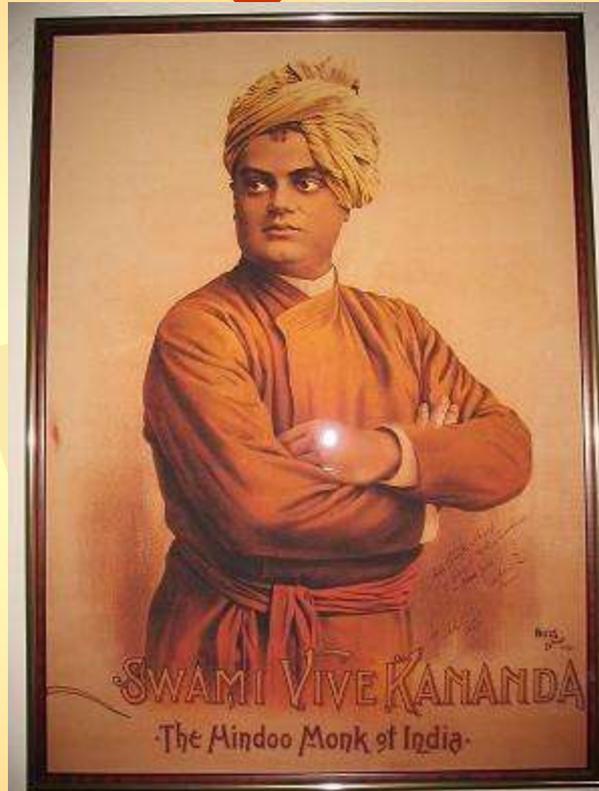


# Swami Vivekanandji's Chicago Address



Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America

Washington DC Chapter

Shantiniketan Family Camp

**July 5-8, 2012**



# Parliament of Religions

- The Parliament of Religions opened on 11 September 1893 at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Swami Vivekananda represented Hindus of the world, traveling all the way from India.
- He began his speech with, "Sisters and brothers of America!" while others addressed as Ladies and Gentlemen. Received standing ovation from the crowd for two long minutes.
- He was the most brilliant of all speakers and was sensational.
- He proudly remarked that Hinduism was the mother of all religions



# Swamiji's Words

- I am proud to belong to Hindu religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance.
- India, the land of Hindus is a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth.
- India sheltered Israelites, who came to Southern India and took refuge when their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny.
- A lot of Zoroastrians were given asylum and treated with dignity and honor.
- He quoted from Bhagavadgita: "Whosoever comes to Me, through whatsoever form, I reach him; all men are struggling through paths which in the end lead to me."



# Kudos from All Around

- Dr. Barrows, the president of the Parliament said, "India, the Mother of religions, was represented by Swami Vivekananda, the Orange-monk who exercised the most wonderful influence over his auditors.
- "He is an orator by divine right, and his strong, intelligent face in its picturesque setting of yellow and orange was hardly less interesting than those earnest words, and the rich, rhythmical utterance he gave them." - New York Critique
- Vivekananda is undoubtedly the greatest figure in the Parliament of Religions. After hearing him we feel how foolish it is to send missionaries to this learned nation." – New York Herald
- "The greatest figure in the parliament of religions" and "the most popular and influential man in the parliament" - Media



# Swamiji's Concluding Lecture

- The parliament ended on 27 September 1893
- He proudly proclaimed to the world that holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world.
- Every system of faith has produced men and women of the most exalted character
- He cautioned against the exclusive survival of one's own religion at the cost of the destruction of the others



# Swamiji's Famous Quotes

- If you have faith in all the three hundred and thirty millions of your mythological gods, ... and still have no faith in yourselves, there is no salvation for you. Have faith in yourselves, and stand up on that faith and be strong; that is what we need
- This is the gist of all worship – to be pure and to do good to others
- We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.
- Every duty is holy. Devotion to duty is the highest form of worship
- Arise, Awake, not stop until the goal is reached.
- Be Fearless.





# Jawaharlal Nehru on Swami Vivekananda

- Rooted in the past, full of pride in India's prestige, Vivekananda was yet modern in his approach to life's problems, and was a kind of bridge between the past of India and her present ... he came as a tonic to the depressed and demoralized Hindu mind and gave it self-reliance and some roots in the past.



# Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on Swami Vivekananda

- Swamiji harmonized the East and the West, religion and science, past and present. And that is why he is great. Our countrymen have gained unprecedented self-respect, self-reliance and self-assertion from his teachings.”



# Swamiji's unique contributions

- Swami Vivekananda helped to restore a sense of pride amongst the Hindus, presenting the ancient teachings of India in its purest form to a Western audience.
- Swami Vivekananda coined the concept of Daridra Narayana Seva - the service of God in and through poor human beings
- He founded the Sri Ramakrishna Math and Mission on the principle of Atmano Mokshartham Jagat-hitaya cha (for one's own salvation and for the welfare of the World).

