

THE GLOBAL VISION AND MISSION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, AND HOW IT INSPIRED THE INDIAN SPIRITUAL REACH WORLD-WIDE

An Appeal for A Global Directory of Dharma Organisations



- ▶ An all-inclusive compilation, recording the impact of the works of the great Spiritual Masters from India who, in the wake of Swami Vivekananda's historic visit to the West, spread the Spiritual Heritage of India worldwide.
- ▶ An important step towards mutually connecting all Spiritual Traditions with their roots in India, adding new strength and vigour to the Global Mission of the great Swami who propagated world-wide the Universal Message of Dharma.

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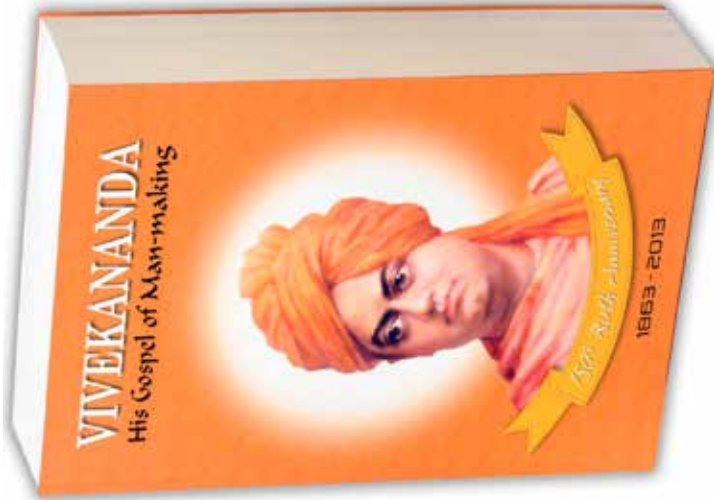
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CONTENTS

Benediction:

- SWAMI ATMASTHANANDA – 4
- SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI – 5

Appeal:

- COORDINATOR – 6
- CONVENER – 7

THE GLOBAL VISION AND MISSION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, AND HOW IT INSPIRED THE INDIAN SPIRITUAL REACH WORLD-WIDE

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- The God of India sent me abroad, hundreds will follow’ – 11
- A vantage point to look back at his vision of global reach – 12
- The initiator of global Indian spiritual reach – 13
- He envisioned the rise of Bharat as a global power—17
- ‘World needs to save itself from self-destruction’ – 20
- ‘The power of Indian thought emerging from caves’ – 21
- His influence on the West – 22
- How his mission is influencing the West today – 24
- Need for a Directory of Dharma organisations – 26

Appendix:

- i) Scope of the Directory – 28
- ii) Categories of Participants – 28
- iii) Data Submission – 28
- iv) Future Plan – 28
- vi) Contact Coordinator – 28
- v) Registration Info Form – 29
- vi) Presentation – 30
- vii) Author – 31

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BENEDICTORY MESSAGE

Swami Vivekananda once stated: "That I went to America was not my doing or your doing; but the God of India who is guiding her destiny sent me, and will send hundreds of such to all the nations of the world. No power on earth can resist it. You must go out and preach your religion, preach it to every nation under the sun, and preach it to every people." It was in fulfilment of this great exhortation that the Vedanta Movement and other spiritual movements came into existence in the West and in several other countries.

I am glad to know that Swami Jyotirmayananda is compiling a **DIRECTORY OF INDIAN SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATIONS FUNCTIONING ABROAD*** I wish his noble endeavour all success.

(Swami Atmasthananda)
President
Ramakrishna Math and
Ramakrishna Mission,
Belur math

July 9, 2014.

* Note: Presently, "Global Directory of Dharma Organisations."

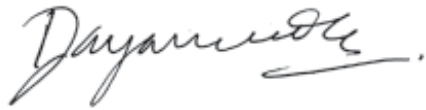
SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI

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I am glad to learn that Swami Jyotirmayananda, Compiler and Editor of a massive volume on Swami Vivekananda (*"Vivekananda — His Gospel of Man-making"*, 1064 pp, 7th Edn, commemorating his 150th Birth Anniversary: 2013), who has also successfully compiled the Directory of our 'Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha', has proposed to take up the compilation of a 'DIRECTORY OF INDIAN SPIRITUAL ORGANISATIONS FUNCTIONING ABROAD'. His brochure titled *"The Global Vision and Mission of Swami Vivekananda, and how it inspired the Indian Spiritual Thrust World-wide"*, containing an appeal in this regard, provides all the details about the project.

I wish Swami Jyotirmayananda all success in this noble endeavour.



Swami Dayananda

May 19, 2014

* Note: Presently, "Global Directory of Dharma Organisations."

APPEAL – Coordinator

The Directory seeks to cover all organizations of Dharma Traditions (the Hindu, Jain, Bauddha, Sikh, et al), including the Himalayan Tradition, and others who accept, respect and celebrate the diversity of traditions, regard the world as one family, and dedicated to ‘Universal Peace and Brotherhood’.

The categories of participants include Monasteries, Places of Worship, Yoga Centers, Academic Institutions, NGOs (Volunteer Organisations, Foundations, Trusts, Associations, et al), Individual *Mahatmas*, and the ‘Miscellaneous’ (categories other than the preceding ones).

Registration enables the organisations to directly fill up the required particulars in the Directory.

All are cordially invited to be a part of this historic Directory.

Swami Jyotirmayananda

coordinator@dsoa.org

March 25, 2019.

APPEAL – Convener

At the very outset, we sought the guidance of a small, informal committee, to write to all Dharma organisations, appealing to them to co-operate in this huge and critical task which is necessary in the larger interest of rising India's global spiritual and geo-cultural mission. Hence we communicated with some of the institutions of light and leading, seeking their guidance and co-operation. Subsequently, Swami Jyotirmayananda, the Coordinator, also visited their places, in this connection, and we are glad to have the kind and encouraging response of most of them, as a token of their cooperation and participation in this noble endeavour.

On broaching the plan to compile a Directory to the under mentioned Spiritual Masters / Organisers, they approvingly lauded the project and recognised the importance and necessity of the noble endeavour. Each, in their own way, wholeheartedly appreciated and extended their overall support, wishing complete success of the project. A few lines from some of their messages excerpted here below speak for themselves. This warmhearted and generous support has boosted us to present this appeal for the monumental project, as the conjoint aspiration of the Committee of these Spiritual Masters / Organisers:

- **Swami Suhitananda**, *Gen. Sec., R.K.Math & R.K.Mission, Belur Math, West Bengal.*
- **Sri Brajhari Das**, *President, ISKON, Mumbai.*
- **Sri Pramukh Swamiji Maharaj**, *Spiritual Head, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Ahmadabad.*
- **Swami Tejomayananda**, *Spiritual Head, Chinmaya Mission, Mumbai.*
- **Swami Amritaswarupananda**, *Vice-chairman, Mata Amritanandamayi Math, Kerala.*
- **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, *Founder, Art of Living Foundation, Bengaluru.*
- **Swami Satyamitrananda Giri**, *Spiritual Head, Bharat Mata Mandir, Haridwar.*
- **Swami Ramdev**, *Founder, Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar.*
- **Dr. Pranav Pandya**, *Spiritual Head, Gayatri Pariwar, Haridwar.*
- **Swami Avdheshananda Giri**, *Spiritual Head, Harihar Ashram, Haridwar.*
- **Dr. H. R. Nagendra**, *Chancellor, S-VYASA Yoga University, & President, VYASA, Bengaluru.*
- **Sri Ashok Singhal**, *Patron, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, New Delhi.*
- **Swami Vigyananand**, *Joint General Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, New Delhi.*
- **Sri Shyam Parande**, *General Secretary, Sewa International, New Delhi.*

Appreciation/Inspiration

We hope this Directory will be of much help to all people, especially to those who are living outside India, to know how the message of India's spiritual heritage is spreading in other countries. We are willing to extend all possible help in this noble venture.

– Swami Suhitananda.

We are pleased to know about this (project) and welcome such a proposal. It will be indeed a very important Directory for those who are residing or visiting abroad to get in touch with their cultural and spiritual roots in foreign land. The prime duty of those born in Bharat Varsha is to simultaneously make one's life successful and benefit other living entities by spreading the message of Vedic Scriptures. We wish you all the best for this noble task. We are ever ready to extend all possible help for the same.

– Gokuleshwar Das, on behalf of Brajhari Das.

We pray and hope that the process of putting together this Directory may be helpful to all involved. We also pray that the Directory helps bring together the diverse spiritual streams so that all can live and pray together in harmony and peace. India has been a spiritual luminary, with its teachings enlightening the world and providing faith and understanding to millions. Such understanding, wisdom and peaceful dialog are all the more important in today's world. We pray that this Directory may help in that uniting endeavour, to enable organisations across the world communicate better. We commend this noble task, and pray for its success.

– Sadhus Ishwarcharandas, on behalf of Sri Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

We appreciate this project.

– Swami Swaroopananda, on behalf of Swami Tejomayananda.

The idea and the endeavour to create the Directory, is noteworthy. I am sure it will be very useful to the spiritual aspirants – living abroad and also those travelling there from India. May Amma's blessing help this noble cause undertaken to accomplish its desired result.

– Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri.

It is a meticulous task demanding hard work and strenuous efforts. I am sure the project will go a long way in streaming the data of such organisations which are functioning outside the main Indian heartland and will come handy to all those who need to refer to such institutions – for multiple purposes. I sincerely pray Almighty God to shower His choicest Blessings on all those who are engaged in fulfilling this

noble cause. Please let me know if I can be of any service in furtherance of the project.

– **Swami Satyamitranand Giri.**

This project is a very important step towards mutually connecting all spiritual traditions which have their roots in India and it will give new strength and vigour to the mission started by Swami Vivekananda. The message of Sanatana Dharma as disseminated by Swamiji, to the world is to realize the divine nature of our existence. Following the footsteps of Swamiji many spiritual masters from India have propounded the Vedantic truths all over the world. This Directory will be a very important compilation to record the impact of the works of these great masters in the world.

– **Swami Ramdev.**

This is definitely an extremely noble endeavour and we wholeheartedly support the same. Promotion and propagation of the true message of spirituality is the need of the hour for promoting global peace and harmony, and we are sure that this project will go a long way in achieving this goal.

– **Dr. Pranav Pandya.**

Glad to learn about this noble endeavour of compiling a Directory of all Spiritual Organisations working in various countries, world over, to spread the message of our ancient sages of Bharat. Our institution is very happy to join this endeavour in making this appeal, and cooperating with this noble work. We wish this endeavour all success.

– **Dr. H. R. Ngendra.**

It is a laudable work.

– **Ashok Singhal.**

We are glad to learn about the proposed Directory of all Sampradayas and organisations originated in Bharat, working world over. These organisations and Sampradayas, who are working outside Bharat, are spreading the teachings of the Vedas, Shastras, Agamas, and also the teachings of our ancient Rishis, Acharyas and Mahatmas, in the world at large. We hope, the proposed Directory will be a great help in connecting these organisations and bringing them closer, and at the same time, any researcher or scholar or anyone who wants to reach them, will also be greatly benefitted by this effort. I extend all my support on behalf of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and also request all our VHP Karyakarthis throughout the world, to lend a helping hand in successfully compiling the Directory. I wish all success in this noble effort.

– **Swami Vigyanananand.**

I would do whatever maximum I can for this global mission. Being aware that we all owe a lot to Swami Vivekananda for his enlightening life and message that continue to inspire not only Hindus but many across the globe, I would love to be part of this team trying to build the directory of spiritual organizations inspired by his thought.

– Sri Shyam Parande.

* * *

This booklet, highlighting the need for a Global Directory of the Dharma Organisations and presenting the details of the subject matter / project, concludes with the information of the categories of participants, their required particulars to be incorporated in the Directory, and the future plan.

We invite all Dharma organisations world over, to be a part of this important move.

The Coordinator, Swami Jyotirmayananda, can be reached by email at coordinator@disoa.org. Please feel free to contact him, if need be, for further details.

We seek your kind cooperation and participation in this noble venture.

P. Parameswaran

President, vkendra.org

July 15, 2014.

THE GLOBAL VISION AND MISSION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND HOW IT INSPIRED THE INDIAN SPIRITUAL REACH WORLD-WIDE

An Appeal for A Global Directory of Dharma Organisations

'The God of India sent me abroad, hundreds will follow'

Swami Vivekananda, the greatest sage of contemporary India, saw his global mission as the Will of the Divine guiding India, and envisioned over a century before how God of India will send hundreds like him abroad to continue the Indian spiritual reach into the world. He declared:

“That I went to America was not my doing or your doing: but the God of India who is guiding her destiny sent me and will send hundreds of such to all the nations of the world. No power on Earth can resist it, you must go out to preach your religion, preach it to every nation under the sun, and preach it to every people. This is the first thing to do!” (CW, Vol. 3, p. 223)

Swami Dayananda Saraswati, one of the greatest Indian scholars on Vedanta which is the essence of Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*), described Swami Vivekananda as the inspiration for hundreds of others who continued his global mission. Swami Dayananda Saraswati said:

“Swami Vivekananda is looked upon by an informed Indian as a person who enshrined in himself all that is true and noble of the spiritual heritage of Bharat. His vision to make everyone see the beauty of oneness, love and harmony, backed by his tireless efforts to actualize it, is getting unfolded all over the world not only through the Mission and Order he founded but also through various other individuals and institutions who owe to Swamiji’s vision for their inspiration” (Swami Dayananda Saraswati, in his *Benediction to "Vivekananda – His Gospel of Man-making"*, 7th Edn. 2013).

Here is the story in capsule of how the global vision of Sage Vivekananda originated and unfolded and how it has over the last century turned into an Indian spiritual tsunami over the world.

A vantage point to look back at his vision of global reach

It is now 155 years after Swami Vivekananda was born and 125 years after he made his famous speech at the World's Parliament of Religions at Chicago (in 1893), where he made the world aware of the paradigm of the Vedantic spiritual tradition which respected and even accepted all religious traditions – a paradigm unknown to the world outside this ancient nation.

The 12th of January 2014 marked the conclusion of the year-long celebrations of the 150th Birthday Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The year-long events organised by different governments and private organisations were not intended to celebrate him as he needed no celebration, but to recall his vision and mission for India and the world.

Varieties of programs were meticulously planned and enthusiastically executed by several organizations and individuals, both in Bharat and many countries abroad. Massive programs organised as part of the centenary celebrations, carried Swami Vivekananda's invigorating thoughts to crores of people in towns and villages. The people of India got at the minimum a glimpse of the universal vision and mission of Swami Vivekananda that has universal validity.

This long period of a century over which the vision and mission of Swami Vivekananda inundated the world, provides a vantage point from which the Indian nation can, and needs to, look back and see how the vision of the Hindu Monk that hundreds like him would fan out from India into the world to spread the message of Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*) has been realised. The spiritual wisdom transmitted from India through such great men and organisations has been a non-invasive, non-intrusive, non-proselytizing and non-destructive addition – in contrast to the invasive, intrusive, proselytizing and

destructive conversions resorted to by exclusive faiths – catering to the seekers' diverse spiritual needs.

The number of great minds which have taken the message of the Vedanta philosophy of India outside, the multitude of Indogenic spiritual organisations founded by them and working outside India and their huge and powerful reach clearly calls for a comprehensive documentation, to compile a directory of the work and reach of the Dharma organisations functioning abroad and influencing the world. It is high time that an effort is made to gather and compile the data of such organisations and great men who have followed in the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda and taken further the Indian spiritual vision and mission to the world adding to the corpus of spiritual wisdom of the rest of the world, without in any way undermining or converting any one from the faiths in which they were born. The present endeavour is to appeal to all Dharma organisations to co-operate in compiling a directory of their work which may eventually be improved into an encyclopedia of Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*) abroad.

The initiator of global Indian spiritual reach

Swami Vivekananda was the first Hindu Monk known to contemporary world to visit and study the materially advanced West that was proud of its scientific and technological prowess. He made a lasting impact on the Western mind, with his profound and scintillating exposition of the Vedanta – the ancient Hindu spiritual lore, awakening them and convincing them about how it integrates science with spirituality, eminently suited their scientific temper. Till then in the West science and religion were considered as irreconcilable adversaries – with religion wedded to dogma and science, to reason. The Hindu Monk's expositions in the West were an eye opener to its thinkers and intellectuals, who acknowledged the truths of the ancient Hindu thinkers, who transcended dogma and made religion a spiritual pursuit. Romain Rolland, the French Nobel Laureate, who also authored the biographies of Sri Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, wrote:

“Religious faith in the case of the Hindus has never been allowed to run counter to scientific laws”.

In his famous address at the World’s Parliament of Religions, Swamiji also made the world aware that religions could co-exist by respecting and accepting one another and living in harmony – a paradigm unknown to the West which had a blood-stained history of 2000 years of war and genocides in which over a billion people were killed.

Immediately on return to his Motherland Bharat, re-defining his universal vision and mission, Swami Vivekananda perceived his mission of going to the West itself to the will God who, according to him, was guiding the destiny of India. It is in that context, he said:

“That I went to America was not my doing or your doing: but the God of India who is guiding her destiny sent me and will send hundreds of such to all the nations of the world. No power on Earth can resist it, you must go out to preach your religion, preach it to every nation under the sun, and preach it to every people. This is the first thing to do!” (CW, Vol.3, p. 223).

But when he uses the word “religion”, which was the only term that the West could understand, the Hindu *sannyasin* did not mean – as indeed the rest of the world seems to limit its meaning to – a belief system which constituted dogmatic loyalty to one's own faith and believed in theological rejection of others' faith branding them false faiths, promoting in the process hatred and violence against 'the others'. Vivekananda had consistently rebuked the faiths which claimed to be the only true faiths and described others as fake. For him, religion and dogma were poles apart. He expounded his idea of what he means by religion in the Hindu view of it, in his famous opening speech in the World’s Parliament of Religions on September 11, 1893 – by which the hidden agenda of the organisers of the Parliament to get Protestant Christianity to be declared and accepted as the

only true faith, became futile. The youthful Hindu Monk, who had just turned 30, enlightened the 6000 plus delegates present at the meet on that what, in this ancient nation, the concept of religion meant. He said:

“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. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth. I am proud to tell you that we have gathered in our bosom the purest remnant of the Israelites, who came to the southern India and took refuge with us in the very year in which their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. I am proud to belong to the religion which has sheltered and is still fostering the remnant of the grand Zoroastrian nation. I will quote to you, brethren, a few lines from a hymn which I remember to have repeated from my earliest boyhood, which is every day repeated by millions of human beings: As the different streams having their sources in different places, all mingle their water in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to thee” (C.W., Vol. 1, p. 3).

In his concluding address in the World’s Parliament of Religions he spoke thus:

“If the Parliament of Religions has shown anything to the world, it is this: It has proved to the world that holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world, and that every system has produced men and women of the most exalted character. In the face of this evidence, if anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of the others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will

soon be written, in spite of resistance: ‘Help and not Fight,’ ‘Assimilation and not Destruction,’ ‘Harmony and Peace and not Dissention’ ” (C.W., Vol. 1, p. 24).

Vivekananda enlightened and informed the scholars at the Parliament that Religion in this ancient nation taught both tolerance and acceptance of other faiths – something which the world was unaware of and never thought possible. So he cautioned the world and all exclusive religions that no religion can dream of surviving by destroying others. And therefore his final message was ‘Help and not Fight,’ ‘Assimilation and not Destruction,’ ‘Harmony and Peace and not Dissention’. What the Hindu Monk spoke was that the religion of this ancient nation was born to teach and taught for thousands of years. It is the religion of this ancient nation which recognises as part of its own belief that no one religion can claim to be the only true religion and certify others as false. It is this eternal thought that Vivekananda wanted to be preached by the Indian masters who, he prognosticated, would go out in hundreds, to the world at large – a prognosis which became a reality in the last one hundred years.

After unfolding his global mission for Indian spirituality, the Swami exhorted his compatriots further and said:

“In this land of charity, let us take up the energy of the first charity, the diffusion of spiritual knowledge. And that diffusion should not be confined within the bounds of India; it must go out all over the world” (CW., Vol. 3, p.222).

“Whenever the world has required it, this perennial flood of spirituality has overflowed and deluged the world. ...This has been the gift of India again and again” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 222).

This was how the great nationalist monk had envisioned the shape of things to come following his foray into the West – which, he implied, needed India much more than India needed the West.

He envisioned the rise of Bharat as a global power

In the years between 1880 and 1891 when Swami Vivekananda travelled across India as *a parivrajaka*, this ancient nation for the first time in its history experienced great famines and consequent hunger deaths in lakhs. He saw hunger, poverty and illiteracy and virtual acceptance of slavery by the people under the foreign yoke. Virtually Hindu India was physically and psychologically a defeated race. But he could see beyond the then existing helpless situation of this country and its people and despite the helpless and hopeless situation, he thundered at the World's Parliament of Religions with such confidence and conviction as if he was speaking on behalf of a victorious philosophy and people, asking the world to recognize and respect this ancient nation's thoughts as the solution for global problems. Coming back home after his visit abroad, he got down at Colombo and sprinkled on himself the sands of Mother India in ecstasy – which demonstrated to his countrymen how he was convinced of the greatness of this ancient nation and its mission despite all the prosperity and power of the West, which he had seen and experienced in contrast to the poverty, hunger and defeat which this ancient nation was undergoing. And thereafter he went on to exhort the people of India and envisioned that India would rise as a global power. This is what he told the Indian people and the world at large:

“I do not see into the future; nor do I care to see. But one vision I see clear as life before me: that the ancient Mother has awakened once more, sitting on Her throne rejuvenated, more glorious than ever. Proclaim Her to all the world with the voice of peace and benediction” (CW, Vol. 4 p. 353).

But for India to become great he postulated that India should become free. His prescription for India to become free was simple. He told the people of India in 1897 to worship *Bharat Mata* for the next 50 years. These were his precise words:

“For the next fifty years this alone shall be our keynote — this, our great Mother India. Let all other vain gods disappear for the time from our minds. This is the only god that is awake, our own race; when we have worshipped this, we shall be able to worship all other gods” (CW, Vol. 3, p. 300-301).

Mandating to his fellow countrymen to worship *Bharat Mata* for rise of India which he had envisioned, Swami Vivekananda attained *mahasamadhi* in 1902. This was how immediately thereafter the Hindu Monk's prescription for the mission of rise of India took shape. The Indian freedom movement which got suspended after the collapse of the 1857 war of independence, revived with the rise of Bengal against the division of Bengal in 1905. The battle cry of *Vande Mataram* (Salutation to Mother India) which Swami Vivekananda had prescribed for the rise of India became the escalator for the movement for India's freedom. The rise of Bengal on the war cry of *Vande Mataram* seeded the Indian freedom movement. The freedom fighters, whether they were revolutionaries or passivists, were inspired by *Vande Mataram*. The freedom movement got impetus only when the freedom fighters began singing *Vande Mataram*, and worshipping *Bharat Mata*. In 1947 and exactly 50 years after Swami Vivekananda commended to his countrymen to worship *Bharat Mata* as the only God, India became free.

And, when the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was being celebrated (in 2013), the National Intelligence Council of America attached to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), came out with its assessment about the shape of geo-politics in 2030. The report titled “Global Trends 2030” it said that India, along with China and Brazil, will become “equally important” as America, with “Europe, Russia and Japan continuing their relative slow decline”. The Economist Magazine wrote in March 2013, immediately after the 150th Birth Centenary of Swami Vivekananda, asking “Whether India can become a great power?” in its editorial concluded, “That India can become a

great power is not in doubt.” It also wrote in its article titled “India as great power” that “India is poised to become one of the four largest military powers in the world by the end of the decade” (*Economist Magazine*, March 30, 2013). So what Swami Vivekananda envisioned is being realised.

But the great nationalist monk had also said why India should rise. It is not to conquer and dominate the world like the other world powers did for their self interest and for imposing their own rule, will, way of life and religion on others for the last several centuries. Her rise, Swami Vivekananda said, should be with the “voice of peace and benediction”. He did speak of the conquest of the world by India. But what kind of conquest he had in mind? He said:

“I am an imaginative man, and my idea, is the conquest of the whole world by the Hindu race, the conquest by Religion and Spirituality. This is the dream of my life and I wish that each one of you will have the same dream in your minds, and stop not till you have realized the dream. This is the great ideal before us, and everyone must be ready for it – strain every nerve for it” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 276).

“We must conquer or die. There is no other alternative. The sign of life is expansion, we must go out, expand, show life, or degrade, fester and die” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 277).

“The only condition of an awakened and vigorous national life, is the conquest of the world by Indian thought” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 277).

Therefore, by Indian conquest of the world what the Swami meant was the penetrating influence that Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*), which he expounded in his famous speeches at Chicago in 1893, and in which he emphasised harmony.

‘World needs to save itself from self-destruction’

The spiritual conquest that Swami Vivekananda spoke of is not for any imperial purpose of India. India's power was always and would ever be spiritual. India's spiritual conquest of the

world, the Swami said, was to save the world from self destruction. This is how Swami Vivekananda explained the need for an Indian spiritual mission to save the world. He said:

“The whole world requires light. It is expectant! India alone has the light of the highest spiritual truth. That is why the Lord has preserved the race through all its vicissitudes unto the present day. Now the time has come; Up India, conquer the world with your spirituality” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 277).

“They are waiting for it. Where are the men who are ready to go out to every country in the world with the messages of the great sages of India? Such heroic souls are wanted; without it the whole world will be destroyed” (CW., Vol. 3, p. 277).

Decades later the renowned British Historian Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975), in his introduction to *“World Thinkers on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda”*, wrote precisely what Swami Vivekananda had said, namely that world needs Indian spiritual reach and conquest to save the world from self-destruction. The famous historian said:

“Today we are living in this transitional chapter of the world’s history, but it is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of human race....And at this supremely dangerous moment in human history the only way of Salvation for mankind is an Indian way”.

That Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*) needs to lead the West and the Rest, was also echoed and foreseen by other great thinkers of the West – particularly after India attained freedom. But they also predicted that the rise of India was imminent. The eminent American writer, historian, and philosopher, Will Durant, said:

“India was the motherland of our race, and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages: she was the mother of our

philosophy; mother, through the Arabs, of much of our mathematics; mother, through the Buddha, of the ideals embodied in Christianity; mother, through the village community, of self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all”.

And, Mark Twain, American author, wrote:

“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.”

So like the Hindu Monk did the great thinkers of the West also expressed their conviction that the West-centric world of today needs Indian lead in its own interest and for its own salvation.

‘The power of Indian thought emerging from caves’

On the power of the Indian thought generated in the caves, forests and mountains of the Himalayan range, the Hindu sannyasin, who also captured the power of human thought in the process, said:

“If a person goes into a cave, shuts himself in and thinks one really great thought and dies, such thought will penetrate through the mountains, cross the oceans and travel through the world, and enter deep into human hearts and brains and raise up men and women who will give them practical expression in the working of human life” (CW, Vol. 4, p. 177-178).

The power of Swami's own thoughts and words were best brought out in how Romain Rolland described Swamiji's expression. And about Vivekananda he wrote:

“I cannot touch these sayings of his (Vivekananda), scattered as they are through the pages of books at thirty years' distance without receiving a thrill through my body like an electric shock...And what shocks, what transports

must have been produced when in burning words they issued from the lips of the hero”.

It is that power of the thought emanating from the sages in the caves and mountains of India that transformed the words of Swami Vivekananda which incorporated those powerful thoughts into such electrifying and shocking spiritual missiles.

His influence on the West

Following his thundering visit to the West, many became his followers in the countries the Swami visited. He himself initiated some of them into spiritual life. One such, Sister Nivedita, came to India and dedicated herself, heart and soul, for the great cause of Swamiji. Before returning from the West, Swamiji had deputed two of his *gurubhais*, one to America and the other to England, to continue the work he had started. After the great Swami, following in his footsteps, his Vedanta Centers (besides the Ramakrishna Order he founded in India) have been doing a marvelous work in disseminating the Vedic Wisdom in the West, for many decades. Following the trail blazed by the Swami many more personages and institutions have also been doing good work in this direction.

Swamiji's earnest dream of extending conquering influence over the world through the non-conflicting Hindu spiritual values and by a vigorous dissemination of the Indian spiritual lore continued and accelerated after him, and found practical expression through the concerted and sustained endeavours of many of our spiritual masters, who appeared, from time to time, on our national horizon. Here are some illustrative examples of the Hindu spiritual exploration and expansion into the West which followed Swamiji's path-breaking mission.

In the beginning of the 20th century, inspired by Vivekananda's Lahore lectures on Vedanta, **Swami Rama Tirtha** (1873-1906) travelled the world over and captured the hearts of people everywhere, with his scintillating message of Vedanta. During the same century, many eminent spiritual stalwarts like **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi** (1918-2008), **Paramahansa**

Yogananda (1893-1952), **Acharya Rajaneesh** (1931-1990), **Swami Vishnudevananda** (1927-1993), **Swami Sivānanda Saraswati** (1887-1963), **Swami Prabhupada** (1896-1977), Sanyasins of Sri **Swaminarayan Sampradaya** (www.swaminarayan.info), **Swami Chinmayananda** (1916-1993), **Satya Sai Baba** (1926-2011), **Mata Amritanandamayi** (b. 1953), **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** (b. 1956), **Swami Dayananda Saraswati** (1930-2015), **Swami Satyamitrananda Giri** (b. 1932), **Dr. Pranav Pandya** (b. 1950), and several others have all travelled in several countries, founding institutions, propagating the message of Sanatana Dharma, and being able to inspire, influence, motivate and muster a large number of followers.

Swami Chinmayananda founded a worldwide organization 'Chinmaya Mission' (1953), and later **Swami Dayananda Saraswati** founded **Arsha Vidya Gurukulam** (1986) www.arshavidya.org. The **Hindu University of America**, Orlando, FL (www.hua.edu), founded in 1993, is dedicated to Vedic Hindu culture and higher education. Hindu Americans have also formed various organizations such as the '**Vedic Foundation**' (www.thevedicfoundation.org), the '**Forum of Hindu Awakening**' (www.forumforhinduawakening.org), the '**American Institute of Vedic Studies**' (www.vedanet.com), the '**Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation**' (www.svbf.org), the '**Vedic Friends Association**' (www.vedicfriends.org), and the '**Hindu American Foundation**' (www.hafsite.org). They were able to inspire, influence, motivate and muster a large number of followers. Today there is virtually no place in the world where the stamp of Sanatana Dharma is not there, directly or indirectly. Each of these great seers institutionalised their work and made it a continuum. It is noteworthy that these efforts are guided not solely by Indian Americans; they have allies from other ethnic groups as well, including the Americans who are for all intents and purposes Hindus.

The Institutions devoted to Vedic teachings include the **Kauai's Hindu Monastery** (www.tinyurl.com/marrwh) in Hawaii, founded

by an American Swami, **Sadguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami**: 1927–2001 (www.tinyurl.com/o2ww2cg), whose monastery is also publishing a widely read magazine “**Hinduism Today**” (www.hinduismtoday.com). **ISKCON** (<http://www.iskcon.org>) has a massive organizational network spread over several countries.

How his mission is influencing the West today

How his mission of conquest of the material West continued and accelerated through the penetration of Sanatana Dharma which is the core of the Indian spiritual discourse, is evident from recent developments, some of which are illustrated here.

In August 2009, in an article titled “We are all Hindus now” **Lisa Miller**, the Religion Editor of the famous American magazine, “**Newsweek**” wrote about how majority of Americans believe like Hindus that there is not a single way to reach God and how majority of them follow yoga and meditation and believe in Karma and rebirth and also cremate the dead instead of burying them. She also argued that large number of Americans have arrived at a world view consistent with the ancient Rig-Vedic dictum, “*ekam sat viprah bahudha vadanti*” (Truth is one, but the sages designate it variously.) She ended her article saying “let us all chant OM.”

Philip Goldberg, author of many books, an ordained interfaith Minister and public speaker, based in Los Angeles, U.S.A, published in 2010, a famous book titled “**American Veda**”, wherein he has a very fascinating and enlightening story to tell as to how the Indian spirituality has transformed the West. This popular history, which is an eye-opener, shows how the ancient philosophy of Vedanta and the well proven mind-body techniques of yoga have profoundly affected the world view of millions of Americans and radically altered the religious landscape in the U.S. Intensely researched, rich in details and expansive in scope, ‘*American Veda*’ shows how the West has come to accept and live by the central teaching of Vedic wisdom.

David Frawley (Pandit Vamadeva Shastri) Founder-Director, ‘**American Institute of Vedic Studies**’ (www.vedanet.com), and

the author of the book **“How I became a Hindu”**, writes: “Through the thoughtful book, *‘American Veda’*, Indian readers can share in the great adventure in global consciousness that he (Philip Goldberg) documents in detail. They can learn how spiritually aware Americans have long been looking to India for guidance, not just Indians looking to the West”.

Some Universities of the Western countries have introduced Hinduism as a faculty, besides studies in Samskrit. In England, as also in several states of North America, regular classes are being held, and text books on Hinduism have been prescribed. In some other countries, on Radio broadcast, some time frame is allotted for propagating Hindu values. Chanting of ‘OM’ and recitation of Vedic prayers often take place on many important occasions, including some of the Senate Meetings as well, in North America. Hundreds of Hindu temples that have come up in several countries are attended by not only the NRI’s but the local non-Hindus as well. Many foreign scholars have been coming to India to study Samskrit and Hindu scriptures, staying in holy places such as Varanasi, Haridwar and Rishikesh, getting guidance from our *Sadhus* and *Pandits*. Some foreign scholars have stayed for months in ‘Aksharam’, the headquarters of **‘Samskrita Bharati’** (www.sanskritabharati.in) at Bangalore, to study Samskrit.

The above list is just representative and not exhaustive.

It is undoubtedly clear that Swami Vivekananda the epoch-making Hindu Monk of contemporary times had carried the message and initiated the process of massive spread of the message of our ancient sages who declared: *“krinvanto viswamaryam”*, meaning, ‘Let us ennoble the entire world’. And many intellectuals world over are keen to study and understand the spiritual truths of the Hindu scriptures: *Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. As Vivekananda put it, “The world requires this truth, the light, and India alone has the light of the highest spiritual truth”.

Need for a Directory of Dharma organisations

But, despite the great penetration of Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*) through the several masters and their organisations, unfortunately, comprehensive information is not available in the public domain about the great Indian spiritual reach in the West and about the work of the great Indian spiritual masters and organisations. In the light of all that has been said above, the question is whether a serious effort can be made to gather the available information from various quarters of the world where such activities connected with the ancient thoughts and truths proclaimed by Hindu seers and sages, are taking place and prepare a country-wise catalogue? No doubt this would be a stupendous task. But backed by determination, painstaking efforts and assisted by co-operation of all spiritual organisations originating from India or inspired by Indian spirituality (*adhyatma vidya*), it is an achievable project. This can be followed by compiling an encyclopedia of their activities and impact on the world on the lines similar to what Phillip Goldberg has compiled and comprehensively presented in his book “*American Veda*”. Only with these sustained efforts we can gauge and understand as to what extent the dream of Swami Vivekananda (about which he said it was the Will of God) is getting unfolded / accomplished.

The contemporary communication facilities like Internet and e-mail will be very helpful in this great task. The co-operation and involvement of the several existing world-wide organizations (noted above, and even those to be included in the list) would be of immense value. All those who feel that this is an endeavor worthwhile, may be approached with a request to consider this idea with all the seriousness it deserves, and make it possible and feasible, with all the required inputs.

Only people with dedication and total commitment can plan the various aspects of this endeavour, and the various types of information required and the methodology to be adopted to collect, collate and consolidate the same. This project will be one

of the greatest services that can be rendered to the hallowed memory of our great *Rishis*, Seers, Sages and *Sadhus*, our venerable ancestors. And, when this Directory is published, it is bound to have a far-reaching effect.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Swami Jyotirmayananda thankfully acknowledges the motivation and collaboration received from SRI K. SURYANARAYANA RAO, and SRI S. GURUMURTHY, two ardent devotees of Swami Vivekananda at Chennai, in preparing this booklet (downloadable at www.disoa.org).

* * *

i) Scope of the Directory

To cover all organisations of the Dharma Traditions (the Hindu, Jain, Bauddha, Sikh, et al), including the Himalayan Tradition, and others who accept, respect and celebrate the diversity of traditions, regard world as one family and dedicated to 'Universal Peace and Brotherhood'.

ii) Categories of Participants

● **Monastery** (Ashram / Vedanta Center), ● **Place of Worship** (Temple, Gurudwara, Vihara, Derasar, et al), ● **Yoga Center**, ● **Academic Institution**, ● **NGO** (Volunteer Organisation, Foundation, Trust, Association, et al), ● **Individual Mahatma**, and the ● **Miscellaneous** (organisations other than the preceding categories).

iii) Data Submission

After registration, they can directly fill up the required particulars online at www.disoa.org. The following are the particulars to be submitted, *in brief*:

- Name, address, contact info, and website link, if any,
- History / tradition, aims and ideals
- Present leadership,
- Activities / programs, and publications, if any,
- Involvement of the public in the activities / programs, and its impact on the society,
- Future plans, if any,
- and, other useful information, if any.

iv) Future Plan

An informal get together, in due course, of all the Heads of the organisations enrolled for the Directory.

iv) Contact Coordinator

The Coordinator can be reached by e-mail at: coordinator@disoa.org. His other contact info is:-

In USA:

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, P. O. Box 1059, Saylorsburg, PA 18353
(Ph. +1-347-776-1946)

* * *

13 East 7th Street, Mail Box 220, New York, NY 10003
(Ph. +1-347-776-1946).

* * *

In India:

Anandashram, P.O. Anandashram, Ramnagar, Kanhangad, Kerala 671531.
(Ph. +91- 938-058-4568)

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please Print In CAPS)

Name of the Organisation:

Website Link:

Email ID:

Street Address:

City:

Zip Code:

State:

Country:

Phone No. with Country Code:

Name of the Contact Person:

Phone No. of the Contact Person:

*Please email this duly filled up & scanned Form to:
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3 August 2014

Swami Jyotirmayananda
swamijyoti@vivakanandagospel.org

Dear Swami Jyotirmayananda,

Thank you for presenting your paper entitled, “The global vision and mission of Swami Vivekananda and how it inspired the Indian spiritual thrust world wide,” at the World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) Eleventh International Conference at Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa, 31 July to 3 August.

The present conference was the eleventh in a series of international conferences on studies related to India, its people, and the history of the Vedic tradition from ancient to modern times. The previous ten conferences were held at Atlanta (GA), October 4-6, 1996; Los Angeles (CA), August 7-9, 1998; Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, July 28-30, 2000; University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (MA) July 12-14, 2002; University of Maryland, July 9– 11, 2004; University of Houston, July 8-10, 2006; University of Central Florida, June 27-29, 2008; Trinidad, West Indies August 4-7, 2010; Piscataway, NJ, July 29-31, 2011; Dartmouth MA, July 13-15, 2012.

Further information on the conference is available at the WAVES website (<http://www.wavesinternational.net>). In case of any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at 972-333-5705.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Scharf, Conference Chair

SWAMI JYOTIRMAYANANDA (b. 1945) hails from Kasaragod, Kerala, in South India; had his schooling and college studies at the Mangalore Ramakrishna Mission Students Home; initiated in 1966 while serving in a firm in Madras, by Swami Vireswarananda, the Tenth President of the Ramakrishna Order; joined the Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, in 1973, and after three years of *seva*, took to monastic life independently in 1976.

His compiled/edited work on Swami Vivekananda (*Vivekananda—His Gospel of Man-making*, 1064 pp.) – “a unique book with rich reading material which instructs and inspires the reader” (Swami Ranganathananda, in his Benediction) – brings into focus some of Swamiji’s powerful thoughts, chronicles the important events in his life and times, and highlights his mission and the message to the world, besides presenting an array of select tributes to the Great Son of Modern India from eminent persons, from all walks of life. *Wake up the Power Within: “All Power is Within You”* (120 pp.), is a slightly abridged version of a part of the aforesaid work, containing the unique and powerful thoughts of Swamiji. *“India’s Gift to the World is the Light Spiritual – Understanding India, Its Culture and Sanatana Dharma”* (344 pp.), comprises Swami Jyotirmayananda’s papers presented, since 2002, in various Indological conferences in the U.S., and elsewhere. His other works include, *“Hanuman Chalisa and Ashtaka”* (original text with transliteration and Hindi and English translations) with ‘Glory of Sri Hanuman, the Glory of Hanuman Chalisa and the Glory of Ramanam’; *“Beloved Mother Amritanandamayi – A Sketch”*; and *“A Pilgrim Guide to Some Holy Places of Dakshina Kannada and Around.”*

Swami Jyotirmayananda, who was one of the coordinators of the Second ‘Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha’ (<https://tinyurl.com/y9r9zzdr/> <https://tinyurl.com/y5u6bxch>) Conference held in Mumbai (2005), successfully compiled the Directory of the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, under instruction and guidance from its Convener, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, who commended his “admirable, committed effort” (vide ‘Foreword’ to the “Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha Directory 2009”).

The web page: www.vivekanandagospel.org mainly deals with the publication of Swami Jyotirmayananda, who can be reached by email at swamijyoti@vivekanandagospel.org

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