

# **THE RAMAKRISHNA MISSION AND SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**

Dr. Jijo jayaraj

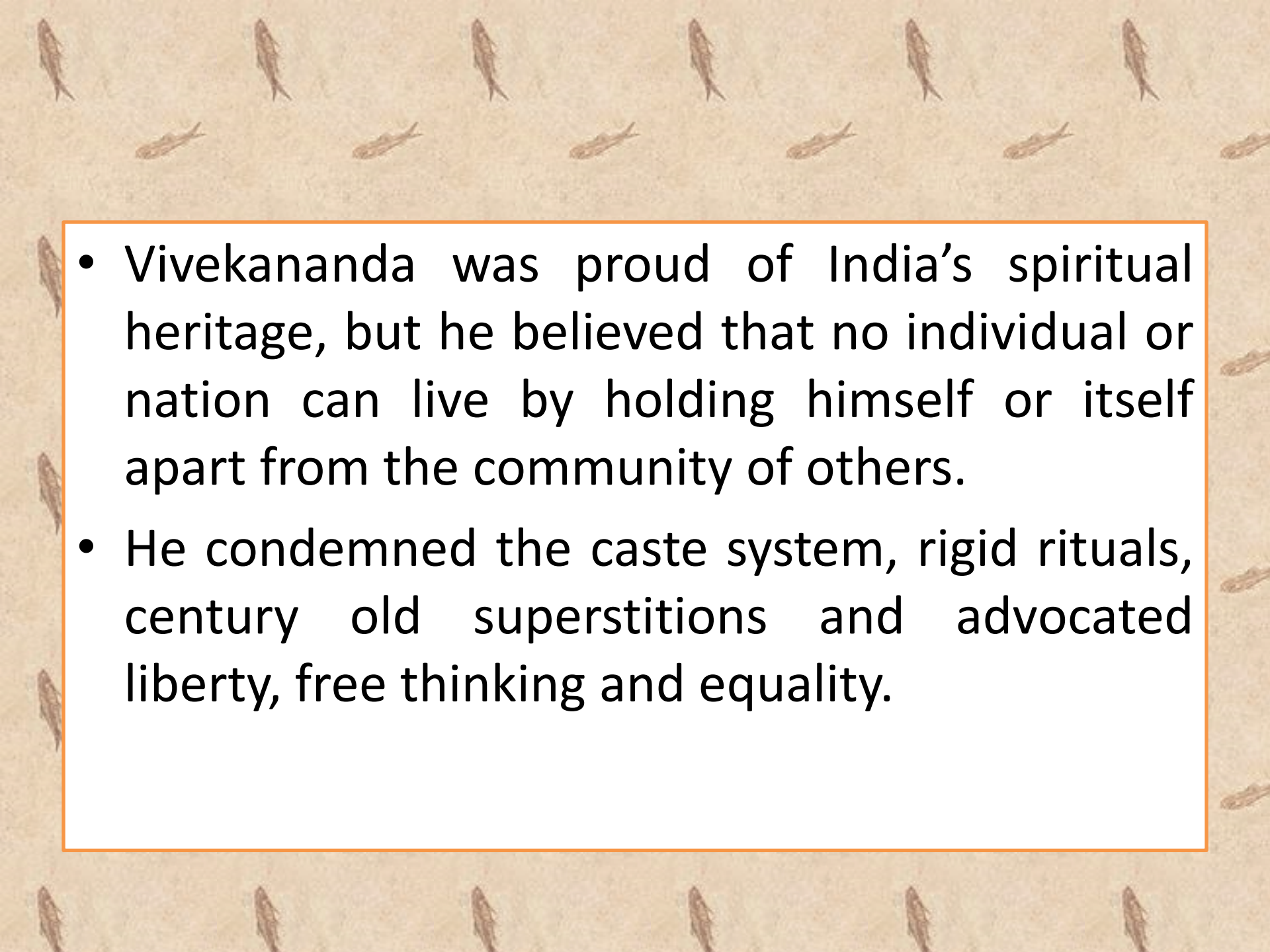
- Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya (1836-86) was a poor Brahmin priest who later came to be known as Ramakrishna Paramahansa
- His education did not proceed beyond the elementary stage and he had no formal education in philosophy and Shastras.
- He dedicated his life to God.
- He believed that there were many roads to God and the service of man was the service of God, because man was the embodiment of God.
- Hence sectarianism had no place in his teachings.
- He realised the divinity in humanity and looked upon the service of mankind as a means to salvation.

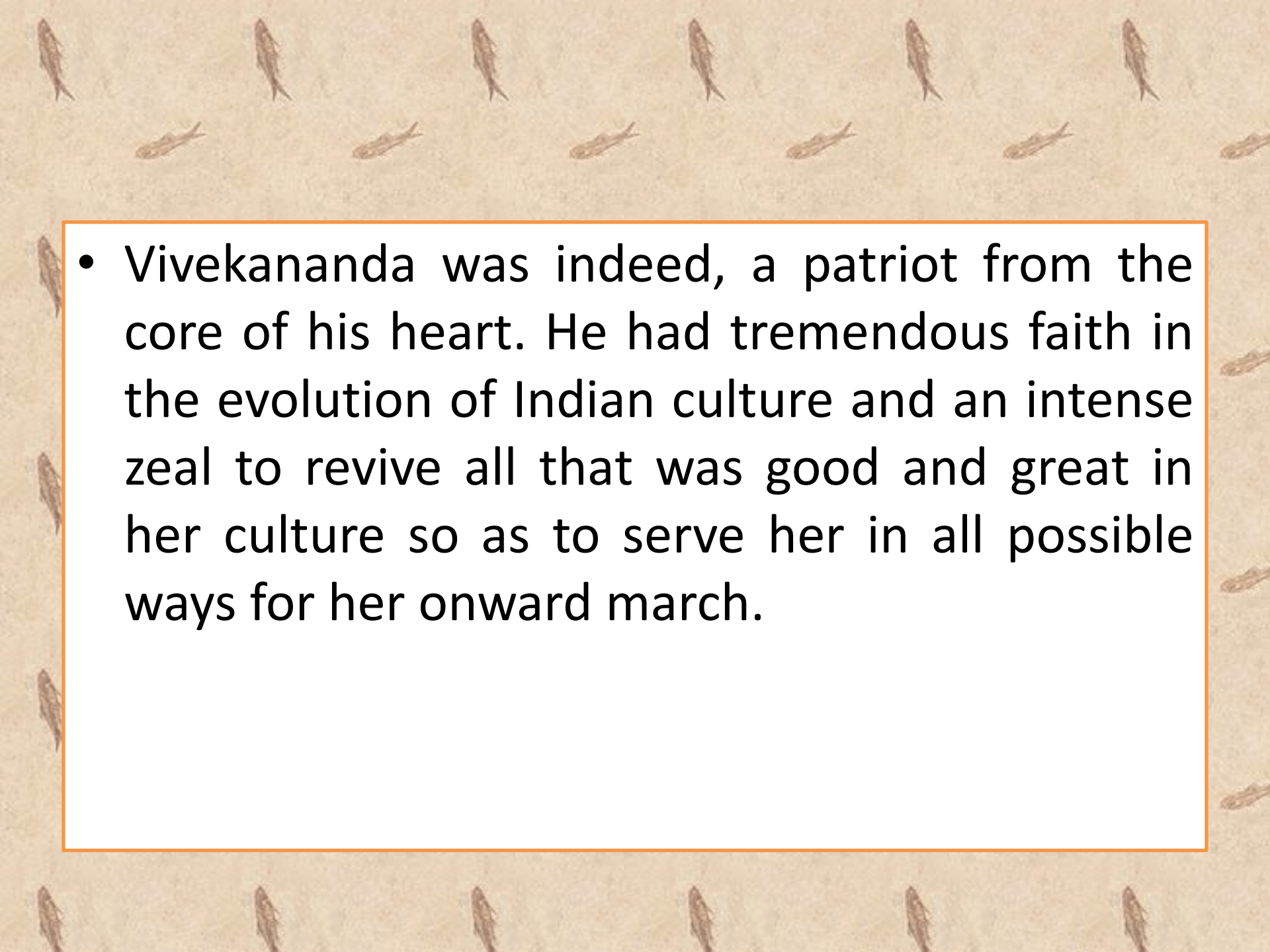
# The two objectives of the movements were:-

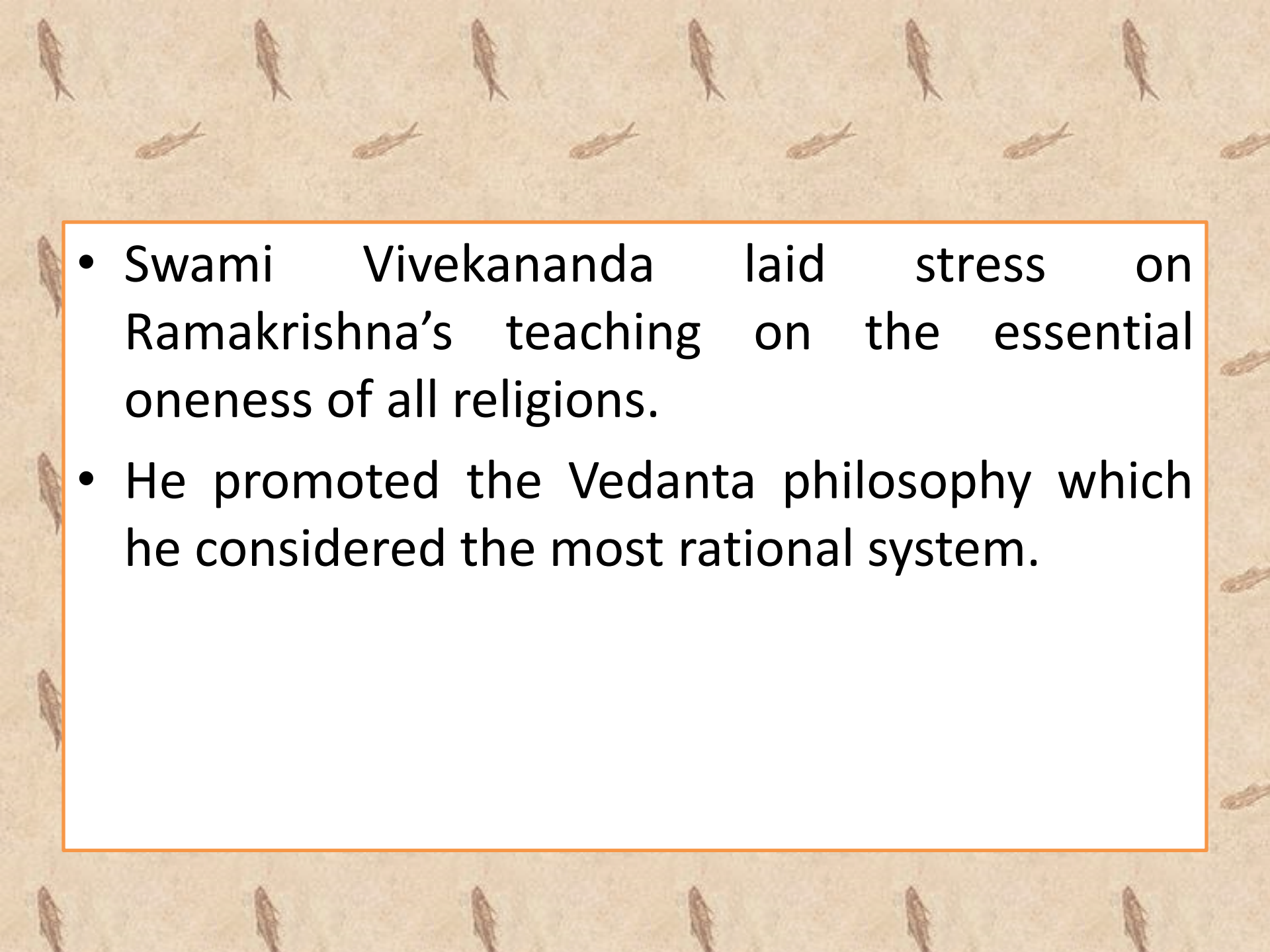
- [?] To bring into existence a band of monks dedicated to a life of renunciation and practical spirituality, from among whom teachers and workers would be sent out to spread the Universal message of Vedanta as illustrated in the life of Ramakrishna
- [?] In conjunction with lay disciples to carry on preaching, philanthropic and charitable works, looking upon all men, women and children, irrespective of caste, creed or color, as veritable manifestations of the Divine.

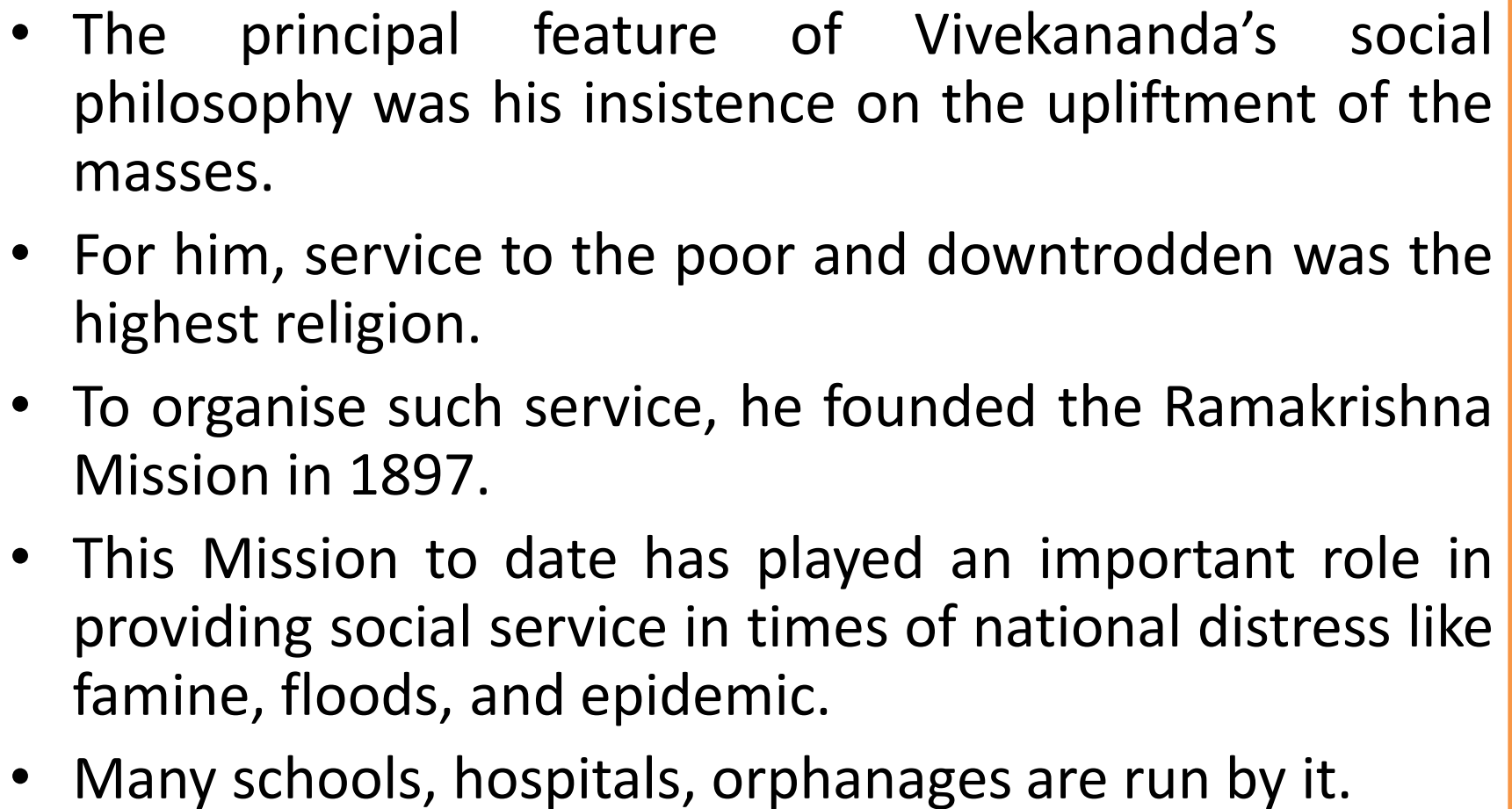
# Swami Vivekananda

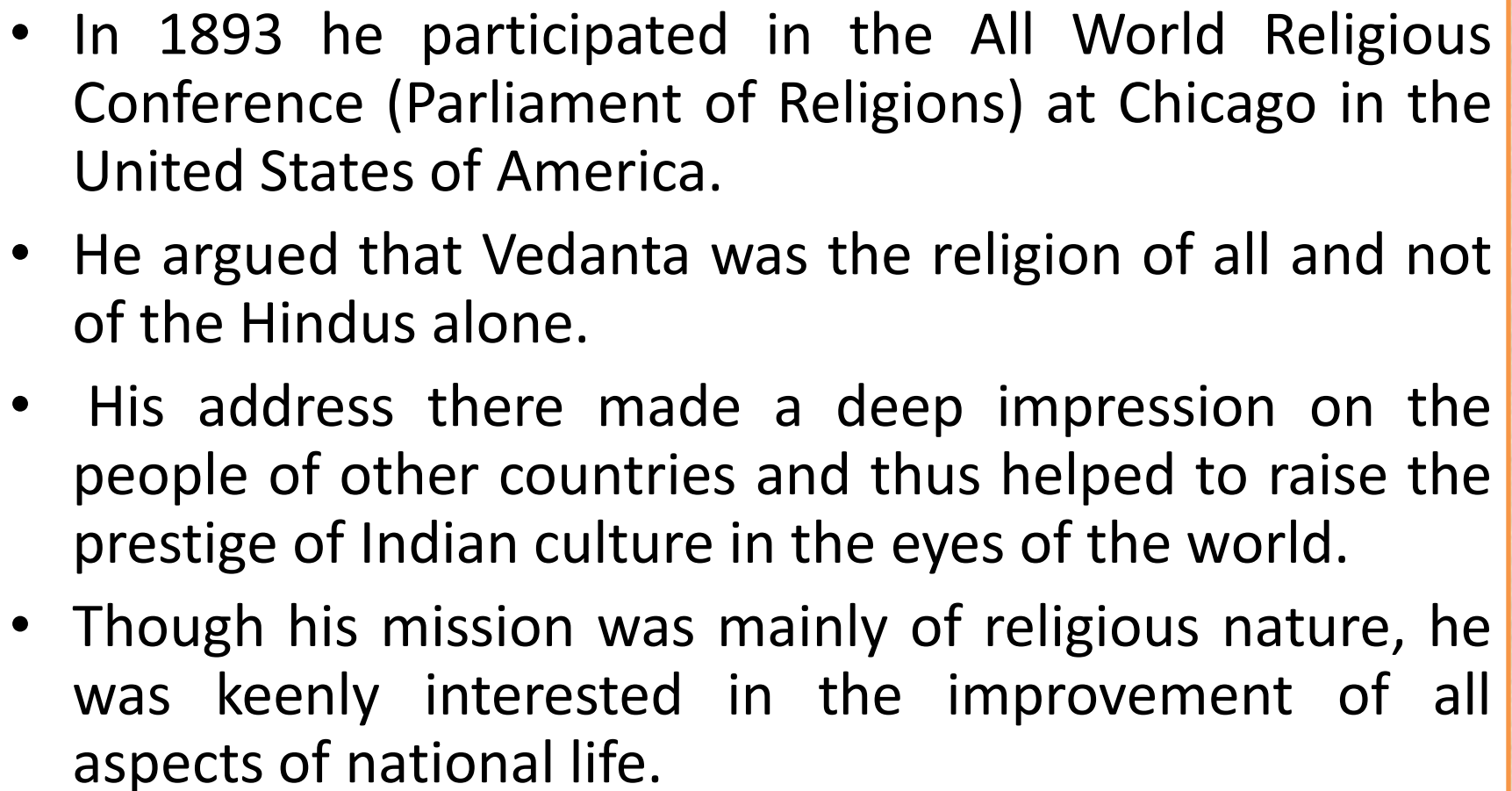
- Narendra Nath Datta (1863-1902) later known as Swami Vivekananda was the most devoted pupil of Ramakrishna Paramahansa who carried the message of his Guru Ramakrishna all over the world, specially in America and Europe.

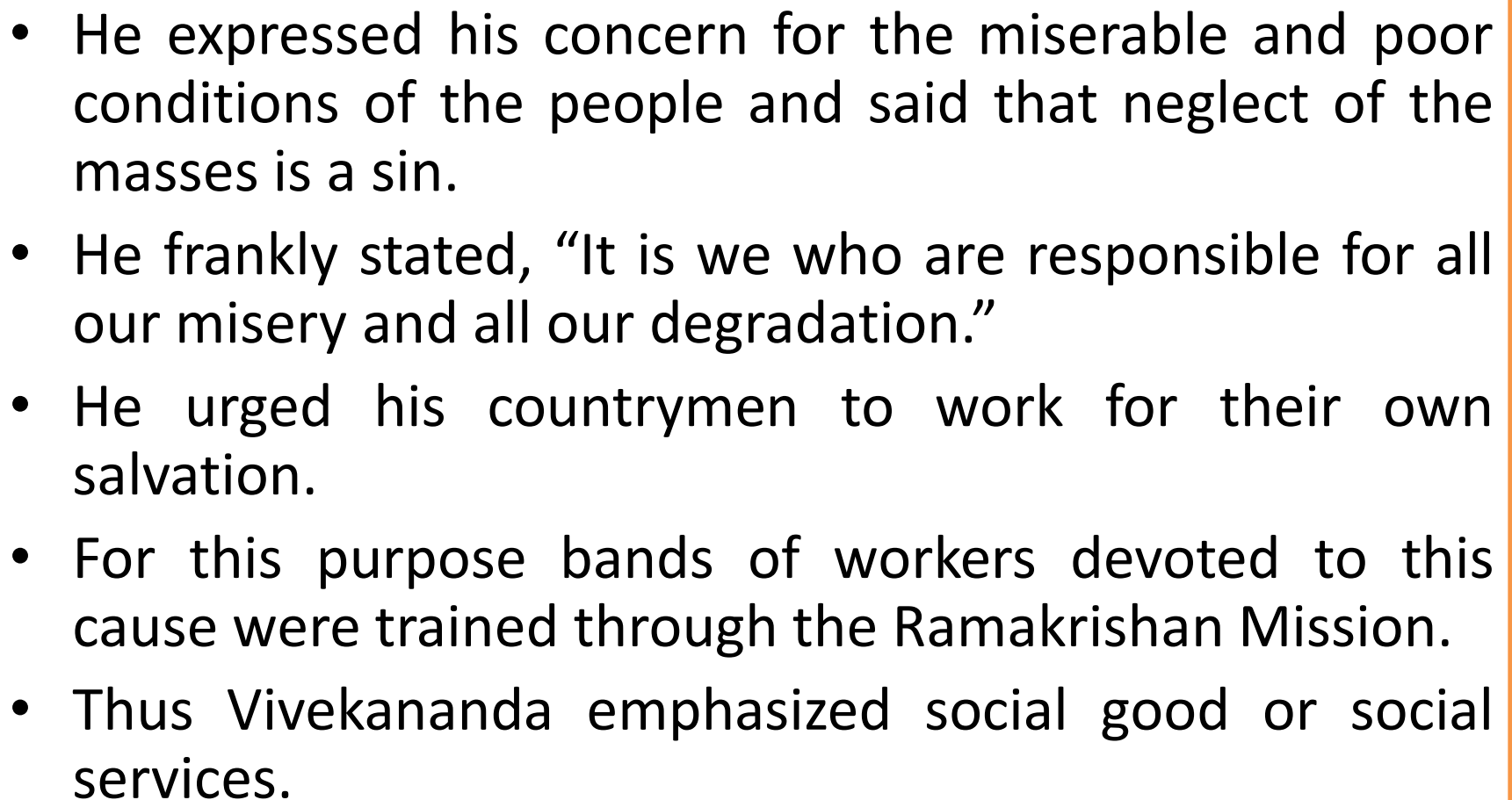
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- Vivekananda was proud of India's spiritual heritage, but he believed that no individual or nation can live by holding himself or itself apart from the community of others.
  - He condemned the caste system, rigid rituals, century old superstitions and advocated liberty, free thinking and equality.

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- Vivekananda was indeed, a patriot from the core of his heart. He had tremendous faith in the evolution of Indian culture and an intense zeal to revive all that was good and great in her culture so as to serve her in all possible ways for her onward march.

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- Swami Vivekananda laid stress on Ramakrishna's teaching on the essential oneness of all religions.
  - He promoted the Vedanta philosophy which he considered the most rational system.

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- The principal feature of Vivekananda's social philosophy was his insistence on the upliftment of the masses.
  - For him, service to the poor and downtrodden was the highest religion.
  - To organise such service, he founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
  - This Mission to date has played an important role in providing social service in times of national distress like famine, floods, and epidemic.
  - Many schools, hospitals, orphanages are run by it.

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- In 1893 he participated in the All World Religious Conference (Parliament of Religions) at Chicago in the United States of America.
  - He argued that Vedanta was the religion of all and not of the Hindus alone.
  - His address there made a deep impression on the people of other countries and thus helped to raise the prestige of Indian culture in the eyes of the world.
  - Though his mission was mainly of religious nature, he was keenly interested in the improvement of all aspects of national life.

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- He expressed his concern for the miserable and poor conditions of the people and said that neglect of the masses is a sin.
  - He frankly stated, “It is we who are responsible for all our misery and all our degradation.”
  - He urged his countrymen to work for their own salvation.
  - For this purpose bands of workers devoted to this cause were trained through the Ramakrishan Mission.
  - Thus Vivekananda emphasized social good or social services.

The background of the entire image is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of small, stylized fish. The fish are drawn in a simple, sketchy style using a brownish-tan color. They are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some fish oriented vertically and others horizontally, creating a rhythmic, textured background.

**Thank you...**