

Ideology of Swami Vivekananda about Music

Abstract

This Paper is highlighting the ideology of Swami Vivekananda's interest about music and it also reflects on the philosophy of his life, I am going to introduce, his life sketch, Swami Vivekananda as vedantist, his keen interest in music especially in devotional style of singing, (Indian Culture).

Keywords: His Life Sketch (Introduction), Trained Singer, Swami Vivekananda As Vedanta's, Belief In Self Realization , Belief In Spirituality, Knowledge About Music.

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda was born in 1863 in a Khatiya family of Calcutta. Before he become a monk, his name was Narendra Nath Datta while he was a student in college of Seventeen years of age, he came under the influence of Shri Ramakrishna Parahansa Narendra Nath was an earnest student of Philosophy and poetry. He studied all the system of Western Philosophy. One of the principal of his college Mr. Hostie Kemarked Narendra Nath is really a genius. I have travelled for and wide but I have never yet came across a lad of his talent and even is German Investries amongst philosophical students. He is bound to make his mark in his life. Swami Vivekananda did for the gospel of Shri Rama Krishna what St. Pari did for the gospel of Christ. He brood casted the truths of Vendanta in India, Europe and America as realized in the experience of Shri Rama Krishna. He demonstrated to the world that the Great Indian Spiritual Tradition was still alive and Rama Krishna. He demonstrated to the world that the great Indian Spiritual Tradition was still alive and vigorous. He showed both by precept and example that if the ancient vendanta were reinterpreted in the light of Shri Rama Krsishna's spiritual experiences as applied to modern life India would be able to solve many of her problems and world rise once again to deliver a message to humanity.

Objectives of the Study

Following objectives have been selected to complete the study:-

1. To find out the keen interest and knowledge of Swami Vivekananda's about music.
2. To find out great interest in devotional singing and playing instruments.
3. Reflection of his knowledge of self realization and belief in spirituality.

Hypothesis under the Study

Following hypothesis has been created to complete the study about great ideal of human beings as "Swami Vivekananda".

1. He adopted singing and playing and also have a knowledge about musical compositions.
2. He learnt to play instrument "Pakhawaj" as a renowned singer and player.
3. A great knowledge of literature.

Review of Literature

"Social service was an essential aspect of Viveknanda's ideas, and an innovation which deviated from both Advaita Vedanta and Rama Krishna. According to Vivekananda man is potentially Divine, so, service to man is indeed service to God." Teachings and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda-Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teach>.....

The Modern Interpretations

1. Vivekananda advocated practicing both Physical and mental Brahmacharya.
2. Physical abstinence is only a part of it. This included abstaining from sex, sleeping on hard surfaces, bathing in cold water etc.

From "What are some criticisms of Swami Vivekananda?- Quora" <https://www.quora.com/what>.....

"Culture is the psychological cultivation of the mind, which yields values that govern human behaviors and human relations. Culture is the

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culturing or cultivation of human mind". From -Society, culture and civilization, chapter-3, page no.37.

The religion of authority, is as embodied in institutions and the religion of the spirit, as personified in individuals who have sought or had a direct and encounter with truth, have seldom got along famously. The mind of Swami Vivekananda by Gautam sen, published by Jaico Publishing house, 2012.

Trained Singer

Music is the highest art and to those who understood is the highest worship.

Swami Vivekananda himself was a trained singer though not professional singer. He received his classical music training from Beni Ustad, his original name was Beni Gupta. Vivekananda's original name was Narendranath Dutt. He acquired the new name in 1885 when he took Sanyasa. He was deeply interested in the study of philosophy and religion. For sometime, he was a class room teacher also. His Search for truth led him to Rama Krishna Paramhansa at Dakshineswar in 1882, Rama Krishna repeatedly requesting Narendra to sing. The same book also shows us while listening to Narendra's song Rama Krishna is going into trance Swami Vivekananda believed in Vedanta philosophy. Vedanta has three forms dvaita, Vishishta dvaita and advaita. Swamiji follows Advaita. According to him there is no distinction among dvaita, Vishishta, dvaita and advaita. These three are the three steps of Vedanta Philosophy while his father Vishwanath Datta, a trained classical musician taught him the rudiments of Dhruvad. One of the oldest schools of Hindustan Classical Music, mother Bhuvaneshwari Devi familiarized Vivekananda with traditional devotional music and /days dedicated to Krishna.

Swami Vivekananda as Vedantist:-



Swami Vivekananda was a true Vedantist. He regards the Vedanta as perfectly impersonal. The Vedanta is eternal. It is not originated by any person or prophet.

Concept of God

As a staunch vedantist Swami Vivekananda gives three attributes to God" 1 He is Infinite Existence, 2 He is Infinite Knowledge, 3 He is infinite Bliss.

Faith in Man

He believes that God resides in every human heart the best worship of God is service of Mankind.

Belief in Self Realization

According to Swami Vivekananda, Man has the soul and the goal of the soul is to attain God or self realization or self knowledge or emancipation or salvation or self interview.

In his words" Be a hero Always say. I have no fear' Tell this to every body, have no fear, Fear is death, Fear is sin, Fear is hell, Fear is unrighteousness, and Fear is wrong life.

Belief in Spirituality

Swami Ji has firm belief in Spirituality. He believes that if we give up the basis of Spirituality then its outcome will be harmful.

A Child loves lively music, because the rapidity of the note gives the mind no chance to wonder. A man who likes common music, dislikes classical music because it is more complicated and requires a greater degree of concentration to follow it.

Pure alternates and knowledge come over hand in hand when one is focused. One of the most popular spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda is an appropriate example.

We often read about his quotes, preaching, visit to Chicago, his knowledge in Vedanta, Science etc. But did we know that he was a great musician too? Probably not. Obviously when the mind is pure and concentrated its ready to get delve deep in to wherever directed vigorously.

As a Bengali Sapoot that too in Kolkata, Swami ji not only inherited the musical background from his parents but also conceptualized in his life by taking talim from but then Gurus in vocal and Pakhawaj.

His mother Bhuvaneshwari Devi taught him the lighter genre like " Krishna Leela". Swamiji was an accomplished Dhruvada singer who practiced Raga Ahir Bhirava, Dhruvada Composition early morning and performed in the lots of concerts in Kolkata.

In addition, he authored a few known as "Sangeet- Kalpataru" Sachitra Vishwa Sangeet". Music Highest form of may be one self published "Swami Vivekananda in the beam of Musical light."

Knowledge about Music

Swami Vivekananda was adopted at singing Bhajans and knew musical compositions.

Vivekananda learnt to play the Pakhawaj from Murari Gupta mastering the complicated Dhamar Tala beat the percussion instrument is renowned for before he turned twenty. Vivekananda was an accomplished singer in Dhruvad and a much sought after pakhawaj player. He had a beautiful voice like a Violincello, grave and even, whose reverberations filled both hall and hearts once he had enraptured his audience, he could make it sink to an intense "Piano, Piercing the soul of his listeners" French Nobel laureate Roman Rolland says in the book the monk as a Man and the unknown life of Swami Vivekananda.

Young Narendranath is said to have been adopted at singing bhajans and knew musical composition, in various language like Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Persian and Sanskrit" Swami vivekananda had

been blessed by nature with all the primary requirements of music. He had added great requirements of music. He had added great refinement to this gift by his deep knowledge of its technique as also by strenuous practice " Says Swami Harshnanda in his place" Music and Vivekananda published in Vedanta Kesari",

Ramakrishna Bua Vaze. A well known Khyal exponent of the Gwalior Gharana talks about his visit to Vivekananda ashram in Bareilly.

Swamiji would wake up early in the morning tune his two tanpuras and sing a morning melody Ahir Bhairav Specifically a Tansen drupad composition to wake up the ashramites.

Vivekananda also authored a book on Indian and Bengali Music this 479 page book titled sangeeta kalpataru was first published in 1887 and lists Narendranath Datta as the author. Out of print for year's, it was reprinted and released by the Ramakrishna mission institute or culture in 2000.

Dr. Sharabananda Choudhary a research scholar writes a book how a 23 years old Vivekananda started writing this book and compiling its collection of songs the book begins with a 90 page treatise on music written by the monk, followed by a collection of songs compiled by him and an appendix with introduction to 17 lyricists, like a lot of western Indian music often had religion as its basis. Essentially religion was used in music as a means of expressing devotion to an realizing God. Nadopasana (meditation through music) was considered to be highly efficacious in religious life.

Along with devotional songs, the songbook consists of songs on subjects ranging from the mother land, love, history, religion and social issues sangeeta Kalpataru presents songs by more than 176 composers on religious themes, social issues, the puranas besides patriotic songs. According to an Dr. Sharbnanda Choudhary music is the greatest aid to keep God in memory.

While discussing the proportions one needs to take to practice Bhakti Yoga Vivekananda told the greatest aid to this practice of keeping God in memory, is perhaps, music. The lord says to Narada, to great teacher of Bhakti, "I do not live in heaven nor do I live in heaven nor do I live in the heart of the Yogi, but where my devotees sing my praise, there am I," "Music has such tremendous power over the human mind it brings it to concentration in a moment".

You will find the dull ignorant law brute like human beings, who never steady their mind for a moment at other times, when they hear attractive music, immediately become charmed and concentrated. Even the minds of animals, such as dogs, lions, cats, and serpents became charmed with music.

Swami Vivekananda's Quotes on Music

According to Indian musicology, Sangeet is a combination of *geetang*, *badyang* and *nriyang* (geet= vocal music, badya=instrumental music and nritya=dance). Vishnu, one of three supreme gods of Hinduism, told Narada— Naham tisthami Baikunthe, Yoginam hridaye nacha. Matbhaktah yatra gayanti, tatra tisthami Naradah.

Translation

I do not reside in the Heavenly abode of Baikuntha, nor in the heart of the Yogis. Where ever my devotees sing in spirit, I reside there, (Narada)

1. All poetry, painting, and music is feeling expressed through words, through colour, through sound, Drama and music are by themselves religion; any song, love song or any song, never mind; if one's whole soul is in that song, he attains salvation, just by that; nothing else he has to do; if a man's whole soul is in that, his soul gets salvation. They say it leads to the same goal.
2. High achievements in art, music, etc., are the results of concentration. When we hear beautiful music, our minds become fastened upon it, and we cannot take them away. Those who concentrate their minds upon what you call classical music do not like common music, and vice versa. Music in which the notes follow each other in rapid succession holds the mind readily. A child loves lively music, because the rapidity of the notes gives the mind no chance to wander. A man who likes common music dislikes classical music, because it is more complicated and requires a greater degree of concentration to follow it.
3. If there are different musical instruments tuned alike in one room, all of you may have noticed that when one is struck, the others have the tendency to vibrate so as to give the same note. So all minds that have the same tension, so to say, will be equally affected by the same thought.

Conclusion

My Discussion is on the great personality Swami Vivekananda a great ideologist and literature himself has an interest about a devotional music. His views about music and its impact on human beings. He was an vedantist, he believes in devotion, self realization, in spirituality, belief in fearlessness, truth and freedom. His faith in man that God resides in every human heart the best worship of God is service of mankind.

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