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**Indian Civilization and Culture - M.K. Gandhi**

The extract “Indian Civilization and Culture” has been written by M.K. Gandhi. As the father of the Indian nation, Gandhiji is the real incarnation of God. As a philosopher and saint of modern India, Gandhiji is spiritually concerned with human truth and nonviolence. It was he who let the country free from British rule and made himself immortal for the people of India. His name and fame are successfully prevailed all over the world. As an essayist, Mahatma Gandhi wrote numerous articles like “My Experiment With Truth”, “Autobiography”, etc. On different occasions, he reveals his existence with the mastery of idiomatic English in lucid and plain style.

This essay contains the belief of Indian civil citizens and their standard of living. It is his autobiographical extract, in which Gandhiji has laid greater emphasis on the Indian civilization and culture of Indian society. Like Nehru and Rajagopalachari, Gandhiji presents the picture of real India and its civilization which is found on the basis of human experience. Talking about the civilization of India, he has brought forward the pitiable condition of the people of India whenever this civilization and culture are compared to the Western Civilization and culture.

However, the essay is an address to youth of the nation of India because its civilization is added to other civilizations such as Rome, Greece, China and Europe. But it is a charge against the citizen of India that their people are uncivilized, ignorant and stole its beauty and the sheet anchor of our hope. The mode of civilization to be conducted to the main path of duty which is contrary to the observance of morality. In this context of morality, he wanted to attain mastery over our mind's passions. He meant to present the good conduct which is equivalent to the Gujarati Civilization. According to him, “the mind is a restless bird, the more it gives, the more it wants and still remains unsatisfied.” Our knowledge and indulgences of passions are added to the rich and the poor equally.

Moreover, Gandhiji observed our ancestors who dissuaded from

luxuries and pleasures. He said that our modes of living and indigenous education remains the same as before. Our real happiness and health consisted in a proper use of our hands and feet. He said that the people are not happy because they are surrounded with evil and prostitution. But weapons of these kind are inferior to the weapons of ethics. India is a nation where the constitution is working and their people and their professions are particularly superior. They enjoy their true home rule and the common people are living independently and following the agricultural occupation.

Evidently, the Indian civilization has been depicted by Mahatma Gandhi in order to attain perfection. The tendency of Indian civilization is to elevate the moral beings and that of the Western civilization is to propagate immortality. Our modern civilization is grazing in a materialistic way. The distinguishing characteristic of modern civilization is indefinite multiplicity of human wants. On the other hand, ancient civilization is restricted. However, Gandhiji have depicted many wonderful discoveries about the Hinduism and religion witnessing the fall of Babylonian, Byrion, Persian and Egyptian civilizations. He also tells about the world fame. Attic civilization, our culture our Swaraj depends not upon multiplying our wants, self indulgences, but upon restricting wants self-denial. Undoubtedly, Indian civilization is suited for the European because Mahatma is spiritually concerned with the mankind so the motto of a western philosopher, "Plain living and high thinking" is really applicable to him.

In this way, civilization in the real sense of the term consist not in the multiplication but in deliberate and voluntary restrictions of wants. This alone increases and promotes contentment, real happiness and capacity for service. This civilization must be degenerated into physical and intellectual and voluptuousness. So that there would be no hindrance in the service of humanity to arrange their physical and cultural circumstances.

Thus, the essay contains the philosophy of Indian civilization and culture that are based on the motto of spiritual satisfaction to the people of India. It is thought provoking, exquisite in plain language and lucid in modern prose style.