

# 10

CHAPTER

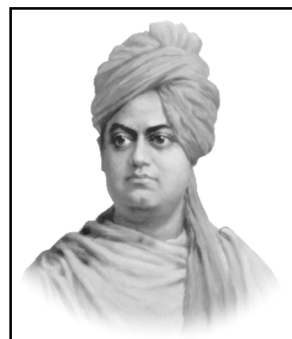
## The Song of the Free

*Swami Vivekanand (1863-1902)*

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### ➡ About the Poet

Swami Vivekanand was born on Monday, January 12, 1863 in a well known family in Calcutta (Kolkata). His earlier name was Narendra Nath Dutt. His mother's name was Bhuvaneshwari Devi. She was well educated lady. He got exceptional memory and unlimited love for humanity from his mother. He passed High School from a famous institute of Pt. Ishwar Chandra Vidhya Sagar. He graduated in 1884 from Kolkata University. He came into contact with Sri Rama Krishna Paramhansa in 1881. He became his disciple and devoted himself to the propagation of his Guru's teachings. He went to United States of America in 1893 and participated there in the parliament of religions. He delivered a historic speech in the Parliament in Chicago. He died on 4th July, 1902 at the age of only 39 years.



Vivekanand was a man of action as well as a thinker. He founded the Rama Krishna Mission and preached the gospel of Hinduism in Japan and England. He delivered many lectures on Hindu philosophy. He also went to Japan and England to deliver his lectures. He was not only a patriot but also a social reformer. His main literary works are 'Raja Yoga', 'Karama Yoga', and 'Bhakti Yoga'.

### ➡ About the Poem

The poem, '*The Song of the Free*', composed by Swami Vivekanand discloses his faith in divine character and its ultimate goal on earth. He says that human life is full of sufferings and difficulties yet we should not be disheartened. The world is full of pain and misery but one who believes in God is not afraid of all these. According to the poet, God hood is the real aim of human life. Therefore, he can not be shaken by sufferings and failures. The ups and downs of life give him an opportunity to show his best powers. It is our duty that we should have faith in our divine soul in all circumstances.



*The wounded snake its hood unfurls,  
The flame stirred up doth blaze,  
The desert air resounds the calls*

*Of heart-struck Lion's rage :  
The cloud puts forth its deluge strength,  
When lightning cleaves its breast,  
When the soul is stirred to its inmost depth,  
Great ones unfold their best!*

*Let eyes grow dim and ears grow faint,  
And friendship fail and love betray.  
Let fate its hundred horrors send,  
And clotted darkness block the way—  
And nature were one angry frown,  
To crush you out—still know my soul,  
You are divine, March on and on,  
Nor right nor left, but to the goal!*

—Swami Vivekanand

## ➡ Appreciation of the Poem

'The Song of the Free' has been composed by Swami Vivekanand, the saint poet of India. It emphasises the deeply philosophic attitude of the poem. It defines the nature of human soul and its ultimate end. We should not be afraid of the human sufferings and difficulties. We must not wander this or that way. We must march on and on direct to achieve the real aim of our life. The ups and downs of life give the man an opportunity to show his best powers. Use of Metaphor, Personification and Apostrophe are note-worthy.

## ||Glossary||

|                     |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wounded             | : injured (घायल, आहत)                                                                           |
| the wounded:unfurls | : the snake shows its hood only when it is hurt (साँप तभी अपना फन फैलाता है जब उसे चोट लगती है) |
| hood                | : broadened head of a snake (साँप का फैला हुआ फन)                                               |
| unfurls             | : opens (खोलना, फैलाना)                                                                         |
| blaze               | : burst into fire (आग का विकराल रूप धारण करना)                                                  |
| resounds            | : echoes (गूँजना)                                                                               |
| heart-struck        | : deeply wounded (बुरी तरह घायल)                                                                |
| rage                | : great anger (अत्यधिक क्रोध)                                                                   |
| puts forth          | : presents (उपस्थित)                                                                            |
| deluge              | : flood (अत्यधिक वर्षा, बाढ़)                                                                   |
| cleaves             | : tears, breaks (फाड़ना, तोड़ना)                                                                |

|                  |   |                                                          |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------|
| inmost           | : | deepest (सबसे गहरा)                                      |
| betray           | : | cheat (धोखा, विश्वासघात)                                 |
| horrors          | : | fears (भयभीत होना, डरना, सन्देह करना)                    |
| clotted darkness | : | complete darkness (पूर्ण अन्धकार)                        |
| frown            | : | raise the brow, express displeasure (नाराजगी प्रकट करना) |
| to crush         | : | to destroy (तोड़ना)                                      |
| goal             | : | destination (लक्ष्य, मंजिल, गंतव्य, अभिप्राय)            |

## ||Exercise||

### ➡ Answer the following questions :

1. Write the central idea of the poem 'The Song Of The Free'.
2. Give a critical appreciation of the poem.

### ➡ Explain the following lines with reference to the context :

1. And nature ..... to the goal.
2. The cloud ..... their best!
3. Let eyes ..... block the way.
4. The wounded snake ..... struck lion's rage.

