

# The Secret of India's Greatness.

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येऽप्यन्यदेवताभक्ता यजन्ते भद्रयान्विताः ।  
तेऽपि मामेष कौन्तेय यजन्त्यविधिपूर्वकम् ॥  
अहं हि सर्वयज्ञानां भोक्ता च प्रभुरेष च ।  
( *Gītā IX. 23, 24* )

"Even those who, being devotees of other gods but having faith in their hearts, worship those gods, *they* too really worship *Me*, although without knowing and following the (correct) rules of worship. This is because I am the (Recipient and) Enjoyer and Lord of *all* Worship."

(7) We may also quote the benedictory *Śloka* which says—

यं शैवाः समुपासते शिव इति ब्रह्मेति वेदान्तिनो ।  
बौद्धा बुद्ध इति प्रमाणपटवः कर्त्तेति नैयायिकाः ॥  
अर्हन्त्रित्यथ जैनशासनरताः कर्मेति मीमांसकाः ।  
सोऽयं वो विदधातु वाञ्छितफलं त्रैलोक्यनाथो हरिः ॥

"May Hari, the Lord of all the three worlds, He Who is worshipped by the Śaivas as *Śiva*, by the Vedantis as *Brahma*, by the Buddhists as *Buddha*, by the Logicians (skilled in the Law of Evidence) as Creator, by the followers of the Jain Scriptures as *Arhat* and by the Mīmamsakas as *Karma*—may He grant your heart's desires to you all!"

A vast array of many more such passages may be quoted in support of this contention of ours about the real and correct teaching of the *Sanātani* Scriptures on this matter. Surely, none of the authors just now quoted was a contemporary of or was after the time

of, Vivekananda! Now, we challenge the whole world to ransack the entire Scriptures of all the Religions of the whole Universe from cover to cover and show us any one of their Scriptures giving even one single passage of this type, showing this breadth of vision and this largeness of heart!

## Sanmatasthapanacharya.

Jagadguru Bhagavān Śrī Ādi Śankarāchārya (whom we have the privilege of claiming spiritual descent from and whose *Gaddi* we have—however unworthily—the responsibility of occupying to-day) was known as चणमनस्थापनाचार्य *i. e.*, the *Āchārya* who established *six* systems; and this title of his has descended to us, too, and finds a place in our *विज्ञापिका* (in our printed letter-heads etc.). The question may be asked, how could *one* person establish *six* cults? And the answer is, that Bhagavān Śrī Śankara removed the elements of internal hatred and hostility from the six existing cults of his day and re-established them all on the basis of cordial and loving co-operation with one another! These were the cults of the worshippers of Ganeśa, Viṣṇu, Śiva, Surya, Śakti and Agni! Hence the title *Sanmatasthāpanāchārya*! Here, again, we challenge the whole world to show us even one single *Āchārya* or prophet of any other religion who worked on these principles and on these lines of broad-mindedness and large-heartedness of a real and genuine character?

## Fine Phraseology.

People from the West (and even Indian people saturated with Western notions) will come and talk to you about our *Vāṛṇā Vyavasthā* (classification into castes by birth) being a great stumbling-block in the path of Spiritual greatness, because, they say, it offends against the greatest and sublimest of Spiritual conceptions *i. e.*, of Oneness, Equality and so forth! Well, there is one very serious statement which, at the very outset, in this connection we might freely and frankly make. Even in Courts of Law (Civil and Criminal), you are permitted to make such statements of a general character beforehand, if and when you are prepared to adduce evidence in support and substantiation of such statements, in due course, as you go on with the case. Now, this candid statement of ours is with regard to one tremendous difference between the Westerner of the present-day and ourselves. And this is, that, in fine phraseology *i. e.*, in the coining and making current coin of beautiful, high-sounding, resounding and heart-touching words of the finest and the beatifullest, the most sentimental and the most idealistic type, they (the Westerners) are adepts and past-masters—while *we* are absolutely incapable of that! We *see* differences; we *feel* differences; we are unable to get over them; and we have the honesty, the courage and the manliness to come openly forward and frankly say so!

We say our *ideal* is the same as theirs, but our analysis of the *actual* state of affairs around us at the moment is absolutely different from theirs, but is the really correct one while theirs is all wrong!

## "Monotheism" And "Polytheism."

For example, they come and speak of the beautiful nature of their "Monotheism" as against the ugliness of our "Polytheism"! Well, it is true that we believe in thirty-three crores of gods and it would almost seem as if the thirty-three crores of the Indian people had been assigned an average of one god for each! It seems astounding to the Westerners that we can do thus believe in such a huge multiplicity of Gods; and they laugh at us and ridicule us for this "Polytheism" of ours! They speak of the Oneness of God, the Fatherhood of God and the consequent Fraternity, (*i. e.*, the Brotherhood) of Man, Liberty, Equality and all the rest of it! These words go deep into our hearts; and time was when, to us personally, they used to appeal much more powerfully than they now do! For, with *actual* experience of the *actualities* of the world around us, we see and realize that, although the Ideal is all right, yet there is *actual* difference between man and man and between thing and thing and so on *in every respect* (physical, material, mental, intellectual, moral, psychic, Spiritual and so forth)! And these differences have to be got over, not by *ignoring* them (which will merely be the ostrich's policy of shutting its eyes to things around it) but by really *obliterating* them in the manner prescribed therefor, according to Nature's Laws, by the Sages, Seers, and Supermen of Ancient India on the basis of their Spiritual Realization and *actual experience* of the path! The *Ideal* is there and the *procedure* is there; and mere *words*, however beautiful, will *not* alter the situation! In other words, we *see* differences and we *feel* them; and so long as we do see and feel them, we *must* reconcile ourselves to the inexo-

rable Law of Nature according to which those necessary steps on the ladder must and will have to be gone through, which will gradually take us from the Multiplicity which we are actually living in to the Oneness which is our Goal ! It is by *Sādhanā*, *i. e.*, by *systematic* Spiritual Evolution, not by mere *assertions* of Oneness, that we can attain *real* Oneness !

### The Fatherhood of God.

What does this Fatherhood of God and the resultant Brotherhood of Man, which the Westerner so constantly speaks of, really mean *i. e.*, denote, connote, imply and involve ? Does it really mean anything physically connected with God and Man or does it, in truth, mean something really very different ? Unfortunately, the tendency of the present-day world is itself such that people are prone to superficial thinking and do not analyse matters at all; and this is the root of almost all the troubles which the world is suffering from at the present day ! We surrender and give up our reasoning and are carried *mechanically* away down the *current*, like logs of wood and other such dead or inert matter, without even reflecting *whither* the flood is taking us ! Even a living beast, which a flood has violently drawn into its vortex and is carrying along, does not tamely and mechanically float down the stream; on the contrary, the actual fact of the matter is that, so long as it has life, it struggles and shows other such signs of vitality ! But *we* who pride ourselves on the superiority of our intellects and therefore call ourselves the Crown of Creation and so forth, allow ourselves to be carried *mechanically* down the *current* ! Armed with the magic of a

few *catch-words*, the self-styled "Reformers" ask us to abandon what they are pleased to describe as our "slave mentality"; but, in reality, it is mentality of the old-fashioned but really reasonable, tested and beneficial type which they ask us to exchange for a new and really horrid kind of slave-mentality of a still worse type than the one complained of and thundered against by them !

### The Right Meaning.

Let us then think over such matters not superficially but by delving deep down below the surface, and ponder over this question as to what the Fatherhood of God and the consequent Brotherhood of Man really connote ! This Doctrine is not something in the nature of a statement explaining the *physical* relationship between our individual selves on the one hand and God and Humanity on the other, in the sense in which we are related to our *physical* father and our *physical* brothers ! On the contrary, the Fatherhood of God, which we speak of and our Scriptures too inculcate, is simply and merely in the sense that, by God's exercise of His Omnipotence and singular ability of Will-Power and by His sheer Creative volition, the world came into existence ! In Samskr̥t, we speak of His creation of the world by His *Samkalpa Śakti* whereby, as the *Taittirīyopaniṣad* puts it, He willed: "सृष्ट्वां प्रजावेदेति" (*i. e.*, "I shall take birth and assume many forms") and thereupon *all* things ( "सत्त्वं त्वत्त्वं" ) came into being ! And even the Bible, in the very first verse and the subsequent verses of its very first book ( *Genesis* ) puts it in the same way and says: "In the beginning, God made the Heaven and the Earth. God said 'Let there be light' and there was light" and so on ! In other words, it is



not in the usual *physical* sense that God is the Father of us all but only in the sense that by His Will-power He has created us all!

### The Wrong Meaning.

If, in opposition to this, we obstinately insist on taking the Fatherhood of God to mean something *physical* in the sense in which we take and understand the fatherhood and motherhood of our physical father and mother, the result would be *Reductio ad absurdum* of a most ridiculous type! The Fatherhood of God towards all creation will, in that case, mean not merely the Brotherhood of each man towards all other men, but will also mean that every man and every woman stand towards each other in the relationship of *physical* brotherhood and *physical* sisterhood! And this would not serve—nay, must positively frustrate—the “Reformer’s” purpose! For, far from justifying their pet theory that *any* man may marry *any* woman (irrespective of race, caste etc.) it would really mean and involve the relentless and absolute precluding of *all* possibility of *marriage* and that the normal sexual relationship between every husband and every wife in the world was *ipso facto* incestuous!

### The proof of the pudding.

But let us, once again, just for a moment and just for argument’s sake, grant the possibility of the *immediate physical* acceptance of the Ideal placed by these people before us and let us see through the proof of it—the practical proof as described in the well-known English adage: “The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it”!

### The History of early European Christianity.

As you all know, the Western world speaks of Christ as its Lord, Master and

Saviour and of Christianity as its Religion; and, as you all know, Christianity was born in the East and went to the West. But, how did it *get* there? It had to subject itself to mortal combat and come into death-grips with the Greek, the Roman, the Norse, the Druidical and other religions of the Western world of those days; and it could only succeed—nay, survive—by destroying one after another, *all* the previously existing religions of Europe! Each religion said to Christianity, and Christianity in turn had to say to each one of them:—“Either I alone shall live or you alone may live, both of us cannot possibly survive and live under the same sun!” And this process of death-grips and mortal combat between religion and religion had to be and was actually continued until at last Christianity *exterminated* every one of them! That “Spiritual” meeting of the East and the West, that first great Historical struggle between Eastern Spirituality and Western brute-force accounted for hundreds of martyrdoms in the History of Early Christianity and should suffice to prove the reality or otherwise of the pudding on hand, viz., whether the boasted homage of the West to the beautiful doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man is merely from the lips or from the heart too!

### Mediaeval Europe.

To this it may be objected that it was not the *pagan* and polytheistic West of *pre-Christian* days but the *Christianised* and monotheistic West of *post-Christian* times that has postulated and is acting on the doctrine of Divine Fatherhood and Human Brotherhood! Well then, let us prove this second pudding too with the Search-light of History!

And, not going into the doings of the Early Christians but contenting ourselves with a brief reference to the normal pleasures and pastimes of Mediæval Europe, we may point out that the history of the blood-curdling persecutions and wholesale massacres and even *bonfires* of the Protestants by the Roman Catholics and *vice versa*, the Spanish Inquisition and other such beautiful

daily pleasures and pastimes and traits and features with which Mediæval Europe amused its daily life and adorned the pages of its history, will suffice to show how much of the doctrine of Universal Brotherhood the West could really, and did actually, assimilate from the teachings of its "Prince of Peace" ( even after fifteen centuries of lip-homage thereto )!