



# GREAT THINKERS

ON

RAMAKRISHNA  
VIVEKANANDA



# **Great Thinkers on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda**



Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture  
Gol Park, Kolkata - 700 029

***Published by***  
Swami Sarvabhutananda  
**Secretary**  
Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture  
Gol Park, Kolkata 700 029

© 1983 : Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture  
Kolkata, India

**ISBN** : 978-81-87332-58-9

First Published : October 1983 : 6M  
Fourth Print : July 2000 : 5M  
Revised Edition : December 2007  
**Revised Second Edition** : March 2009

**Price** : Rupees sixty only

**Printed at**  
Trio Process  
Kolkata 700 014

## Preface to the Revised Second Edition

The increasing popularity of the book, viz. *World Thinkers on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda*, originally published in 1983, has naturally called for its revision, additions, and alterations through the passage of time.

In its revised edition the book in fitness of things bears a new title, viz. *Great Thinkers on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda*. In the words of Sri Aurobindo, 'Of all these souls [*avatāras*] Sri Ramakrishna was the last and greatest, for while others felt God in a single or limited aspect, he felt Him in His illimitable unity as the sum of an illimitable variety. In him the spiritual experiences of the millions of saints who had gone before were renewed and united. Sri Ramakrishna gave to India the final message of Hinduism to the World.'

The Ramakrishna-Vivekananda movement has been the most marvellous contribution of creative India to world civilization. If Sri Ramakrishna is regarded as the 'prophet' of the new movement, Swami Vivekananda is certainly its greatest 'preacher' of protagonist. India is born anew through the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda movement to work out the salvation not only of India but of the world at large.

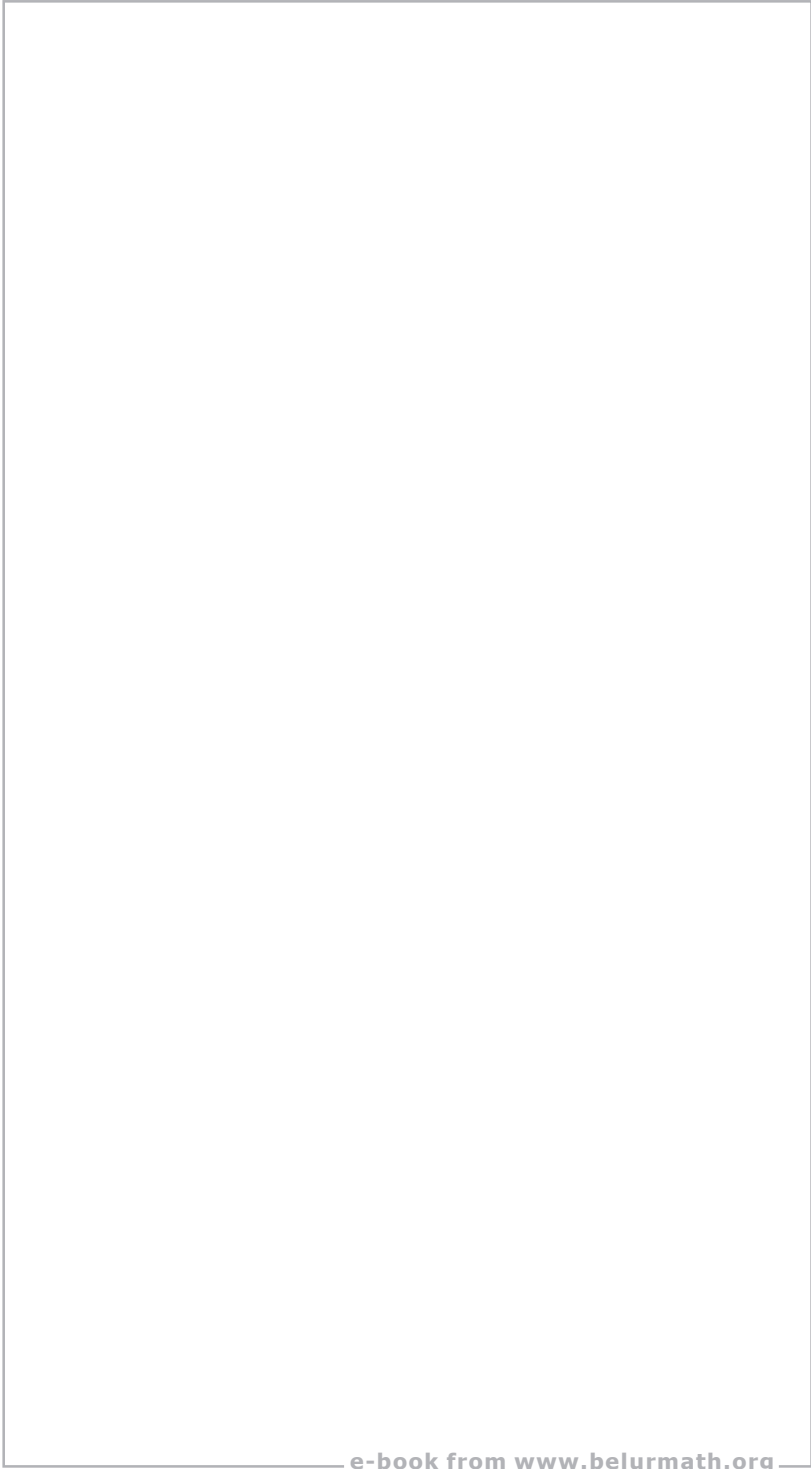
The main inspiring force behind this revised edition is Swami Prabhananda, (now General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission) while acting as the Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, we entrusted Professor Haridas Mukherjee of the Indological Studies and Research wing to revise the whole book in the light of certain suggestions and the new materials presented by the former to the latter.

We hope that the revised edition of the book will receive proper appreciation from the thinking minds all over the world.

Kolkata  
27 February, 2009

Swami Sarvabhutananda  
Secretary

( v )



## Foreword to the First Edition

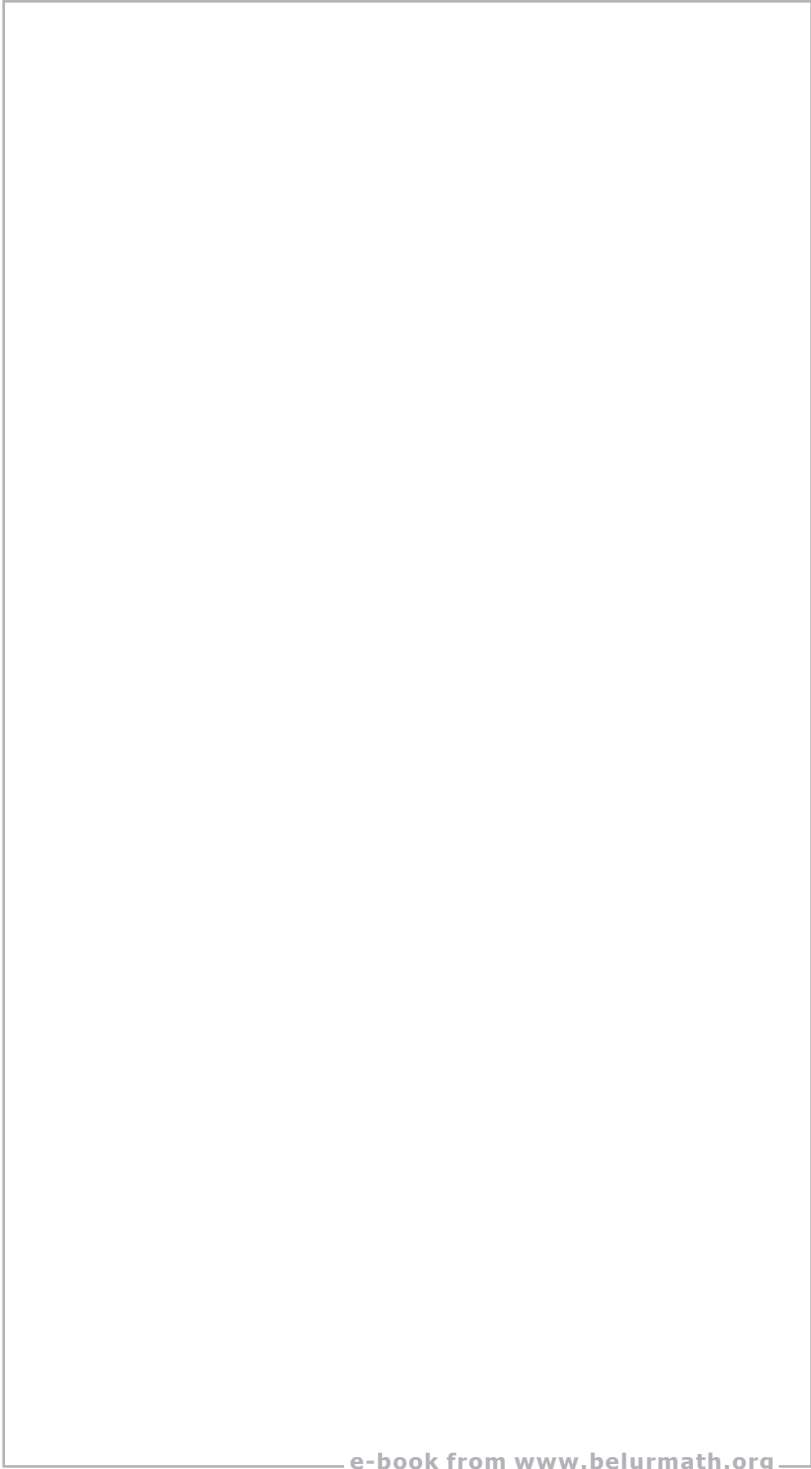
Ramakrishna and Vivekananda represent one single truth, one its spirit and other its form. What is the truth they represent? That man can develop till he feels he is one with God. To develop to that point is, according to them, the goal of life. Every effort that man makes should be directed to that end.

Between themselves, they have done much to regenerate India. They are not just religious and social leaders, they have given back to India her lost identity by rousing her national pride. Indian Renaissance can truly be said to have begun with them.

Yet Ramakrishna and Vivekananda are above all barriers of race and creed. Their concern is for mankind as a whole, for to them it is one despite its many superficial divisions. If today their influence is spreading, it is because they address themselves to entire humanity. No wonder they enjoy universal love and respect, a fact to which the following pages bear ample testimony. This small book, with tributes to Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda from savants across the world, has proved immensely popular in that it has needed a second edition within a short while.

Calcutta  
14 November, 1983

Swami Lokeswarananda  
**Editor**



## Contents

### Tributes to Sri Ramakrishna by

	Page
Aldous Huxley	3
Amaury de Reincourt	4
Amiya Chakravarty	4
Arnold J. Toynbee	5
Ashapurna Devi	7
Sri Aurobindo	7
Benoy Kumar Sarkar	9
Brahmabandhab Upadhyaya	12
Brojendra Nath Seal	14
C. Rajagopalachari	15
Christopher Isherwood	15
Claude Alan Stark	16
D. S. Sarma	17
Dalai Lama	18
Ernest C. Brown	18
Friedrich Max Müller	18
Francis Younghusband	25
George C. Williams	26
Govind Ballabh Pant	26
Harlow Shapley	27
Henry R. Zimmer	27
Hiren Mukherjee	27
Humayun Kabir	28
Huston Smith	29
Jadunath Sarkar	31
Jawaharlal Nehru	32



	Page
Joseph Campbell	32
K. M. Munshi	33
Leo Tolstoy	33
Leroy S. Rouner	34
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi	35
Mahendranath Sircar	35
Mohitlal Majumdar	36
Muhammad Daud Rahbar	36
Muhammad Sahidullah	39
Nicholas K. Roerich	39
Paul Brunton	41
Philip Glass	41
Pitirim A. Sorokin	44
Pramathanath Tarkabhusan	44
Protap Chandra Mozoomdar	45
Rabindranath Tagore	48
Radhakamal Mukerjee	48
R. C. Majumdar	51
Richard Schiffman	52
Romain Rolland	53
Sarat Chandra Bose	54
Sarojini Naidu	55
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	56
Satis Chandra Chattopadhyaya	56
Sayed Mujtaba Ali	57
Sivanath Sastri	58
Subhas Chandra Bose	60
Tarasankar Bandyopadhyaya	61
Thomas Merton	61
Will Durant	62
William Digby	62
<b>References and Notes</b>	<b>62</b>

## Tributes to Swami Vivekananda by

	Page
A. D. Pusalker	69
A. L. Basham	69
Annie Besant	70
A. Ramaswami Mudaliar	71
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	71
Benoy Kumar Sarkar	72
Bepin Chandra Pal	75
Brahmabandhab Upadhyaya	81
Brojendranath Seal	84
C. F. Andrews	85
C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar	85
C. Rajagopalachari	86
Christopher Isherwood	86
D. S. Sarma	91
E. P. Chelishev	91
Ella W. Wilcox	94
Federico Mayor	94
Felix Marti- Ibanez	96
Francis Younghusband	96
Gopal Halder	97
Henry Miller	97
Hiren Mukherjee	98
Huang Xin Chuan	99
Huston Smith	101
Indira Gandhi	103
J. C. Bose	103

	Page
Jadunath Sarkar	104
Jawaharlal Nehru	104
Jay Prakash Narayan	106
Kakasaheb Kalelkar	107
K. M. Munshi	108
K. M. Panikkar	109
Lal Bahadur Shastri	109
Leo Tolstoy	110
Emma Calvé	112
M. K. Gandhi	113
Mahendranath Sircar	113
Manabendra Nath Roy	114
Michael Talbot	115
Munshi Premchand	116
Nagendranath Gupta	117
Prafulla Chandra Ray	118
R. C. Dutt	118
Radhakamal Mukerjee	119
Radhakumud Mukerjee	119
R. C. Majumdar	120
R. G. Pradhan	125
R. Rybakov	125
R. Sugathan	128
Rabindranath Tagore	129
Rajendra Prasad	133
Romain Rolland	134
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	140
Satyendra Nath Bose	141
Shyama Prasad Mookerjee	141

	Page
Sri Aurobindo	142
Subhas Chandra Bose	143
Subrahmanya Bharati	147
Suniti Kumar Chatterji	148
U Thant	152
Vincent Sheean	153
Vinoba Bhave	154
Will Durant	156
William Ernest Hocking	157
William James	159
<b>References and Notes</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Biographical sketch of the Great Thinkers</b>	<b>169</b>