

Module 5 : S. Radhakrishnan

Section 1 : Introduction

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born at Tiruttani on September 5th in the year 1888. He had his early Education at Tiruttani. He completed his Secondary education at Tirupathi and Vellore. After having completed his college education at Vellore and Madras Christian College he joined Presidency College Madras as an Assistant Professor. He wrote many articles supporting the Indian National Movement. This was due to the influence of Gandhi on Radhakrishnan. Radhakrishnan was influenced much by Tagore also. We find the influence of Swami Vivekananda in the philosophy of Radhakrishnan. It solidified his thoughts into the expressions of his faith in the Hindu Religion. On one side his intellectual curiosity and on the other hand the nation's freedom struggle through the unique means of Satyagraha, had a lasting effect in his whole course of life. In short the Indian Spirit embodied him. While Vivekananda introduced the Hindu mind to the West Radhakrishnan introduced the Hindu philosophy to the West. India was under the colonial rule of the British. People who were subjected to the foreign domination and subjection will generally fail to get their due recognition. Their culture, their arts and their intellect will generally be set down by the rulers. Vivekananda with his first religious experience with Ramakrishna Paramahansa left a strong and motivating impression on Radhakrishnan which expresses itself throughout his writings. With the introduction of English education and the Western ideas of modernity, democracy and the nation-state concept he woke up to the levels of the stir of National Struggle for Independence. This starts the period of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in the Contemporary Indian Philosophy.

Radhakrishnan profound ability to go through the classical Indian philosophical literature makes him well versed with the original texts in perfection as well as fluency that found an equivalent expression of such lucidity even in English language. He became very much known for his fluency and the articulating skills of language as well both in English and Sanskrit. He became the famous Educationist as well as the greatest scholar of Indian Philosophy. Finally he became the well renowned Statesman. He became the Vice- President and President of India gradually.