

R.W. Emerson's 'Self-Reliance' - A Panorama of a Silent Revolution of Self- Purification

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Introduction:

R. W. Emerson is certainly one of the most influential essayists who preached a new doctrine in his famous essay titled 'Self-Reliance'. He was an intelligent student of theology and philosophy of life and attitude. In his writings, we often get the explicit glimpse of the ancient Hindu culture, the ancient scriptures, the holy book like Bhagwad Gita and the Upanishads. In this present essay, he talks about 'existence, 'a path to spiritual living' and 'a philosophical movement'. In reality, R. W. Emerson is known as a founder member of American Transcendentalism. His concept of 'Transcendentalism consists of all the three ingredients mentioned above. Here, he doesn't want to teach us, but to awake us from the sleep of ignorance.

In the age of globalisation, man has lost his spiritual stability. He is facing frustration, despair, failures his and agony. To sedate consciousness from self inflicted miseries man vainly pursues the momentary elation, he derives from addictions. It is indeed a woeful tale that he makes little effort to delight in the pool of liquor and proclaims, "It gives me a kick". How right he is. His addiction 'Kicks' him out of his home, his society and the world. One who remains subdued under the influence of intoxicants fails to grasp the poetry of life. The essayist Emerson asks him to listen to his inner voice rather wasting time in listening to the external noise around him. He traces on mental stability for any problem in your life, you must only listen to your inner voice or inner self. One should not go out of one's arena of the 'inner self' and never search answers outside the sphere of one's inner self. For the writer, as he thinks there are two souls i.e. one inner soul and other 'over soul'; which is the "Do ultimate soul. There is an inner connection between these two powerful entities and the over soul is very powerful, divine and always inspiring. Naturally we must turn our attention towards the omniscience - the all powerful universal soul for the divine inspiration. Whatever divine messages, impulses we receive in course of our mental development. We must express them fully without any fear of external opposition. The 'over-soul' conveys the message of 'Almighty' to our inner soul and one must transmit that message without any hesitation, as it is message of God.

Indirectly, Emerson is connecting to man with God. When we go through his work, we also remember holy books like Gita and Upanishads. The Vedic civilization, Roman civilization, Babylonian civilization, Mesopotamian civilization and the Egyptian civilization were all to born to ameliorate human society. The remnants of the Mohenjodaro civilization in India, from over 4500 years ago has revealed the ingenuity and strong characters of its people. Today, however, the story is different. We find ourselves holidays on the shore of a 'Neutron Age'. An age where man's value has been relegated to mere nothingness. This sad fact is neglected in the invention of the neutron bomb-a bomb that destroys all life but saves what man has created.

Swami Vivekanand depicts, "Each soul is potentially divine, but do we not find that, normal man has proved himself to be a monster may times over". It is at such junctures in human history that the eternal words of the Vedas become more relevant.

Manuhu bhava!

Brother, become a 'man'

Puman pumansam paripatu vishvataha!

Man protects his own kind in all ways.
Mitrasyahm chakshusha sarvani bhutani Samishe!
I look at all things with an eye of friendship.
Sarve bhadrani pashyantu!
May all be blessed with auspiciousness.

Our first objective should be to become a 'man'. We should give priority in directing our thoughts and actions in the process of self making. It enhances your inner beauty. Garfield was once asked you want to be an engineer or a doctor ?" He replied, "First I want to be a man". Today we have many doctors and engineers but very few men.

Emerson doesn't shatter the contribution of nature in the progress of man. Nature too conveys divine impulses which one observe in the faces and behaviour of children, small babies and animals. The mind must receive and trust these 'Divine impulses', Spoils the adult mind but not the innocent mind of children who are unaware of the worldly tricks for survival and also the race of earning wealth. Their mind and attitudes are pure and free from any pollution. Man should imbibe innocence of children for living happy and healthy life. M. K. Gandhi says in his autobiography i.e. my experiences with truth that If you want to learn the greatest lessons concerning to life should not learn from learned person should learn from child. There is no room for hatred, failure, jealous in their life.

Emerson's philosophy revolves round the following six set of doctorines

- 1) The philosophy of the 'over-soul'.
- 2) The philosophy of the 'individual-soul'.
- 3) The philosophy of the 'Divine Impulse'.
- 4) The philosophy of the 'Reason - as being Bungling'.
- 5) The philosophy of the 'Efficient Nature'.
- 6) The philosophy of the 'Self- Reliance'.

All the different aspects of these philosophies are well connected and related to each other The last outcome of this is for the perfection of man. Each individual possess three things viz the body, the mind, the soul. Whereas the body dies in the due time the soul is immortal. This immortal soul shouldn't run after ephemeral things.

very different ways. Today, man has lost faith in himself. He doesn't give respect to himself. With the end of the cold war, the business environment has grown dramatically more intense. Competition has become more global and more energized. To survive in the years to come. successful organizations in business, in government, in the non profitable world will have to undergo a profound cultural change. Their people will have to think quicker, work smarter, dream wilder and relate to each other in Dale Carnegie says, "Keep your mind open to change all the time. Welcome it, court it. It is only by examining and re-examining your opinions and ideas that you can progress.

Bhagvad Geeta has great impression on Emerson's mind. He says to man "Do your duty, without expectation of fruit". Because before starting of any task, man thinks about success or failure. If you think only about success and Today, man has lost faith in himself. He doesn't give respect to himself. With the end of the cold war, the business environment has grown dramatically more intense. Competition has become more global and more energized. To survive in the years to come. successful organizations in business, in government, in the non profit world will have to undergo a profound cultural change. Their people will have to think quicker, work smarter, dream wilder and relate to each other in Dale carnegie says, "Keep your mind open to change all the time. Welcome it, court it. It is only by examining and re-examining your opinions and ideas that you can progress.

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Bhagvad Geeta has great impression on emerson's mind. He says to man "Do your duty, without expectation of fruit". Because before starting of any task, man thinks about success or failure. If you think only about success and failure, how will you get happiness from your task. You are not concentrating on your work but result. Some people behave like this, means they have concentration only on result, they are illiterate people. But it is duty of learned to teach them importance of task without thinking of fruits. In Geeta Lord Krishna utters,

सक्ता : कर्मण्यविद्वांसो यथा कुर्वन्ति भारता

कुर्याद्विद्वांस्तथासकक्षिकीर्षुर्लोकसङ्ग्रहम् ||२५||

(अध्याय तिसरा, कर्मयोग)

mistakes, failure and rejection are part of progress and growth. Nobody ever achieved anything worth without facing these things.

The basic concept of Self- Reliance lies in trusting the presence of self and obeying the divine impulses of the over- soul. These divine impulses are the blessings of God. All the prayers of only individual should be selfless, one should not beg for any external or bodily pleasure. Instead of this, one should have immense faith in one's own efforts. It is only through this type of Self- Reliance one can devote oneself and a strong body and achieve intelligence. When we go through this work of Emerson, we find it's analogy with Tagore's Gitanjali. A man should have full faith in God and should feel contented with what God bestows upon him instead of craving for worldly possessions. Poem of this kind certainly have a wholesome effect on the readers because they teach us self-discipline and self-control. Human beings in the world of today are becoming more and more greedy, more and more avaricious, more and more selfish and more and more narrow-minded. It is vain to crave for worldly possessions because they would only increase a man's wordly desires and lead to discontent.

Conclusion:-

Swami Vivekanand proclaims that if we have faith on crore of God and Goddess in India, Allah in Pakistan and Afganistan, Jesus in Newzeland and England, but if you don't have faith in ourselves, we are such an atheist person. So faith, faith, faith on ourselves is a secrete of success. Man should have faith on himself because history is made only by those who have immense faith on themselves. We need the mighty leadership and strength of a God communication. When human strength sags and our confidence in ourselves and in things around us begins to betray us, we often turn to God. God is used like a spare wheel, never as the driving wheel. In emergencies, and impossible situations, God is contacted on a hotline for help; but not at other times. Though human prayers may remain self centred, God is too compassionate to turn his back and ignore them. Though we may lack sincere faith in God, it is comforting to know, God has sincere faith in us.

He helps us despite our follies in faith. In reality, life is better when you are happy, butlife is at it's best when other 1 people are happy because of you Be inspired, give peace and share your smile. When we realise

our strength, never feel sad on losing worldly things, never run after money, then we will get self - purified man. You know, working towards success will make you a master, but working towards satisfaction makes a legend.

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