



INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF MAHARISHI DAYANAND TO HUMANITY

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Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's main objective was to establish 'Satya Dharma' – a true religion and the progress of humanity. He was very much concerned about the ignorance, communalism, and blind religious beliefs among the people. He used to think always about how he could show the people the path of 'Satya Dharma'. He did not establish any group in his own name. He wanted to propagate the ancient Vedic religion for the welfare of humanity. The Vedic religion deals with the knowledge of God – the knowledge which is flawless and intelligent, which is for the human race that believes in logic and which is the source of all our knowledge and education.

Swami Dayanand taught the people the principles of humanity. He taught to give up blind faith and follow the path of education and knowledge. He wanted them to search for the truth. He wanted them to believe only in the truth they found. He imbibed the feeling of nationalisms and Swaraj amongst the people. For Dayanand the real meaning of religion was to be simple - abide by duty and to be humanitarian. He was the first person to translate the Vedas to Hindi. The Vedas which were hidden in the book shelves were brought before the public by him. His explanation of the meaning of Vedas was based upon Nirukta, Nighantu and Ashtadhyaei, written by the Rishis. He made the people realize how rich our heritage was. This realization helped to get rid of superstition and blind faith arguments. It also made the people proud of themselves and ensured a special position in the world.

According to the Vedas, idol worship, the varna system, belief in avatars, worship of many Gods, applied astrology, caste system, untouchability, shraddh and tarpan for the dead, pilgrimage are not non-religious. The Vedas were considered as song books of lower castes of an uncivilized nation by the western scholars. But Maxmuller who wrote his book, "What can we learn from India" had to admit that no book is as important for the mankind as the Vedas.

Education is the most powerful weapon to bring about social changes that is why Swami Dayanand considered it to be the responsibility of the state. Education should be free at the gurukul- from food to clothes everything should be free for the students. The image of God which the Vedas has presented to us is unique, static, and logical and is based on scientific truth. In this world whenever something has to be organized, an organizer is required. In this creation everywhere there is an order system and rules and regulations that is why it is quite natural to have faith in the creator- it is scientific as well as logical. Three eternal truths that qualify God – he is everywhere, source of all consciousness; he is happiness incarnate, formless, omnipotent and knower of all. Life is eternal conscious and bound by limited knowledge while nature is the source of creation and God is the creator of human life.

According to Dayanand creation of the universe is infinite and universal. Its attributes - karma and nature, are eternal. God has many names and many qualities. He brought about a revolution by explaining the philosophy of Vedas. The need of meditation according to Dayanand is for self purity, character building and self realization. This philosophy of Maharishi is also a great contribution to the society. This meditation is not for the God but for the self. Realising God and behaving accordingly, achieving strength, self confidence, to be grateful to God for all the favor granted by him, to praise and pray him are the main ways of meditation.

The ex-chairman of science conference, respected scientist Dr Atmaram's evaluation is quite important on this matter. According to him the call of the hour is to do away with blind faith that has penetrated deep into the society and to spread the message of the Swami in every home. The realization of his is in no way less than the realization of Einstein, Galileo and Newton. This realization is based on scientific truth which is universal. His ideology and outlook is mainly based on scientific facts. He fought against false ideas and social evils.

Satyartha Prakash depicts the unique thoughts of Maharishi Dayanand. This book has revolutionized the whole society. It gave rise to a new outlook in the society. It revolutionized such ideas which were unthinkable in that age. According to him creation of the society should not depend upon the birth of a person but according to his qualities and working capacity. These revolutionary ideas of *Satyartha Prakash* can solve many of our social problems. The VIIIth chapter of this book says that the self governance is the best. It is quite surprising that in 1874 during the British rule no one had the courage to write such a thing. He was the first man to introduce the following ideas of 'Swaraj', 'Swabhasha', 'Swadharma' and 'Swadeshi' to the general public. He had written many books like *Rigveda Vashya Bhumika*, *Samskar Vidhi* and *Satyartha Prakash* in Hindi and thus paved the way for a new era. Famous scholar Vishnu Prabhakar writes "Writing notes on the Vedas in Hindi is a beautiful gift. Vedas were no longer confined amongst the scholars and became a property of the general public. This credit goes completely to Swami Dayanand".

Due to the influence of Swami Dayanand and Arya Samaj the Hindi literature was affected by the feeling of nationalism. His personality had many facets. The human race will always be indebted to him for his selfless contribution to the humanity.

The teaching of the Vedas of 'one religion and one God' will always remain as pillar of wisdom for the people of the whole world. He himself kept on drinking the poison and gave us all that was good.