



Viśvavibhūti Svāmī Śrī Vivekānanda - the Enlightened Soul in deep meditation

Here are some impressions and reflections of the eye-witnesses:

"I was at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. When that young man got up and said, 'Sisters and brothers of America,' seven thousand people rose

to their feet as a tribute to something they knew not what. When it was over, I saw scores of women walking over the benches to get near him, and I said to myself, 'Well, my lad, if you can resist that onslaught you are indeed a God.' - Mrs. S. K. Blodgett.

Yes, indeed, he was a god - in deed and in word. Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself has assured us, His devotees:

"Yad yad vibhūtimat sattvam śrīmad
ūrjītam eva vā.
Tat tad evāvagaccha tvam mama
tejomśasambhavam."

"Whosoever is endowed with superior strength, is blessed with grandeur and glory and wields mighty majestic power, regard that being as having been born of a particle of My own effulgence."

According to another eye-witness report, "When Mr. Vivekananda addressed the audience as 'Sisters and Brothers of America,' there arose a peal of applause that lasted for several minutes." (Barrows and Houghton)

And Svāmījī himself told us a "deafening applause of two minutes followed."

Analysts have tried to find the cause of that sudden, spontaneous electrification of the entire audience. What made the listeners so exuberant? Why that kind of unbounded display of emotional integration and identification? The people present at the Parliament themselves could not figure out why they cheered Svāmījī so spontaneously at the very first words with which he addressed them. We believe it was his spiritual power, attained through life-long sādhanā and tapasyā. (He was only 30 years old, but his soul was much more ancient.)

It was his deep faith in what he spoke. He was honest and sincere. He meant exactly what he said. And what did he say? He said: