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**Faculty of Commerce and Management  
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Subject : Compulsory English**

EACH IS GREAT IN HIS OWN PLACE  
- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

# SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

- ▶ Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) was born in rich Bengali family. His real name was Narendranath Vishwanath Datta. He was a multifaceted personality - a litterateur, a social reformer, a patriot, a thinker, a philosopher, a spiritual speaker, a saint and much more.
- ▶ In the lesson, which is an extract from one of his lectures delivered on 'Karma-yoga', Swami Vivekananda points out that the concept of duty, morality and ideal vary in human life according to the state of life and the circumstances.
- ▶ Hence, we ought not to judge men by the same standard or put the same ideal before them. Everyone must have freedom to live up to his own highest ideal.

- ▶ According to the Sânkhya philosophy, nature is composed of three forces called, in Sanskrit, Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas.
- ▶ These as manifested in the physical world are what we may call equilibrium, activity, and inertness.
- ▶ Tamas is typified as darkness or inactivity; Rajas is activity, expressed as attraction or repulsion; and Sattva is the equilibrium of the two.
- ▶ In every man there are these three forces.
- ▶ Sometimes Tamas prevails. We become lazy, we cannot move, we are inactive, bound down by certain ideas or by mere dullness.

- ▶ The life of every individual, according to the Hindu scriptures, has its peculiar duties apart from what belongs in common to universal humanity.
- ▶ The Hindu begins life as a student; then he marries and becomes a householder; in old age he retires; and lastly he gives up the world and becomes a Sannyasin.
- ▶ To each of these stages of life certain duties are attached.
- ▶ No one of these stages is intrinsically superior to another.
- ▶ The life of the married man is quite as great as that of the celibate who has devoted himself to religious work. The scavenger in the street is quite as great and glorious as the king on his throne.

- ▶ It is useless to say that the man who lives out of the world is a greater man than he who lives in the world; it is much more difficult to live in the world and worship God than to give it up and live a free and easy life.
- ▶ The four stages of life in India have in later times been reduced to two – that of the householder and of the monk.
- ▶ The householder marries and carries on his duties as a citizen, and the duty of the other is to devote his energies wholly to religion, to preach and to worship God.



Each is great in his own place. This thought I will illustrate by a story.



- ▶ A certain king used to inquire of all the Sannyasins that came to his country, “Which is the greater man — he who gives up the world and becomes a Sannyasin, or he who lives in the world and performs his duties as a house holder?” Many wise men sought to solve the problem.
- ▶ The king demanded that they should prove their assertion.





- ▶ At last there came a young Sannyasin, and answered, “Each, O king, is equally great in his place.” “Prove this to me,” asked the king. “I will prove it to you,” said the Sannyasin, “but you must first come and live as I do for a few days, that I may be able to prove to you what I say.” The king consented and followed the Sannyasin out of his own territory and passed through many other countries until they came to a great kingdom.

- ▶ In the capital of that kingdom a great ceremony was going on.
- ▶ The crier was proclaiming loudly that the princess, daughter of the king of that country, was about to choose a husband from among those assembled before her.
- ▶ It was an old custom in India for princesses to choose husbands in this way.
- ▶ All the princes of the neighbourhood put on their bravest attire and presented themselves before her.
- ▶ She was the most beautiful princess in the world, and the husband of the princess would be ruler of the kingdom after her father's death. The idea of this princess was to marry the handsomest man, but she could not find the right one to please her.



- ▶ Just then came a young man, a Sannyasin, handsome as if the sun had come down to the earth, and stood in one corner of the assembly, watching what was going on.
- ▶ The throne with the princess came near him, and as soon as she saw the beautiful Sannyasin, she stopped and threw the garland over him.
- ▶ The young Sannyasin seized the garland and threw it off, exclaiming, “What nonsense is this? I am a Sannyasin. What is marriage to me?”
- ▶ The king of that country thought that perhaps this man was poor and so dared not marry the princess, and said to him, “With my daughter goes half my kingdom now, and the whole kingdom after my death!” and put the garland again on the Sannyasin.
- ▶ The young man threw it off once more, saying, “Nonsense! I do not want to marry,” and walked quickly away from the assembly.

- ▶ Now the princess had fallen so much in love with this young man that she said, “I must marry this man or I shall die”; and she went after him to bring him back.
- ▶ Then our other Sannyasin, who had brought the king there, said to him, “King, let us follow this pair”; so they walked after them, but at a good distance behind.
- ▶ The young Sannyasin who had refused to marry the princess walked out into the country for several miles.
- ▶ When he came to a forest and entered into it, the princess followed him, and the other two followed them.
- ▶ Now this young Sannyasin was well acquainted with that forest and knew all the intricate paths in it. He suddenly passed into one of these and disappeared, and the princess could not discover him.
- ▶ After trying for a long time to find him she sat down under a tree and began to weep, for she did not know the way out.

- ▶ Then our king and the other Sannyasin came up to her and said, “Do not weep; we will show you the way out of this forest, but it is too dark for us to find it now.
- ▶ Here is a big tree; let us rest under it, and in the morning we will go early and show you the road.”
- ▶ Now a little bird and his wife and their three little ones lived on that tree, in a nest.
- ▶ This little bird looked down and saw the three people under the tree and said to his wife, “My dear, what shall we do? Here are some guests in the house, and it is winter, and we have no fire.”

- ▶ So he flew away and got a bit of burning firewood in his beak and dropped it before the guests, to which they added fuel and made a blazing fire.
- ▶ But the little bird was not satisfied.
- ▶ He said again to his wife, “My dear, what shall we do?”
- ▶ There is nothing to give these people to eat, and they are hungry.
- ▶ We are householders; it is our duty to feed any one who comes to the house. I must do what I can, I will give them my body.” So he plunged into the midst of the fire and perished.
- ▶ The guests saw him falling and tried to save him, but he was too quick for them.
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- ▶ The little bird's wife saw what her husband did, and she said, "Here are three persons and only one little bird for them to eat.
- ▶ It is not enough; it is my duty as a wife not to let my husband's effort go in vain; let them have my body also." Then she fell into the fire and was burned to death.
- ▶ Then the three baby-birds, when they saw what was done and that there was still not enough food for the three guests, said, "Our parents have done what they could and still it is not enough.
- ▶ It is our duty to carry on the work of our parents; let our bodies go too." And they all dashed down into the fire also.

- ▶ Then the Sannyasin said to the king, “King, you have seen that each is great in his own place.
- ▶ If you want to live in the world, live like those birds, ready at any moment to sacrifice yourself for others.
- ▶ If you want to renounce the world, be like that young man to whom the most beautiful woman and a kingdom were as nothing.
- ▶ If you want to be a householder, hold your life a sacrifice for the welfare of others; and if you choose the life of renunciation, do not even look at beauty and money and power.
- ▶ Each is great in his own place, but the duty of the one is not the duty of the other.

THANK YOU

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.