

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

- **M**y ideal, indeed, can be put into a few words, and that is: to preach unto mankind their divinity, and how to make it manifest in every movement of life.
- Religion is the manifestation of the divinity already in man.
- Religion is the idea which is raising the brute unto man, and man unto God.
- After so much austerity, I have understood this as the real truth—God is present in every *jiva*; there is no other God besides that. ‘Who serves *jiva*, serves God indeed.’
- . . . I belong to no party and no sect. They are all great and glorious to me. I love them all, and all my life I have been attempting to find what is good and true in them.
- I belong as much to India as to the world, no humbug about that.
- . . . I do not care whether they are Hindus or Mohammedans or Christians, but those that love the Lord will always command my service.
- Blessed are they whose bodies get destroyed in the service of others.
- I shall inspire men everywhere, until the world shall know that it is one with God.
- . . . The only definition that can be given of morality is this: *That which is selfish is immoral, and that which is unselfish is moral.*
- The man who will mercilessly cheat widows and orphans and do the vilest deeds for money is worse than any brute even if he lives entirely on grass.
- . . . men cannot be made virtuous by an Act of Parliament. . . . And that is why religion is of deeper importance than politics, since it goes to the root. . . .
- Practical patriotism means not a mere sentiment or even emotion of love of the motherland but a passion to serve our fellow-countrymen.
- The highest ideal is eternal and entire self-abnegation, where there is no ‘I’, but is ‘Thou’.
- Live for an ideal, and leave no place in the mind for anything else.
- I must not drag my ideal down to the actual and apologize for my weak conduct in this way.
- There is no ‘you’ or ‘me’; all variety is merged into absolute unity, the one infinite existence—God.
- All expansion is life, all contraction is death. All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore love for love’s sake, because it is the only law of life, just as you breathe to live.
- On this basis—being right and doing right—the whole world can unite.
- 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.
- The moment you fear, you are nobody. It is fear that is the great cause of misery in the world. It is fear that is the greatest of all superstitions. It is fear that is the cause of our woes, and it is fearlessness that brings heaven even in a moment. Therefore, ‘Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached’. ■