time so as to help them nurture their dreams of a bright and **awakened** life in a positive environment?

Undoubtedly, **Swamiji** was a centre of attraction – magnetic---*“he was a very embodiment of youthfulness and physical beauty with a blending in him that no one could escape from being drawn to him.”*

A Hero is always adored by the **youth**. The roaring voice, uncompromising patriotism, sense of pride for **Bharat Mata** and his addressing of the audience with the words “Sisters and brothers of America!” the Hindoo monk brought a cyclone of new thoughts at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago, U.S.A., September 11, 1893 and

made **Bharat Mata** highlighted as the “**Jagadguru**”(the Teacher of the World) and thus, he became a **Youth Icon**!

DISCUSSION

Swamiji had a great confidence on **youth**. His sparkling words had really ignited the young minds and his tireless toil had inspired them around the world. He said, “*If I had ten youth of steel nerves and iron muscles, I can shake the whole world.*”

But today, the **youths** are confused and puzzled and are being deviated from the right track due to the social unrest, hopelessness, physical provocations in and out. There is a wave of utter extremism in **youth** around the world, owing to the lack of right education, lack of right direction and the ongoing characterless information! Only one thing can save the **youth** energy from any further destruction---it is the invaluable treasure of **Swamiji**'s teachings and his supreme leadership as a roaring lion!

His message of **Universal Brotherhood** is still relevant. He idealized **Bharat Mata** as the “**Jagadguru**”. Through him the delegates from all around the world and the people of America came to know Bharat with a new identity. The **youths** of today ought to see how tough it was for **Swamiji** to stand upon his feet on a foreign land with no special recommendation or backing in order to represent **Bharat Mata** for the very first time. If he would have paced back with doubt, fear, inaction, negativity and selfishness, **Swamiji** would not have accomplished such a great height of **universal humanism**.

We can see what uncompromising zeal, unchallenging passion and a daring determination **Swamiji** did possess!! Today's **youths** must learn the lessons of **Universal Brotherhood** from the patriotic Hindoo monk! He could have easily enjoyed the flashlights of fame and the high-profile treatment being given to him in America and could have been swayed away with the tides of wealth and comfort, but his heart cried out for **Bharat Mata** in shackles of orthodoxy, superstitions, negativity, darkness and slavery! He arose and **awakened** his mission of making **Bharat Mata** the “**Jagadguru**”! He did not stop!

The Wondering Monk returned back to motherland after rejuvenating the masses abroad and blessing all his followers with spiritualism and modernism. He gifted the **youth** with a sense of responsibility and self-awareness that would inspire everyone,

generation after generation! So relevant are his thoughts, words and deeds that we all adore and follow him with utmost devotion. He is a symbol of self-sacrifice and renunciation.

He wrote, “...you have the making in you of a world-mover and others will also come. Bold words and bolder deeds are what we want. Awake, awake, great ones! The world is burning with misery. Can you sleep?”

Yes! What other than **Swamiji’s** charismatic personality fascinates the **youths** today! If we read the Vivekananda literature, we can see how he “made deliberate and concerted efforts” to appeal to the **youths** to come out of their narrow walls of doubts, cowardice, lethargic monotony and inaction and dedicate their lives in service of **Bharat Mata**. It is because **youth** life is the best time to build up one’s character and an **awakened** future for the sake of our motherland and for **universal humanism**. The young men and women can do wonders if they utilize their time meticulously.

“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, 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.” Rightly said our **Swamiji**.

It is their indomitable self-esteem, hopeful determination, firm resolution and willing good intentions for this beautiful task of self-culture that can rejuvenate the **youth**.

Swamiji said, “*Death is better than a vegetating ignorant life; it is better to die on the battlefield than to live a life of defeat.*”

In fact, **youth** signifies the creation of noble personality. Now, it is the responsibility of the **youth** to understand ‘successful life’ in true sense. It is neither merely meaning to succeed in fulfilling one’s demands nor is it meaning to acquire a name or attain a position or imitable fashion trends to appear modern or up-to-date. Rather, the quintessence of success lies in what one makes of oneself. It is the conduct of life that one develops, it is the character that one cultivates and it is the kind of person one becomes. Hence, a successful life is one that succeeds in making an ideal individual and a noble human being. One can attain a blissful life only in terms of what one becomes, how one lives and what actions one practically does.

Swamiji's teachings guide the **youth** in reaching their goal. He opined, *"The best karma is service to humanity. Throw away everything, even your own salvation and help others."*

Even Veda Vyasa had expressed that the act of greatest merit is to help others and the greatest act of sin is to cause intentional pain to others.

Hence, the first principle that the **youths** must remember is their devotion to duty and the most sacred one is service to mankind.

Secondly, there is an ocean of infinite powers and blessedness within every **youth**. **Swamiji** said to the **youth**, *"Do you know how much energy, how many powers, how many forces are still lurking behind that frame of yours?"*

Thirdly, the **youths** must build their character. Indeed, **Swamiji's** hope for the future lies in the **youth** of character, intelligence, obedience and renunciation in service of **Bharat Mata**.

Finally, there is **Swamiji's dream** of national reconstruction---**Samartha Bharat**(a Capable India) through spiritual unity, economic strength, social stability and ethical passion and the **dream** to see **Bharat Mata** as the "**Jagadguru**" lie in the hands of the **youth!**

He had a high value for **Bharat Mata**. He proudly said, *"This is the Motherland of philosophy, of spirituality, and of ethics, of sweetness, gentleness, and love. These still exist, and my experience of the world leads me to stand on firm ground, and make the bold statement that India is still the first and foremost of all the nations of the world in these respects."*

One of the very important character-building aspects of **Swamiji's** thoughts for the **youth** is that there should not be any habit of the blame-game. He emphasized, *"...let us work and let us not abuse our country, let us not curse and abuse the weather-beaten and work-worn institutions of our thrice-holy motherland."* Moreover, he inspires the **youths** to take responsibilities on their shoulders. *"Close your lips and let your hearts open. Work out the salvation of this land and the whole world, each of you thinking that the entire burden is on your shoulders. Carry the light and the life of Vedanta to every door, and rouse up the divinity that is hidden within every soul."*

CONCLUSION

Swamiji was amongst the first modern Indian thinkers to understand the **youth** as the biggest resource. If opportunities, training and suitable environment is provided, it can change the face of a Country. He saw the possibility of transforming the face of the nation through skillful and meticulous utilization of this resource. He, therefore, focussed his attention on building an army of young minds towards a spiritual mission in service of **Bharat Mata**.

He wanted to create leaders in every field of life, be it social, economic, political, science, trade and commerce, industry, sports and last but not the least the spiritual 'sector'. He, ultimately, injected the spirit of a champion in the young men and women, so that it flows through the veins of **Bharat Mata**.

"What resource India has that distinguishes her from the rest of the world including China? It is the young population." He confidently said.

Swamiji appealed, *"A hundred thousand men and women, fired with the zeal of holiness, fortified with the eternal faith in the Lord, and nerved to the lion's courage by their sympathy for the poor and the downtrodden, will go over the length and breadth of the land, preaching the gospel of the salvation, the gospel of help, the gospel of social raising up, the gospel of equality."*

He urged the **youth** to love the world selflessly. *"Stand upon the Self, then only can we truly love the world. Take a very, very high stand; knowing our universal nature, we must look with perfect calmness upon all the 'panorama' of the world."*

Indeed, Swami Vivekananda is an ocean of thoughts; an ocean of light; an ocean of "Jagrad-avastha"(an **Awakened** state)! He is a **Jnan-Surya**(Sun of Knowledge) that never sets. The **youth** is **channelized** with one clarion call : **"Arise! Awake! Stop not till the goal is reached."**

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