

Indian Civilization & Culture

classmate

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- M. K. Gandhi

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Paper- VII

Unit - 2. (IX)

Topic - "Indian Civilization & Culture"

Lecture - 01.

Indian Civilization & Culture: A Critical Study.

"Indian Civilization and Culture" is a brilliant essay by M. K. Gandhi. A votary of non-violence and truth, Gandhi defined civilization and draws out the respective merits and demerits of Indian Civilization and modern or Western civilization.

The glory of India, Gandhi believes, lies in the immovability of her civilization. Indian civilization is not to be beaten in the world, for it has the capacity to withstand the vagaries of change. The steadiness of Indian civilization in the midst of flux is its beauty. Civilization, according to Gandhi, is that mode of conduct which points out to man the path of duty and good conduct. Our Indian Civilization has successfully withstood various vicissitudes only because of the lessons taught by our ancestors that real happiness and health consisted in self-dependence, in a proper use of our hands feet, we have through

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the ages, learnt the lessons that happiness is a state of mind and it has nothing to do with external conditions. We have survived because we have learnt to live without luxuries, to set a limit to our indulgences.

Gandhi brings out the contrasting features of Indian and Western civilization in the following lines—

"The tendency of the Indian civilization is to elevate the moral being, that of the Western civilization is to propagate that of the immorality. The latter is godless, the former is social based on a belief in God".

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