GOLDEN WORDS OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

When there is a conflict between the

heart and the brain, let the heart be followed.

A man of intellect can turn into a devil, but never a man of heart.

Religion is not a theoretical need but a practical necessity.

Renunciation does not mean simply dispassion for the world. It means dispassion for the world and also longing for God.

There is no misery where there is no want.

The secret of life is not enjoyment, but education through experience.

Every new thought must create opposition.

Renunciation is the withdrawal of mind from other things and concentrating it on God. Every man who thinks ahead of his time is sure to be misunderstood.

In this short life there is no time for the exchange of compliments.

Do not wait to cross the river when the water has all run down.

The greatest sin is fear.

Better the scolding of the wise than the adulation of the fools.

If you love God's creation more than God, you will be disillusioned.

Everything can be sacrificed for truth, but truth can't be sacrificed for anything.

God has become man, man will become god again. If it is impossible to attain perfection here and now, there is no proof that we can attain perfection in any other life.

That part of the Vedas which agrees with reason is the Vedas, and nothing else.

If you want to do anything evil, do it before the eyes of your superiors.

Happiness
presents itself
before man,
wearing the
crown of sorrow
on its head.

If one is a slave to his passions and desires, one cannot feel the pure joy of real freedom.

If you can't attain salvation in this life, what proof is there that you can attain it in the life or lives to come?

Never mind if your contribution is only a mite, your help only a little, blades of grass united into a rope will

hold in confinement the maddest of elephants.

The cow never tells a lie, and the stone never steals, but, nevertheless, the

cow remains a
cow and the
stone remains a
stone. Man steals
and man tells a
lie, and again it is
man that
becomes the god.

When even man never hears the cries of the fool, do you think God will?

Strength is life, weakness is death.

Never are the wants of a beggar fulfilled.

We want the 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.

Let the heart be opened first, and all else will follow of itself.

Tell the man his defaults directly but praise his virtues before others.

Activity is life and inactivity is death.

Salvation is not achieved by inactivity but by spiritual activities.

Even the least work done for others awakens the power within.

New things have to be learned, have to be introduced and worked out, but is that to be done by sweeping away all that is old, just because it is old?

The man who says he has nothing more to learn is already at his last grasp

As long as I live, so do I learn.

No one can save a person who hires a carriage to go from one street to another, and then complain of diabetes.

By the control of the subconscious mind you get control over the conscious.

It is the constant struggle against nature that constitutes human progress, not conformity with it.

The very essence of education is

concentration of mind, not the collecting of facts.

As we get further and further away

from sensepleasures,
"knowledge for
the sake of
knowledge"
becomes the
supreme
pleasure of
mind.

It is through the many that we reach the one.

The soul is the circle of which the circumference is nowhere, but the center is the body. God is a circle whose circumference is nowhere, but whose center is everywhere.

The body itself is the biggest disease.

If any one of you believes what I teach, I will be sorry. I will only be too glad if I can excite in you the power of thinking for yourselves.

When the world is the end and God the means to attain that end, that is material. When God is the end and the world is only the means to attain that

end, spirituality has begun.

The fear of God is the beginning of religion, but the love of God is the end of religion.

Do not give up anything!
Things will give you up.

The sage is often ignorant of physical science, because he reads the wrong bookthe book within;

and the scientist is too often ignorant of religion, because he reads the wrong book- the book without.

Experience is the only source of knowledge.

Do one thing at a time and while doing it put your whole soul into it to the exclusion of all else.

Where there is life, there will be death; so get away from life if you want to get rid of death.

Records of great spiritual men of the past do us no good whatever except that they urge us onward to do the same, to experience religion ourselves.

We may read all the Bibles of the world, but that will not give us religion.

The brave alone can afford to be sincere.

The balance is so nice that if you disturb the equilibrium of one atom, the whole world will come to an end.

Save the spiritual store in your body by observing continence.

The wicked see in God wickedness. The virtuous see in Him virtue.

When good nectar is unattainable, it is no reason

why we should eat poison.

Love to enemies is not possible for ordinary men.

Everything that comes from India take as

true, until you cogent reasons for disbelieving it. Everything that comes from Europe take as false, until you find cogent reasons for believing it.

The benefit of Yoga is that we learn to control instead of being controlled.

Never talk about the faults of others, no matter how bad they may be. All quarrels and disputations concerning religion simply show that religion is not present.

You must not criticize others, you must criticize yourself.

What you have inside you is what you see in others.

Our business is to verify not to swallow.

How can that be loveless which causes love in me?

You cannot judge a man by his faults.

You must believe in yourself and then you will believe in God.

If you are pure, if you are strong, you, one man, is equal to the whole world.

Mother represents colorless love that knows no barter, love that never dies.

We trust the man in the street, but there is one being in the universe we

never trust and that is God.

My motto is to learn whatever good things I may come

across anywhere.

The secret of religion lies not

in theories but in practice.

Seek for the highest, aim at the highest, and you shall reach the highest.

There is an ocean of difference between idleness and renunciation.

The self-seeking man who is looking after personal comforts and leading a lazy life, there is no room for him even in hell.

Hope is the greatest of all miseries, the highest bliss lies in giving up hope.

No one ever succeeded in keeping society in good humor and at the same

time did great works.

Know that talking ill of others in private is a sin.

This Atman is not to be attained by one who is weak.

Whatever fosters materiality is no work.

Why look up to men for approbation, look up to God.

He who knows how to obey knows how to command.

Want of sympathy and lack of energy

are at the root of all misery.

India is the only place where,

with all its faults, the soul finds its freedom, its God.

It is the heart that conquers, not the brain.

All the strength is in you, have faith in it.

The body must go no mistake about that. It is better to wear out than to rust out.

In every attempt there are many obstacles to cope with, but gradually the path becomes smooth.

One must raise oneself by one's own exertions.

Both attachment and detachment perfectly developed make a man great and happy.

Where there is struggle, where there is rebellion, there is a sign of life, there consciousness is manifested.

Isn't it man that makes money? Where did you ever hear of money making man?

He who always speculates as to what awaits him in future, accomplishes nothing whatsoever.

Fear is one of the worst enemies.

If one intends to really find truth, one must not cling to comfort.

We manufacture our own heaven and can make a heaven even in hell.

The satisfaction of desire only increases it, as oil poured on fire makes it burn more fiercely.

Both happiness and misery are chains, the one golden, the other iron; but both are equally strong to bind us. The world is neither true nor untrue, it is a shadow of truth.

Let us get rid of the little 'I' and let only the great 'I' live in us.

Concentration of the mind is the source of all knowledge.

Keep your thoughts on virtue; what we think we become.

What we are, we see outside, for the world is our mirror.

Resist not evil. Face it! You are higher than evil. Anything we do ourselves, that is the only thing we do. ----

Be cautious now and do not bow, however sweet to chains.

Anything that brings spiritual, mental or physical weakness, touch it not with the toes of your feet.

Everything that has selfishness for its basis, competition as its right hand, and enjoyment

as its goal, must die sooner or later.

This is a battlefield, fight your way out.
Make your life a

manifestation of will strengthened by renunciation.

Be the witness, never learn to react.

The Hindus
believe that a
man is a soul
and has a body,
while Western
people believe
he is a body and
possesses a
soul.

Of all the scriptures of the world, it is the Vedas alone which declare that the study of the Vedas is secondary.

I find that whenever I have made a mistake in my life, it has always been because self entered into the calculation.

Never forget that a man is made great and perfect as much by his faults as by his virtues.

If a bad time comes, what of it? The pendulum must swing back to the other side. But that is no better. The thing to do is to stop it.

This world is our friend when we are its slaves and no more.

Whatever others think or do, lower not your standard of purity, morality, and love of God.

The road to the Good is the roughest and steepest in the universe.

Character has to

be established through a thousand stumbles.

Eating, drinking, dressing, and society nonsense are not things to throw a life upon.

He who is always afraid of loss always loses.

Any amount of theoretical

knowledge one may have; but unless one does the thing actually, nothing is learnt.

Don't yield to sorrow; everything is in God's hands.

In our moments of anguish, gates barred for ever seem to open and let in many a flood of light.

Every bit of pleasure will bring its quota of pain, if not with compound interest.

If one gets one blow, one must return ten with redoubled fury, then only one is a man.

Don't let egoism to enter your minds, and let love never depart from your hearts.

It is a land of dreams; it does not matter whether one enjoys or weeps; they are but dreams, and as such, must

break sooner or later.

He whose joy is only in himself, whose desires are only in himself, he has

learned his lessons.

I have worked for this world, Mary, all my life, and it does not give me a piece of bread without taking a pound of flesh.

Devotion to the mother is the

root of all welfare.

It is religion, the inquiry into the beyond, that makes the difference between man and animal.

Dare to be free, dare to go as far as your thought leads, and dare to carry that out in your life. Every idea that strengthens you must be taken up and every thought that weakens you must be rejected.

The same fire that cooks a meal for us may burn a child, and it is no fault of the fire if it does so; the

difference lies in the way in which it is used.

Whatever you think, that you will be.

The moment you quarrel, you are not going God ward, you are going

backward, towards the brutes.

First learn to obey, the

command will come by itself.

If there is any sin in the world, it is weakness;

avoid all weakness, for weakness is sin, weakness is death.

In other countries great

priests try to
trace their
descent to some
king, but here
the greatest
kings would
trace their
descent to some
ancient priest.

We, as
Vedantists,
know for certain
that there is no
power in the
universe to
injure us unless
we first injure
ourselves.

Faith, faith, faith in ourselves, faith, faith in God – this is the secret of greatness.

To have the ideal is one thing, and to apply it practically to the details of daily life is quite another thing.

One ounce of practice is worth twenty thousand tons of big talk.

Let not your work produce results for you, and at the same time may you be never without work.

Religion is not in books, nor in theories, nor in dogmas, nor in talking, not even in reasoning. It is being and becoming.

This Atman is not to be reached by too much talk, no, not even by the highest intellect,

no, not even by the study of Vedas themselves.

Whoever has dared to touch our literature has felt the

bondage, and is there bound for ever.

If you have assimilated five ideas and made

them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library.

No good comes out of the man who day and night thinks he is nobody.

Follies there are, weakness there must be, but remember your real nature always - that is the only way to cure the weakness, that is the only way to cure the follies.

Everything in this life is fraught with fear. It is renunciation alone that makes one fearless.

The true man is he who is strong as strength itself and possesses a woman's heart.

Verily, these three are rare to obtain and come only through the grace of God human birth, desire to obtain Moksha, and the

company of the great-souled ones.

Why should you feel ashamed to take the name of Hindu, which is your greatest

and most glorious possession.

This religion is so great that even a little of it

brings a great amount of good.

Don't believe what others say unless you

yourselves know it to be true.

Rise at the expense of another? I did not come to earth for that.

Show your power by suffering.

Our misery comes, not from work, but by our

getting attached to something.

The man who can't believe in himself, how

can you expect him to believe in anything else?

It is better to do something; never mind if it proves to be

wrong; it is better than doing nothing.

If we can't follow the ideal, let us confess

our weakness, but not degrade it; let not any try to pull it down.

> If a man possesses

everything that is under the sun and does not possess spirituality, what avails it?

First form character, first earn spirituality and results will come of themselves.

If we sit down and lament over the imperfection of our bodies and minds, we profit nothing; it is the heroic endeavor to subdue adverse circumstances that carries our spirit upwards.

Truth, purity and unselfishness – wherever these are present, there is no power below or above the sun to crush the possessor thereof.

No claim is made by the doer of great deeds, only by lazy worthless fools.

To know God is to become God.

Bring in the light; the darkness will vanish of itself. Ours not to question why, ours but to do and die.

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. Religion is the manifestation of the divinity already in man.

Conscious
efforts lead the
way to superconscious
illumination.

Who commits mistakes, the path of truth is attainable by him only.

He, the brave alone, can deny the self.

And if this Maya is so beautiful, think of the wondrous beauty of the Reality behind it.

For one thing we may be grateful; this life is not eternal.

When the mind tries to think of anything else, give it a hard blow, so that it may turn around

and think of God.

If I am impure, that is also of my own making, and that very thing shows that

I can be pure if I will.

Stand and die in your own strength; if there is any sin

in the world, it is weakness; avoid all weakness, for weakness is sin, weakness is death.

I do not know whether I

succeed or not, but it is a great thing to take up a grand ideal in life and then give up one's whole life to it. In the west, they are trying to solve the problem how much a man can possess, and we are trying here to solve the problem on how little a man can live.

It is the change of the soul itself for the better that alone will cure the evils of the world.

Teach yourself, teach every one his real nature, call upon the sleeping soul and see how it awakes.

Power will come, glory will come, goodness will come, purity will come, and everything that is excellent will come, when this sleeping soul is roused to self

conscious activity.

You have done well; only try to do better.

Work out the salvation of this land and of the whole world, each of you thinking that the entire burden is on your shoulders.

Let not the fire die out.

Is it such a bad choice in this world to think, not of matter but of spirit, not of man but of God?

If you attempt
to get the
secular
knowledge
without religion,
I tell you plainly,

vain is your attempt.

Anything that makes you weak physically, intellectually,

and spiritually, reject as poison; there is no life in it; it cannot be true.

Love opens the most impossible

gates; love is the gate to all the secrets of the universe.

Never let curses rise on your lips.

Feel that you are great and you become great.

You can't help anyone, you can only serve:
 serve the children of the Lord, serve the Lord himself, if you have the privilege.

The moment you fear you are nobody. It is fear that is the great cause of misery in the world.

Struggle for that Grace.

If a man goes
towards what is
false; it is
because he
can't get what is
true.

Knowledge is the finding of unity in diversity, and the highest point in every science is

reached when it finds the underlying unity in all variety.

Obey the scriptures until you are not strong enough

to do without them.

Help, if you can; if you can't fold your hands and

stand by and see things go on.

Until a man becomes a

prophet, religion is a mockery.

Be not in despair; the way

is very difficult, like walking on the blade of a razor. Yet despair not; arise, awake, and find the ideal, the goal.

Death is better than a vegetating ignorant life; it is better to die on the battlefield than to live a life of defeat.

When you find yourselves suffering, blame yourselves, and try to do better.

The highest direction is that which takes us to God; every other direction is lower.

Understand my words in their true spirit and apply yourselves to work in their light.

I want the why of everything. I leave the how to children.