

Class 11th

English

Indian Civilization and Culture

Indian Civilization and Culture is a wonderful piece of writing which is written by a great leader and a true patriotic of India Mahatma Gandhi who is also known as Bapu throughout the world. He is known for his teachings of non-violence, brotherhood, equality and truth. Besides a great soul of the universe, he is also a great master of English language in India. He has written numerous prose works in English which are the great example of excellence. He was a confessionalist who confessed every thing in his autobiography *My Experiment with Truth*. His teachings and his ideology have left imprinted scars in the memory of the whole world.

The present extract *Indian Civilization and Culture* give much emphasis on the beauty and the glory of our Indian civilization and culture. In this extract, the writer tries to compare Indian culture and civilization to the foreign culture and civilization.

After making a comparison, we find that Indian culture and civilization is far better and richer than any other culture and civilization of the world. Indian culture is rich and beautiful in

many aspects. It is true that the westerners are ahead of us in terms of discovery and technology. It is also true that western technique and technology gave a lot of things to us. Mahatma Gandhi was not a hater of westernization. He too admits that we learn so many things from West. He actually wants to suggest us that we should not forget our own culture and its multifarious beauty only for the sake of (chamak dhamak) and shine and wine. He also appeals that learning from West is not bad but imitating whole things from other culture and civilization may damage the infinite beauty and glory of our own culture and civilization. As he further says, India is land of mystery and miracle in which we find numerous colours of myth and legends. The diversity and pluralism of India has its strength and beauty which maintain the perfect peace and harmony among the people of different caste and religion.

Mahatma Gandhi has given a numerous example of other ancient culture and civilization which were on the top in the beginning but with the passage of time, all those ancient cultures and civilizations have lost their original charm and beauty. But India is the only country where our culture and civilization are still glittering like the pure ornaments. The writer is very upset when

he sees the young minds who are completely dependent on the shine of materialism of the west instead of understanding the true beauty of our own culture and civilization. As Mahatma Gandhi says, “*our mind is a restless bird*”, it wants more and more without getting tired and exhausted. He simply suggests the people of India that India is a treasure of knowledge and wisdom which needs to be understood from its bottom to top. Lastly, Mahatma Gandhi gives a message of living together with harmony and peace. He says that every one has to understand his or her responsibility and duty towards his nation and he or she must be true, upright, determined, devoted and honest regarding their duties and responsibilities, then only we can make this nation more glorious and more beautiful and also bring the lost beauty and glory of our country India.

By, Arshad Khan
Dept. of English
J N College Madhubani