

Transcendentalism

① Defination:-

Transcendentalism is a philosophical and literary movement that emerged in the early 19th century in the United States, emphasizing the inherent goodness of people and nature. It advocates for **Self-reliance, individual intuitions and spiritual growth as pathways to truth**, often transcending empirical evidence or organized religion. Central to Transcendentalism is the belief that individual can connect directly with a higher spiritual reality through personal insight and communion with nature.

② Meaning:-

Transcendentalism is a combination of three words
• "Trans" mean "beyond" or "Across"
• "Cend" mean "To climb"
• alism mean "ideological movement"
So the word transcendentalism mean "Spiritualism".

③ Orign:- old light called unitarianism. New light

- A group of American intellectuals met at Ralph Waldo Emerson's house and elsewhere.
- Transcendental club was founded on September 12, 1836.
- Developed in the eastern United States in late 1820s and 1830s.
- Came to an end in 1840 but the movement continued.
- Had to be started to fade out completely in 1850s.

④ Beliefs:-

- Every thing is a reflection of God.
- Physical world is a doorway to the spiritual world.
- People can use intuition to see God in nature and their souls.
- A person is their own best authority.
- Reason and intuition are superior to reason and intellect.

- Humans are inherently good.
- Society and institutions, religions and politics are corrupting.
- Humans should strive to be independent and self-reliant

Characteristics:-

Characteristics of transcendentalism are given below:-

1- Individualism:-

Transcendentalists believe that every individual is basically "Pure." Church and other religious organizations corrupt the individuals if we want to attain spiritual experience, if we want to know **himself and the meaning of his existence**, he has to dive deep into himself without thinking too much about the church and other modes.

2- Idealism:-

Transcendentalists placed great importance on **imagination, intuition and creativity**. They opposed "Logic" and "Reason". They strongly believed that logic and reason control and confine our knowledge to a certain limit one has to seek for the ideals and ideals come from within ideals are beyond logic

3- Nature is Divine:-

Transcendentalists rejected the divinity of the spiritual figures like Jesus. They considered Jesus as mortal. They saw nature as sacred and divine. They believed that it was important for **humans to have a close relationship with nature**. Transcendentalists saw nature perfect; **humans should not try to change or improve it**. They insisted on the worship of nature. Nature is the generator, operator and Destroyer.

4- Free thinking:-

In transcendentalism free thinking is a central tenet and involves the ability to think independently and intuitively, unbound by social **conventions, institutional dogmas, or inherited traditions**. Transcendentalism such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau emphasized the primacy of the individual's intuitions and inner spirit over external authorities like organized religion, government or cultural norms.

5- Self-Reliance:- Self-Reliance is one of the core principle of transcendentalism, Particularly Championed by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Within the transcendentalism **framework**, Self-Reliance refers to the individual ability to trust in their own intuition, capabilities and inner wisdom rather than conforming to social norms, external authorities or the opinion of others.

6- Spirituality:- Spirituality in transcendentalism revolves around the belief in the inherent connection between the individual souls and the divine, as the spiritual truths that transcend material existence are organized religion

7- Revote Traditions:- Revote traditions are often would involve challenging societal norms and institutions that conflict with the principle to create innovative, expressive and spiritually resonant works. Transcendentalists sought to away from inherited literary norms aligned with their creative effects with institutions, moral idealism and deep connection to nature.

Important Writers

1- Ralph Waldo Emerson:-

(1803 - 1882)

- He was an American essayist, lecturer, poet and philosopher who led the transcendentalism movement in 19th century.
 - He called Father of Transcendentalism
- He says: "God exist in every part of life."

"History is impertinence and an injury our religion we have not chose but society has chosen for us"

Works:-

- Nature (1836)
- Self-Reliance (1841)
- The American Scholars (1837)
- The Divinity School (1838)

2-

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

He was an American author, philosopher, abolitionist and environmentalist who played a povit role in Transcendentalist movement

Career:-

- Teacher (1837-1841)
- writer and Lectures (1841-1862)
- Surveyor (1841-1862)
- Abolitionist and Social Reformer

Books:-

- "Walden or life in the woods" (1854)
- "A Week on the concord and Merrimack" (1849)
- "Civil Disobedience" (1849)

He says

"Technology is unnecessary distraction."

"Nature is full of spiritual significance."

3- Allan Poe (1809-1849)

Edgar Allan Poe was an American poet, writer critic and editor who made significant contribution to the transcendentalism movement.

Poetry:-

- Tamerlane (1827)
- Al Aaraaf (1829)
- Annabel Lee (1849)
- The Raven (1845)

Books:-

- "The Tell-Tale Heart" (1843)
- The Fall of the House of Usher
- The Murders in the Rue Morgue
- The Philosophy of Furniture

Walt Whitman :-

- Leaves of Grass (1855-1892)
- Song of Myself (1855)

Emili Dickinson:-

Focuses on:-

- Poetry
- Themes
- Spirituality
- Individualism

Conclusion:-

- The Transcendentalism emphasize individualism Spiritually and nature, inspiring humans to strive for simplicity, self-reliance and personal growth. Thoughts are ideals.
- Transcendentalism fosters a deeper ~~conn~~connected universe, promoting social reform and intellectual freedom.
- Its legacy continues to influence contemporary thought, culture and environmentalism.