

## **QUES/ANS OF “SWAMI VIVEKANANDA”**

### **Context 1**

**"My mission is clear, my friends. I go to represent the timeless wisdom of our ancient land at the Parliament of the World's Religions."**

(a) Who spoke these words and in what context?

👉 Swami Vivekananda spoke these words before leaving for America in 1893. He was preparing to attend the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago.

(b) What does the speaker mean by 'timeless wisdom of our ancient land'?

👉 He meant the spiritual knowledge, teachings of Vedanta, tolerance, and universal brotherhood that India had preserved for thousands of years.

(c) How did this mission impact the speaker's life and the lives of others?

👉 For Vivekananda, it gave him worldwide recognition as a great spiritual leader. For others, especially in the West, it opened the door to Hindu philosophy, yoga, and the idea of religious tolerance.

### **Context 2**

**"As his students chant and pray, Swami Vivekananda prepares himself mentally and spiritually for his big trip to the United States. Everyone is excited and respectful as he says goodbye to India, promising to share its spiritual wisdom with the world."**

(a) Where does this scene take place, and what is its significance in the story?

👉 This scene takes place in India, before Swami Vivekananda's departure for America. Its significance is that it shows the support, blessings, and hopes of his disciples as he set out on a historic mission.

(b) How does this passage illustrate the relationship between Swami Vivekananda and his disciples?

👉 It shows a strong bond of respect, love, and trust. His disciples admired him deeply and saw him as the true representative of India's wisdom.

(c) What does Swami Vivekananda's promise to 'share its spiritual wisdom with the world' suggest about his mission and its potential impact?

👉 It suggests that his mission was not just personal but for humanity. His promise shows that he aimed to spread India's message of peace, tolerance, and spirituality, which could bring harmony to the world.

### **Context 3**

**"Sisters and Brothers of America... It fills my heart with joy unspeakable to rise in response to the warm and cordial welcome which you have given us."**

(a) At what event were these words spoken?

👉 These words were spoken at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

(b) Why did the speaker choose to address the audience as 'Sisters and Brothers of America'?

👉 He used these words to express love, equality, and a feeling of universal brotherhood. It made the audience feel personally connected to him.

(c) How did the audience react to this opening, and why was it significant?

👉 The audience gave him a standing ovation with thunderous applause. It was significant because it immediately won their hearts, showing that his message of unity and love had a powerful emotional impact.

#### **Context 4**

**"We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth..."**

(a) What key ideas about Hinduism is the speaker presenting in these lines?

👉 The speaker (Swami Vivekananda) presents Hinduism as a religion that teaches tolerance, acceptance, and respect for all religions. It does not reject other faiths but embraces them as different paths to truth.

(b) How does this statement reflect the speaker's view on religious diversity?

👉 It shows that he strongly believed in unity among religions, valuing diversity, and respecting all paths to God.

(c) In what ways did this message challenge or align with the beliefs of the American audience?

👉 For many Americans, who lived in a largely Christian society, this message was new and inspiring. It challenged narrow thinking but aligned with liberal values of freedom and equality, making them more open to Hindu philosophy.

#### **Context 5**

**"The essence of Vedanta teaches us that each soul is potentially divine..."**

(a) In what setting was this statement likely made by Swami Vivekananda?

👉 This was likely said during his speeches in America (Parliament of the World's Religions or other lectures) where he explained the main teachings of Hindu philosophy.

(b) What does Swami Vivekananda mean by 'potentially divine'?

👉 He means that every human being has godliness or spiritual power within them, and by self-realisation and good actions, this divinity can be expressed.

(c) How does this teaching relate to Vivekananda's overall message of religious tolerance?

👉 If all souls are divine, then no religion is higher or lower; all are equal paths to realise God. This supports his central idea of respect and tolerance for all religions.

## ■ Answer the Following Questions

Q1. Describe the significance of Swami Vivekananda's journey to America in 1893. How did it impact the perception of Hinduism in the West?

👉 His journey gave the West its first deep introduction to Hindu philosophy. It changed the perception of Hinduism from being seen as strange or backward to being respected as a profound, spiritual tradition.

Q2. Analyse the key points of Swami Vivekananda's speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions. How did his message promote religious tolerance and understanding?

👉 Key points:

All religions are true and should be respected.

\*Hinduism accepts diversity.

\*Each soul is divine.

Religious conflict must be avoided.

His message promoted tolerance by showing unity in diversity and teaching respect for all faiths.

Q3. Explain how Swami Vivekananda's background in India prepared him for his mission to America. What challenges might he have faced in presenting Hindu philosophy to a Western audience?

👉 His training under Sri Ramakrishna, knowledge of scriptures, and experience of India's diverse culture prepared him.

Challenges: unfamiliar culture, prejudice against non-Christian religions, and difficulty explaining deep Indian philosophy in simple English.

Q4. Compare and contrast the religious and cultural landscape of America in 1893 with that of India at the same time. How did this context influence the reception of Swami Vivekananda's message?

👉 America: mostly Christian, industrial, modern.

India: diverse religions, spiritual, under colonial rule.

Americans admired his message because it was fresh, inclusive, and provided spiritual depth missing in their materialistic life.

Q5. Discuss the long-term impact of Swami Vivekananda's visit to America on Hindu-American relations and the spread of Hindu philosophy in the West.

👉 It created respect for Hinduism, encouraged interest in yoga and Vedanta, and laid the foundation for cultural exchange between India and America.

Q6. Evaluate the effectiveness of Swami Vivekananda's approach in presenting complex philosophical ideas to a diverse audience. What made his communication style successful?

👉 He used simple English, everyday examples, and spoke with confidence and sincerity. His respectful tone and emotional warmth made his ideas easy to understand and inspiring.

Q7. Describe how Swami Vivekananda's journey and teachings align with the concept of cultural exchange. How did his work contribute to global understanding?

👉 He shared India's spiritual wisdom with the West while learning from Western progress in science and education. His teachings built a bridge between Eastern spirituality and Western modernity.

Q8. Reflect on the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's message of religious tolerance and universal acceptance in today's world. How can his teachings be applied to current global issues?

👉 Today's world faces religious conflict, intolerance, and cultural clashes. His message of respect for all faiths, equality of all humans, and seeing divinity in everyone can promote peace, harmony, and global unity.