

Biography Report

UPS 2002A

World Famous Philosophers,
Saint/Sages and Great Kings

Biography chosen: Swami Vivekananda

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Submitted to Faculty Member: Rashmi Umale

• History:

Swami Vivekananda, born on 12 January 1863 - 4 July 1902) in Narendranath Datta was an Indian Hindu monk. He was a chief disciple of the 19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna. Influenced by western esotericism, he was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian darśanas of vedānta and Yoga to the western world, and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century.

• His/Her works:

Although Vivekananda was a powerful orator and writer in English and Bengali, he was not a thorough scholar, and most of his published works were compiled from lectures given around the world. Vivekananda blended humour with his teachings and his language was lucid. His Bengali writings testify to his belief that words should clarify ideas, rather than demonstrating the speaker knowledge.

• Accomplishments:

- He proved Hinduism is not a bundle of blind beliefs.
- He proved that Hinduism has taught the world tolerance and acceptance.
- He taught us to believe in ourselves.
- He taught us to be rational, logical & Practical
- He showed us the path to salvation.

• Contributions to Mankind / Society:

Vivekananda was one of the main representatives of Neo-Vedanta, a modern interpretation of selected aspects of Hinduism in line with western esoteric traditions, especially Transcendentalism, New Thought and Theosophy. Swamiji was the first religious leader in India to speak for the masses, formulate a definite philosophy of service, and organize large-scale social service.

• Learnings from the character chosen:

Nationalism was a prominent theme in Vivekananda's thought. He believed that a country's future depends on its people, and his teachings focused on human development. He wanted to set in motion a machinery which will bring noblest ideas to the doorstep of even the poorest and the meanest.

• Summary:

Swami Vivekananda is my inspiration in today's world. His teachings have taught me how to be in life. And the effect of Hinduism had made me strong to face any difficulties in life.