

## LESSON -1

### SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

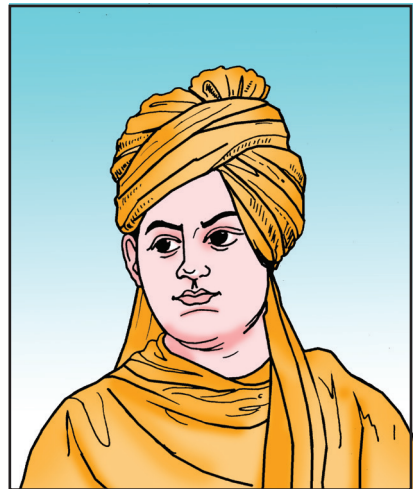
#### *Pre-reading activity:*

- Name a few leaders you look up to and say why you do so.
- What qualities does one need to become a good leader?
- “Give me a few men and women who are pure and selfless, and I shall shake the world”.
- Do you know who said so? It is Swami Vivekananda.

India is a land of many religions and cultures. People here take both pleasure and pain alike. They are dedicated and duty-bound. In this land, many well known religious leaders have been born. One such leader has been Swami Vivekananda.

One day a small boy jumped out of the coach in which he was travelling and ran to his mother with a smiling face. He pointed at the coachman and told his mother. “I want to be a coachman. How nice it is to drive a coach!”

The mother could not say anything at that time. Later she showed him the picture of “Geethopadesha” and patted him saying, “Dear Naren, if you want, you can be



a coachman. But you should be a coachman like Krishna who taught Arjuna.” Though the boy did not understand it clearly, he became later, what his mother wanted him to be. The little boy Naren later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda, a great spiritual leader and India’s pride.

Narendra was born on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1863 to Vishwanatha Dutta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi in Kolkata (Calcutta). They considered the child the boon of God Vireshwara Shiva, and named him Vireshwara. Later they gave him the name Narendranath Dutta. At the age of six, Narendra was sent to a primary school and later to a private tutor. He studied Sanskrit grammar, long passages from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. He had a strong desire to study more and he wanted to see god. He met many people but he was not able to get a satisfactory answer.

The desire to see god grew day by day. Finally one day he became successful when he could meet his guru from whom he got the answer to his desire. He could see god. The Guru who made this possible for Naren was Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa could help him experience god. Thus Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa became Naren’s spiritual guru. Swami Vivekananda did not stop with this. He went on and on, walked miles, travelled all over the country to discover truth. Naren was kind to all. He had sympathy for the poor, he was courageous too. These qualities helped him become a wandering monk travelling alone to all places to help the needy. He often expressed his ideas on education. According to him, education should develop a complete human being.

He made a speech in the Great Hall of Columbus, in the Parliament of Religions at Chicago on 11 September 1893. He began his address with the words “Sisters and Brothers of America”. Immediately, there was thunderous applause from the vast audience and it lasted for two minutes. The Swami spoke of the religion that was very vast as the sky and deep as the ocean. Further, he thanked all those who had assembled there. He referred to the Indians of all classes and sects. He said about the Hindu religion that in the true sense, it embraced all humanity. And declared, “I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal tolerance, but we accept all religions as true”. These words were very impressive. He observed that the divisions in society based on religion has resulted in human hatred.

He felt that human society would be far more advanced when there were no divisions. Swami Vivekananda expressed his hope saying that the time for driving away these evil forces in society had come. He told them that everybody should develop a sense of brotherhood and love for each other. There was great respect and appreciation from the people of America.

After his return to India, he spent his time preaching religious tolerance and worked for the upliftment of the poor. He established Belur Math in 1898 which became the centre of Ramakrishna Mission with the motto “Work is Worship.”

Though he had only a short span of life on earth, the essence of his words have been inspiring men and women throughout the world.

**Glossary :**

spirituality :

dedicate :

desire :



earnest :

wandering :



**Comprehension :**

**I. Choose the most appropriate answer.**

1. Swami Vivekananda established the Belur Math to
  - a. make people remember his speech in the Parliament of Religions.
  - b. spread the principles of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.
  - c. develop human values.
  - d. promote social divisions. 
  
2. Swami Vivekananda acquired the knowledge of human values
  - a. from his parents
  - b. through his spiritual experience
  - c. visiting countries
  - d. all of the above 

3. Narendra was born on
  - a. September 11, 1893
  - b. January 12, 1863
  - c. September 11, 1863
  - d. January 12, 1893
4. The audience in the Parliament of Religions applauded Swami's speech because
  - a. he spoke well
  - b. he addressed them as "Sisters and Brothers of America"
  - c. he spoke in English
  - d. his speech conveyed humanism

**II. Say whether the following statements are true or false.**

1. Swami Vivekananda was a wandering monk because he wanted to spread Hinduism.
2. The audience in the Parliament of Religions did not accept the speech of Swami Vivekananda.
3. Swami Vivekananda worked for universal brotherhood.
4. The words of Narendra's mother made him become a wandering monk.
5. Swami Vivekananda went to Chicago as a political leader.
6. The Belur Math was established before Swami Vivekananda went to Chicago.

**III. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.**

1. How is India described by the writer?

[Red dotted line box for answer 1]

2. What kind of a coachman did Narendra's mother want him to become?

[Red dotted line box for answer 2]

3. Why did Narendra want to be a coachman?

[Red dotted line box for answer 3]

4. Why was Narendra named Vireshwara?

[Red dotted line box for answer 4]

5. Why was Narendra considered a "wandering monk"?

[Red dotted line box for answer 5]

6. What kind of education did Narendra advocate?

[Red dotted line box for answer 6]

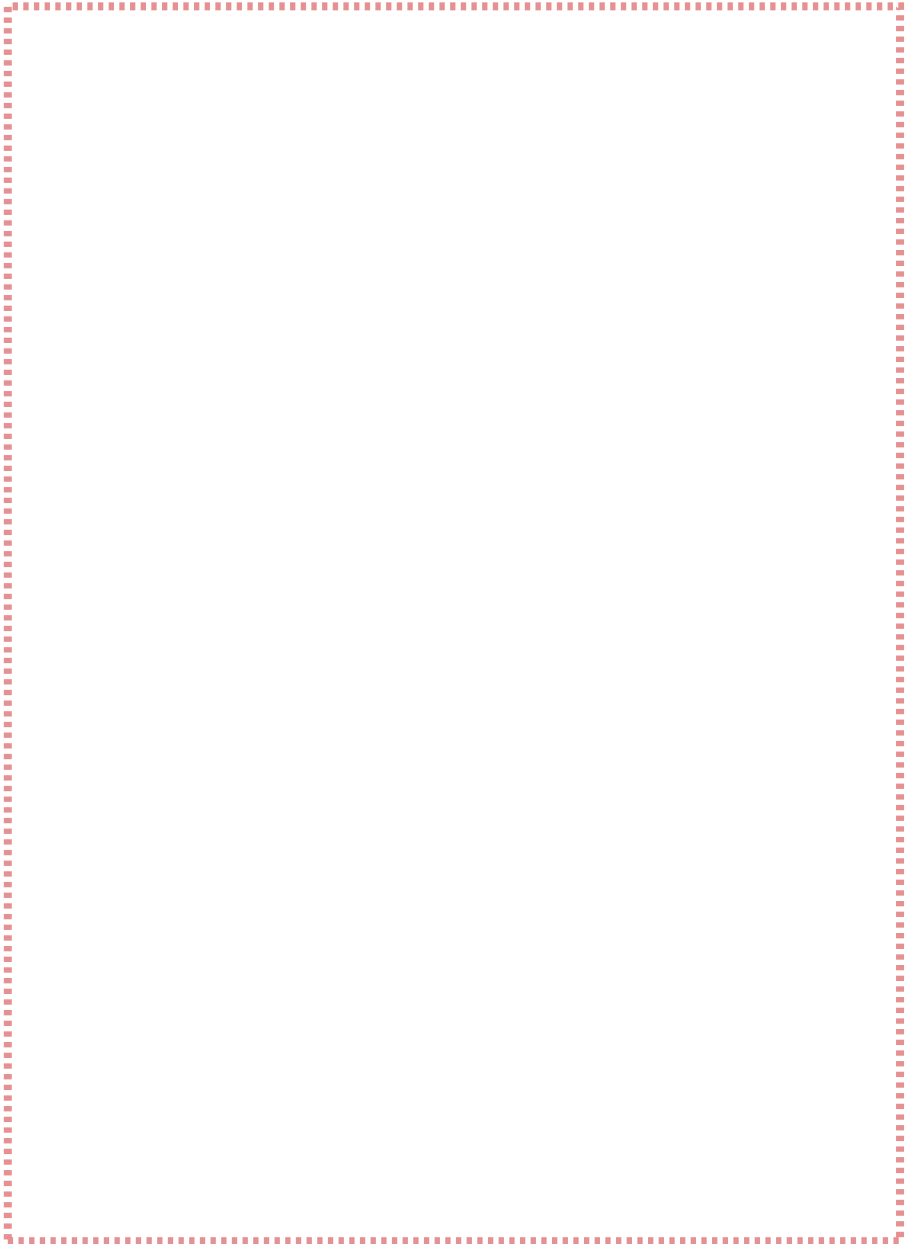
7. What made the audience in the Parliament of Religions give a thunderous applause to Narendra?
8. What helped Narendra earn respect and appreciation from the people of America?
9. Did Narendra believe in superstitions?

#### **IV. Writing :**

***Complete the following table using the details given in the lesson on Swami Vivekananda.***

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Date of birth         | <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px;"></div>   |
| Name given by parents | <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px;"></div>   |
| Parent's Name         | Mother <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div><br>Father <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>                      |
| Characteristic traits | <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px;"></div>   |
| Life mission          | <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px;"></div>   |
| Unique achievements   | a) founded the Belur Math<br>b) <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div><br>c) <div style="border: 1px dashed red; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> |

Now using the information given in the above table, write a paragraph in 50 words on the life of Swami Vivekananda.


A large rectangular area enclosed by a red dotted border, intended for writing a paragraph. The border is composed of small red dots forming a continuous line around the perimeter of the writing space.





**III. Use the following words in meaningful sentences.**

- a. pride                      b. accept                      c. experience  
d. dedicate                      e. tolerance



**IV. Match the words in list “A” with their opposites in list “B”.**

- | <b>A</b>    |   | <b>B</b> |
|-------------|---|----------|
| 1. strong   | - | hope     |
| 2. despair  | - | evil     |
| 3. good     | - | weak     |
| 4. love (n) | - | death    |
| 5. life     | - | hatred   |





### **Grammar :**

**Read the following sentences carefully. You will find them expressing different functions :**

- i) The school begins everyday at 9 am.
- ii) Why are you late?
- iii) a) Go to the post office and get me some stamps.  
b) Please, keep quiet.
- iv) What a lovely picture!

Sentence (i) above expresses a fact. It is a statement.

Sentence (ii) above seeks an answer or a piece of information. It also does the function of asking. It is thus a question or an interrogative sentence. It has a question mark (?) at the end.

Sentence (iii) gives directions or instructions or makes a request. Such sentences are called imperative sentences.

Sentence (iv) expresses an appreciation. Sentences like this may be used to express surprise, shock, pain, grief and so on. Such sentences are called exclamatory sentences, and they have exclamatory mark (!) at the end.

Ah !, Oh !, Alas !, Hurrah ! are some expressions or words used to express surprise or shock.

***I. Now read the following sentences carefully. Identify their kind / type. Write your answer in the space provided. The first one has been done for you.***

- (i) The earth revolves round the sun .....Statement.
- (ii) Animals can be either wild or domestic
- (iii) When did you come back from Hubballi ?
- (iv) Pass the ball, please
- (v) Ah! How cruel he is!
- (vi) Oh! What a wonderful game!
- (vii) Are you prepared for the examination?

***II. Read the following dialogue carefully.***

- a) Imagine that you are on a visit to Bengaluru. you ask for direction to go to St. Martha's Hospital. Read the dialogue.

A : Hello, good morning. Where do you come from?

B : I'm Srikrishna and I'm from Chikkodi.

A : Is it your first visit to Bengaluru?

B : No. It's my second visit.

A : What can I do for you?

B : How do I go to St. Martha's Hospital?

A : From here, go to Majestic, take the bus that goes to Market from Majestic. Ask for St. Martha's Hospital stop. On the opposite side you will see the hospital.

B : How kind of you! Thank you.

b) Imagine that you are near the market in your town. Complete the following dialogue :

A : .....

B : The post office is near the railway station.

A : How do I go to the railway station from here ?

B : .....

A : .....

B : You can board the bus from here and ask for M.G. Road.

A : When does your school re-open?

B : \_\_\_\_\_ ?

A : Thank you very much.

***Further reading :***

1. Read the life of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and understand what he tells young people to do.
2. Read the autobiography of Lance Armstrong. What do you think made him win against cancer and become a champion again?
3. Read books on people who promoted religious harmony like Sant Kabir, Bulleh shah, Vivekananda, Shishunala Sharif and others.

