

My India

The India Eternal

Swami Vivekananda

NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Integration—why ?

It is will that is the power.... Why is it, to take a case in point, that forty millions of Englishmen rule three hundred millions of people here? What is the psychological explanation? These forty millions put their wills together and that means infinite power, and you three hundred millions have a will each separate from the other. Therefore to make a great future India, the whole secret lies in organization, accumulation of power, co-ordination of wills.

Already before my mind rises one of the marvellous verses of the Atharva-Veda Samhita which says, 'Be thou all of one mind, be thou all of one thought, for in the days of yore, the gods being of one mind were enabled to receive oblations.' That the gods can be worshipped by men is because they are of one mind. Being of one mind is the secret of society. And the more you go on fighting and quarrelling about all trivialities such as 'Dravidian' and 'Aryan', and the question of Brahmins and non-Brahmins and all that, the further you are off from that accumulation of energy and power which is going to make the future India. For mark you, the future India depends entirely upon that. That is the secret—accumulation of will-power, co-ordination, bringing them all, as it were, into one focus. Each Chinaman thinks in his own way, and a handful of Japanese all think in the same way, and you know the result. That is how it goes throughout the history of the world.... All these dissensions must stop.¹

Summaries (easiest way)

National Integration – Integration: Why?

♦ 1. Unity is Real Power

- Power comes from strong and united will.
- When people combine their wills, they gain infinite strength.

♦ 2. Example of British Rule

- 40 million Englishmen ruled 300 million Indians.
 - Reason: The English were united.
- Indians were divided and lacked coordination.

♦ 3. Secret of India's Great Future

- Organization
 - Accumulation of power
 - Coordination of wills
 - Bringing everyone into one focus
- ### ♦ 4. Message from the Atharva-Veda

- “Be of one mind and one thought.”
- Unity of mind is the secret of social strength.
- Even the gods succeeded because they were united.

♦ 5. Harm of Internal Divisions

- Fighting over issues like Aryan vs Dravidian.
- Conflicts between Brahmins and non-Brahmins.
- Such quarrels weaken national energy and progress.

♦ 6. Importance of Collective Will-Power

- India's future depends entirely on unity.
- Accumulated will-power leads to national strength.

♦ 7. Lesson from World History

- Nations that think and act together succeed.
- Dissensions (internal conflicts) must stop.

Swamiji amidst Sikhs and Hindus in Punjab

This is the land which had first to bear the brunt of all inroads and invasions into India ; this heroic land had first to bare its bosom to every onslaught of the outer barbarians into Aryavarta. This is the land which, after all its sufferings, has not yet entirely lost its glory and its strength. Here it was that in later times the gentle Nanak preached his marvellous love for the world. Here it was that his broad heart was opened and his arms outstretched to embrace the whole world, not only of Hindus, but of Mohammedans too. Here it was that one of the last and one of the most glorious heroes of our race, Guru Govinda Singh, after shedding his blood and that of his dearest and nearest for the cause of religion, even when deserted by those for whom this blood was shed, retired into the South to die like a wounded lion struck to the heart, without a word against his country, without a single word of murmur.

Here, in this ancient land of ours, children of the land of five rivers, I stand before you, not as a teacher, for I know very little to teach, but as one who has come from the east to exchange words of greeting with the brothers of the west, to compare notes. Here am I, not to find out differences that exist among us, but to find where we agree. Here am I trying to understand on what ground we may always remain brothers, upon what foundations the voice that has spoken from eternity may become stronger and stronger as it grows. Here am I trying to propose to you something of constructive work and not destructive. For criticism the days are past, and we are waiting for constructive work....

Gentlemen, this is the motive that brings me before you, and at the start I may declare to you that I belong to no party and no sect. They are all great and glorious to me, I love them all, and all my life I have been attempting to find what is good and true in them ... if we can, a ground of agreement ; and if through the grace of the Lord

1. Punjab – The Land of Heroes

- Punjab was the first to face foreign invasions into India.
- Despite suffering, it has not lost its strength and glory.
- It is called the land of five rivers.

♦ 2. Teachings of Guru Nanak

- Guru Nanak preached love and universal brotherhood.
- He opened his heart to all — Hindus and Muslims alike.
- His message was unity and harmony.

♦ 3. Sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh

- Guru Gobind Singh was a great and glorious hero.
- He sacrificed his life and family for religion.
- Even when deserted, he did not complain against his country.

♦ 4. Swamiji's Purpose

- He came not as a teacher but as a brother.
- His aim was to find similarities, not differences.
- He wanted unity among Sikhs and Hindus.

♦ 5. Focus on Constructive Work

- The time for criticism is over.
- The need of the hour is constructive work.

- Nation-building requires cooperation and harmony.

◆ 6. No Sectarian Feeling

- Swamiji belonged to no party or sect.
- He respected and loved all religions.
- He tried to find truth and goodness in every religion.