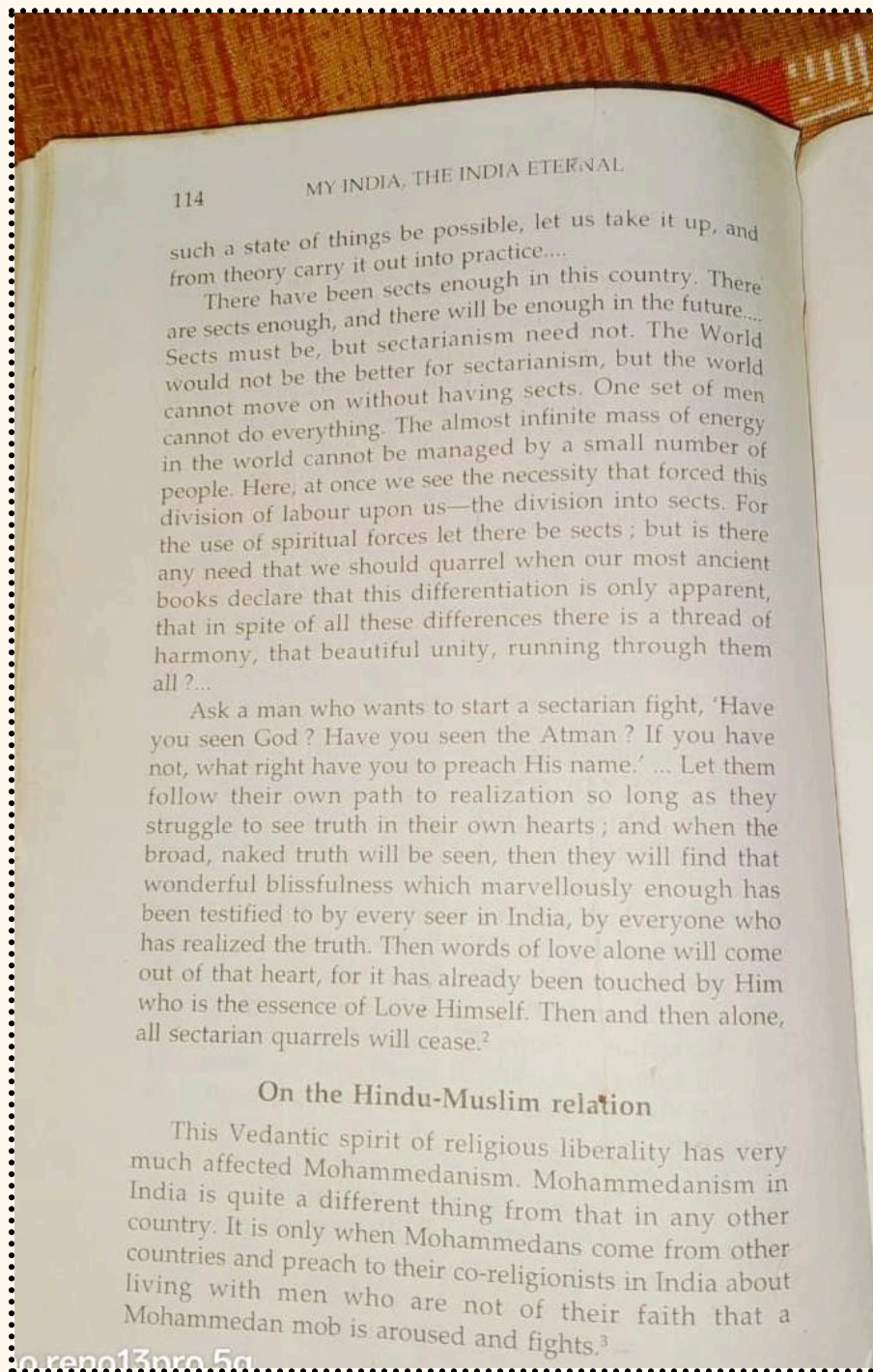


# MY India The India Eternal

By Swami Vivekananda



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MY INDIA, THE INDIA ETERNAL

such a state of things be possible, let us take it up, and from theory carry it out into practice....

There have been sects enough in this country. There are sects enough, and there will be enough in the future.... Sects must be, but sectarianism need not. The World would not be the better for sectarianism, but the world cannot move on without having sects. One set of men cannot do everything. The almost infinite mass of energy in the world cannot be managed by a small number of people. Here, at once we see the necessity that forced this division of labour upon us—the division into sects. For the use of spiritual forces let there be sects; but is there any need that we should quarrel when our most ancient books declare that this differentiation is only apparent, that in spite of all these differences there is a thread of harmony, that beautiful unity, running through them all?...

Ask a man who wants to start a sectarian fight, 'Have you seen God? Have you seen the Atman? If you have not, what right have you to preach His name.' ... Let them follow their own path to realization so long as they struggle to see truth in their own hearts; and when the broad, naked truth will be seen, then they will find that wonderful blissfulness which marvellously enough has been testified to by every seer in India, by everyone who has realized the truth. Then words of love alone will come out of that heart, for it has already been touched by Him who is the essence of Love Himself. Then and then alone, all sectarian quarrels will cease.<sup>2</sup>

## On the Hindu-Muslim relation

This Vedantic spirit of religious liberality has very much affected Mohammedanism. Mohammedanism in India is quite a different thing from that in any other country. It is only when Mohammedans come from other countries and preach to their co-religionists in India about living with men who are not of their faith that a Mohammedan mob is aroused and fights.<sup>3</sup>

## Unity and Sectarianism

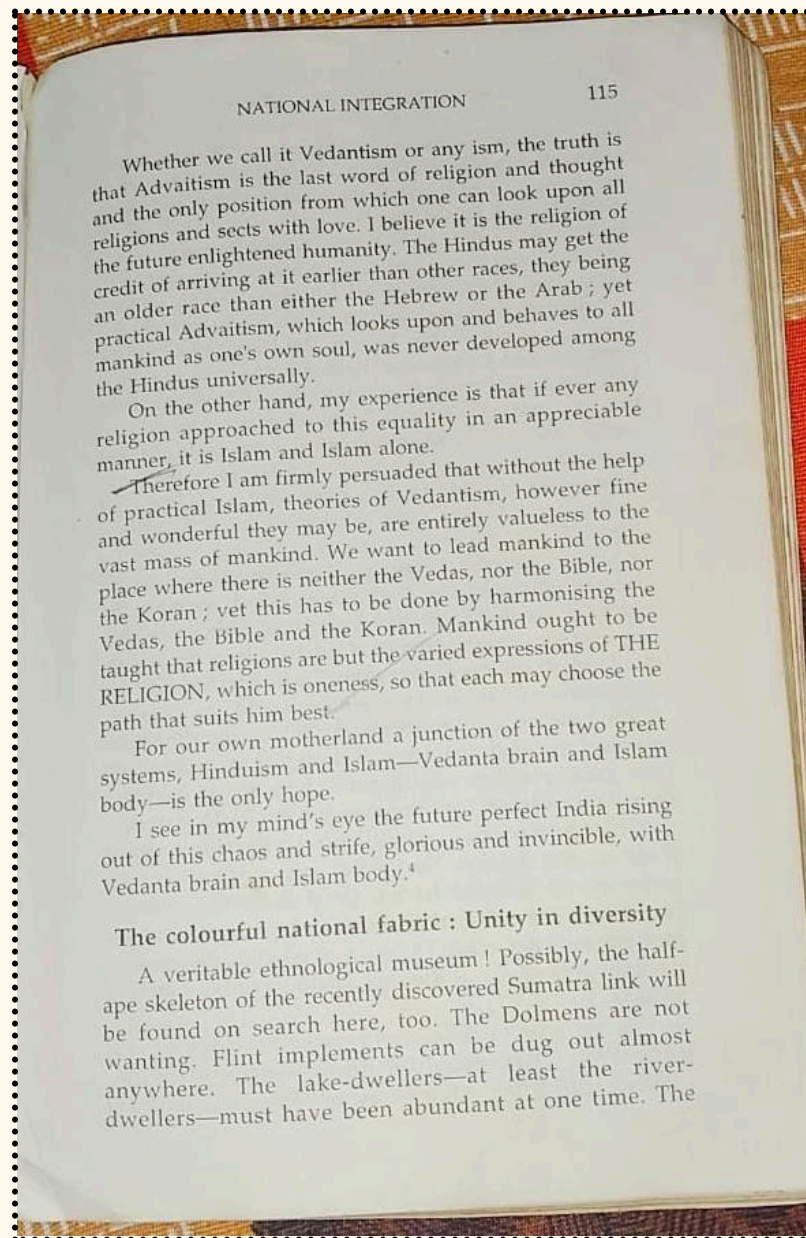
- Many sects exist in India, and more will continue to exist in the future.
- Sects are necessary because different groups help manage and express spiritual energy and work.
- However, sectarianism (fighting between sects) is unnecessary and harmful.
- Ancient Indian scriptures teach that differences between sects are only external.
- Beneath all differences, there is a **fundamental unity and harmony** connecting everyone.

## True Spiritual Realization

- People who start religious fights often **have not experienced God or truth themselves.**
- No one has the right to preach or fight in the name of God without personal realization.
- Individuals should be allowed to **follow their own path to spiritual realization.**
- When a person realizes truth:
  - Their heart fills with **love and bliss.**
  - They naturally stop quarrelling.
  - **Love replaces conflict.**

## End of Sectarian Conflict

- Sectarian quarrels will only stop when people:
- Realize truth personally.
- Experience God directly.
- Develop genuine love in their heart



## Hindu–Muslim Relations

- The **Vedantic spirit of tolerance and religious liberalism** has influenced Islam in India.
- Islam in India developed differently compared to other countries due to this influence.
- Conflicts often arise when **outside influences create division**, not necessarily from the original spirit of Indian society.

## Advaitism (Oneness) as the Highest Truth

- **Advaitism (non-dualism)** is the highest expression of religion and philosophy.
- It teaches **oneness of all existence**.
- It is the only standpoint from which all religions can be viewed with **love and equality**.
- It represents the religion of future enlightened humanity.

## Practical Advaitism

- Though Hinduism discovered Advaita early, it was **not fully practiced socially**.
- True Advaitism means:
- Seeing all humanity as one's own soul.
- Practicing equality, not just preaching

## Appreciation of Islam

- Among religions, **Islam comes closest to practicing equality in real life.**
- Without the help of **practical Islam**, Vedantic philosophy remains theoretical for the masses.
- Islam emphasizes:
  - Brotherhood
  - Equality
  - Social unity

## Harmony of Religions

- The goal is not to eliminate the **Vedas, Bible, or Koran**, but to harmonize them.
- Religions are different expressions of **one universal Religion (Oneness).**
- People should be free to choose the path that suits them best.

## **Ideal Future India**

India's strength lies in combining:

1. **Vedanta brain** (spiritual wisdom of Hinduism)
2. **Islam body** (practical strength and equality of Islam)

- This unity is the only hope for national integration.

1. A future India will rise:

- Glorious
- Strong
- Invincible
- United beyond chaos and strife

### **Unity in Diversity – National Fabric**

- India is described as a **living ethnological museum**.
- It has immense racial, cultural, and historical diversity.

Ancient remains like:

- Dolmens
- Flint tools
- Lake-dwellers' evidenc ,show deep historical roots.

- Despite diversity, India's strength lies in **unity within variety**.

## Core Themes from Both Pages

- **Sectarianism** is harmful; **unity** is essential.
- **True religion** leads to love, not conflict.
- **Personal realization** of truth ends religious quarrels.
- Harmony between **Hinduism** and **Islam** is vital for India.
- Unity in **diversity** defines **India's national character**.