

# THOUGHTS OF POWER

from  
Swami Vivekananda

Each soul is potentially divine. The goal is to manifest this divine within, by controlling nature, external and internal. Do this either by work, or worship, or psychic control, or philosophy, by one, or more, or all of these, and be free. This is the whole of religion. Doctrines, or dogmas, or rituals, or books, or temples, or forms are but secondary details.



If there is a God we must see Him. If there is a soul we must perceive it; otherwise it is better not to believe. It is better to be an outspoken atheist than a hypocrite.



Practice is absolutely necessary. You may sit down and listen to me by the hour every day, but if you do not practice, you will not get one step further. It all depends on practice. We never understand these things until we experience them. We will have to see and feel them for ourselves. Simply listening to explanations and theories will not do.



Take up one idea. Make that one idea, your life; think of it; dream of it; live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone, This is the

way to success, and this is the way great spiritual giants are produced.



Those prophets were not unique; they were men as you or I. They were great Yogis. They had gained this super-consciousness, and you and I can get the same. They were not peculiar people. The very fact that one man ever reached that state, proves that it is possible for every man to do so. Not only is it possible, but every man must, eventually, get to that state, and that is religion.



The embodiment of freedom, the Master of Nature, is what we call God. You cannot deny Him. No, because you cannot move or live without the idea of freedom.



No life will be a failure; there is no such thing as failure in the universe. A hundred times man will hurt himself, a thousand times he will stumble, but in the end he will realise that he is God.



Religion is not in doctrines, in dogmas or in intellectual argumentation; it is being and becoming; it is realisation.



And this religion is attained by what we, in India, call

Yoga - union. To the worker, it is union between man and the whole of humanity; to the mystic, between his lower self and higher Self; to the lover, union between himself and the God of love; and to the philosopher, it is the union of all, existence. This is what is meant by Yoga,



In studying books we are sometimes deluded into thinking that thereby we are being spiritually helped; but, if we analyse the effect of the study of books on ourselves, we shall find that, at the utmost it is only our intellect that derives profit from such studies, and not the inner spirit. This inadequacy of books to quicken the spiritual growth is the reason why although almost everyone of us can speak most wonderfully on spiritual matters, when it comes to actions and the living of a truly spiritual life, we find ourselves so awfully deficient. To quicken the spirit, the impulse must come from another soul.



To many, Indian thought, Indian manners, Indian customs, Indian philosophy, Indian literature, are repulsive at the first sight, but let them persevere, let them read, let them become familiar with the great principles underlying these ideas, and it is 99 to 1 that the charm will come over them and fascination will be the result.

