

These phenomena, however, are merely premonitions of a coming storm, which is likely to sweep over the whole of India and the rest of Asia. This is the inevitable outcome of a wholly political civilization, which has looked upon man as a thing to be exploited and not as a personality to be developed and enlarged by purely cultural forces. The people of Asia are bound to rise against the acquisitive economy which the West have developed and imposed on the nations of the East. Asia cannot comprehend modern Western capitalism with its undisciplined individualism. The faith, which you represent, recognizes the worth of the individual, and disciplines him to give away all to the service of God and man. Its possibilities are not yet exhausted. It can still create a new world where the social rank of man is not determined by his caste or colour or the amount of dividend he earns, but by the kind of life he lives, where the poor tax the rich, where human society is founded not on the equality of stomachs but on the equality of spirits, where an untouchable can marry the daughter of the king, where private ownership is a trust and where capital cannot be allowed to accumulate so as to dominate that real producer of wealth. This superb idealism of your faith, however, needs emancipation from the medieval fancies of theologians and logists? Spiritually, we are living in a prison house of thoughts and emotions, which during the course of centuries we have woven round ourselves. And be it further said to the shame of us—men of older generation—that we have failed to equip the younger generation for the economic, political and even religious crisis that the present age is likely to bring. The while community needs a complete overhauling of its present mentality in order that it may again become capable of feeling the urge of fresh desires and ideals. The Indian Muslim has long ceased to explore the depths of his own inner life. The result is that he has ceased to live in the full glow and colour of life, and is consequently in danger of an unmanly compromise with force, which he is made to think he cannot vanquish in open conflict. He who desires to change an unfavourable environment must undergo a complete transformation of his inner being. God changes not the condition of a people until they themselves take the initiative to change their condition by constantly illuminating the zone of their daily activity in the light of a definite ideal. Nothing can be achieved without a firm faith in the independence of one's own inner life. This faith alone keeps a people's eye fixed on their goal and save them from perpetual vacillation. The lesson that past experiences has brought to you must be taken to heart. Expect nothing from any side. Concentrate your whole ego on yourself alone and ripen your clay into real manhood if you wish to see your aspiration realized.

Questions:

i. What is the chief characteristic of the modern political civilization? (4)

Answer

The chief characteristic of modern political civilization is that it considers a person an object. According to it, this object is exploited by cultural forces. In fact, it cannot consider a man a personality who can be developed by a culture alone. In short, modern political civilization sees a human being a thing that can be exploited by cultural values.

ii. What are possibilities of our Faith, which can be of advantage to the world? (4)

Answer

The possibilities of our faith are that we shun our present mentality. The reason is that it is useless. It can no longer help us bring ease in the life of humans. Thus, after changing our mentality, we can benefit the world because we shall endeavor to explore the modern avenues of life.

iii. What is the chief danger confronting the superb idealism of our Faith? (4)

Answer

The religious, political and economic crises of the modern age are the chief dangers which are confronting our superb ideal of faith. The reason is that we cannot grapple with such issues with our old beliefs. Besides, due to our old beliefs, we have not prepared our new generation to adapt to the new values. Given all that, there is a disparity between our beliefs and realities of this age.

iv. Why is the Indian Muslim in danger of coming to an unmanly compromise with the Forces opposing him? (4)

Answer

The Indian Muslim is in danger of coming to an unmanly compromise to the forces opposing him. The reason is that he has stopped considering the worth of his own self. Therefore, he believes that he cannot defeat his opponent in an open conflict. In short, the Indian Muslim prefers an unmanly compromise to an open fight because he does not deem the value of his inner self.

v. What is necessary for an achievement? (4)

Answer

Each and every thing of this world has its price. It means there is a price for achievement; and the price of the achievement is to work hard in the right direction. In fact, the world has changed. Hence, people should change their thinking according to the changing world. Besides, they must be mindful that they could achieve nothing but backwardness with their old beliefs. Thus, it is beneficial for them to leave their old beliefs and work hard.