



Flashes from VIVEKANANDA

Man is the highest being that exists. ❧

Religion, the great milch cow, has given many kicks, but never mind,
it gives a great deal of milk. ❧

Work purifies the heart and so leads to Vidya (wisdom). ❧

What we call nature, fate, is simply God's will. ❧

Japa is repeating the Holy Name; through this the devotee rises to the Infinite. ❧

We cannot see outside what we are not inside. ❧

All condemnation of others really condemns ourselves. ❧

The path of devotion is natural and pleasant. ❧

Choose the highest ideal and live your life up to that. ❧

Experience is the only teacher. ❧

Philosophy is not got by studying books. ❧

The world is but a gymnasium in which we play; our life is an eternal holiday. ❧

There is no 'righteous' indignation. ❧

Nothing can give you freedom, if you have it not already. ❧

The greatest sin is to think yourself weak. ❧

Teach the Godhood of man. ❧

No action can give you freedom; only knowledge can make you free. ❧

The Bhagavad Gita is the best authority on Vedanta. ❧

No one method can suit all. ❧

All religions are going beyond reason, but reason is the only guide to get there. ❧

Instinct is like ice, reason is the water,
and inspiration is the subtlest form of vapour. ❧

Do not spend your energy in talking, but meditate in silence. ❧
Become a dynamo of spirituality. ❧
Hold your money merely as custodian for what is God's. ❧
The whole ocean is present at the back of each wave. ❧
Religion gives you nothing new; it only takes off obstacles
and lets you see yourself. ❧
Melancholy is an almost insurmountable barrier. ❧
Do all as a sacrifice or offering to the Lord. ❧
Be in the world, but not of it, like the lotus leaf. ❧
How can we see evil unless it is in us? ❧
See only God in every man, woman and child. ❧
Seek the science of the maker, and not that of the made. ❧
Do not be mere white mice in a treadmill, working always
and never accomplishing anything. ❧
Lose regard for the body; get rid of the consciousness of it as far as possible. ❧
Only those who want nothing are masters of Nature. ❧
We only dream this bondage. Wake up and let it go. ❧
It is our privilege to be allowed to be charitable, for only so can we grow. ❧
To think there is any imperfection creates it. ❧
Thank God for giving you this world as a moral gymnasium to help your
development, but never imagine you can help the world. ❧
Truth must have no compromise. ❧
No two people see the same world. ❧
Cleanse the mind, this is all of religion. ❧
To call another a sinner is the worst thing you can do. ❧
Never want to go to heaven; that is the worst delusion. ❧
Put God behind everything – man, animal, food, work; make this a habit. ❧
No man should be judged by his defects. ❧
Never forget the glory of human nature. ❧
Never pander to weakness. ❧
The human form is the highest and man the greatest being. ❧
A perfect man's body mechanically does right. ❧
Never lose faith in yourself; you can do anything in the universe. ❧
Religion is in us. No books or teachers can do more than help us to find it,
and even without them we get all truth within. ❧

We can give nothing to God; He gives all to us. ❧
Give as the rose gives perfume, because it is its own nature,
utterly unconscious of giving. ❧
Books are useless to us until our own book opens. ❧
Only grandeur appreciates grandeur, only God realizes God. ❧
Read man, he is the living poem. ❧
Inspiration is much higher than reason, but it must not contradict it. ❧
Bear every misery without even knowing that you are miserable. ❧
Man must love others, because those others are himself. ❧
Religion consists solely in realization. Doctrines are methods, not religion. ❧
Do not cling to old superstitions, be ever ready for new truths. ❧
Each man is perfect by his nature; prophets have manifested this perfection,
but it is potential in us. ❧
Come to God anyway you can; only come. But in coming do not push anyone down. ❧
Religious teaching must always be constructive, not destructive. ❧
Get extensity with intensity, but not at its expense. ❧
Imagination will lead you to the highest even more rapidly and easily than reason. ❧
He who struggles is better than he who never attempts. ❧
Stand up for God; let the world go. Have no compromise. ❧
That action is moral which frees us from the bondage of matter, and vice versa. ❧
Material happiness is but a transformation of material sorrow. ❧
Never think you can make the world better and happier. ❧
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God'.
This sentence alone would save mankind, if all books and prophets were lost. ❧
The seeing of many is the great sin of all in the world.
See all as Self and love all; let all idea of separateness go. ❧
The sum total of all ideas of help is God. ❧
Think of God all the time, and that will purify you. ❧
Even the least work done for others awakens the power within, gradually
instils into the heart the strength of a lion. ❧
The life is short, the vanities of the world are transient, but they alone live who live
for others, the rest are more dead than alive. ❧
Money does not pay, nor name; fame does not pay, nor learning. It is life that pays;
it is character that cleaves its way through adamant walls of difficulties. ❧
Be not weak, either physically, mentally, morally or spiritually. ❧

What good is it, if we acknowledge in our prayers that God is the Father of us all,
and in our daily lives do not treat every man as our brother? ❧

Our best work is done, our greatest influence is exerted,
when we are without thought of self. ❧

He alone who is always awake to the idea of freedom becomes free. ❧

All the negative thoughts and ideas that are in this world are products from this
evil spirit of fear. Therefore, I say, be fearless, be fearless. ❧

In eating, dressing or lying, in singing or playing, in enjoyment or disease,
always manifest the highest moral courage. ❧

My method of work is to construct and not pull down. ❧

The eternal law is self-sacrifice, not self-assertion. ❧

You cannot begin too early to teach the highest spiritual truths. ❧

Multitude counts for nothing. A few heart-whole, sincere, and energetic men can do more in
a year than a mob in a century. ❧

Neither numbers, nor powers, nor wealth, nor learning, nor eloquence, nor anything else will
prevail but purity, living the life—in one word, anubhuti, realization. ❧

We only get what we deserve. ❧

The history of civilisation is the progressive reading of spirit into matter. ❧

All the secret of success is there; to pay as much attention to the means as to the end. ❧

Character has to be established through a thousand stumbles. ❧

Man is an infinite circle whose circumference is nowhere,
but the centre is located on one spot; and God is an infinite circle whose circumference
is nowhere, but whose centre is everywhere. ❧

Religion is not in doctrines, in dogmas, not in intellectual argumentation,
it is being and becoming; it is realization. ❧

Truth does not pay homage to any society, ancient or modern.
Society has to pay homage to Truth, or die. ❧

Throughout the history of mankind, If any motive power has been more
potent than another in the lives of all great men and women,
it is that of faith in themselves. ❧

Art, Science, and Religion are but three different ways of expressing a single truth. ❧

Great occasions rouse even the lowest of human beings to some kind of greatness,
but he alone is the really great man whose character is great always,
the same wherever he be. ❧