Poem by Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda belonged to the 19th century, yet his message and his life are more relevant today than in the past and perhaps, will be more applicable in future because persons like Swami Vivekananda do not cease to exist with their physical death. The influence of their thought gain momentum as years pass by. Here I am sharing with you a poem by Swami Vivekananda –

The Living God

He who is in you and outside you,
Who works through all hands,
Who walks on all feet,
Whose body are all ye,
Him worship, and break all other idols!

He who is at once the high and low,

The sinner and the saint,

Both God and worm,

Him worship — visible, knowable, real, omnipresent,

Break all other idols!

In whom is neither past life
Nor future birth nor death,
In whom we always have been
And always shall be one,
Him worship. Break all other idols!

Ye fools! who neglect the living God, And His infinite reflections with which the world is full.

While ye run after imaginary shadows, That lead alone to fights and quarrels, Him worship, the only visible! Break all other idols!

(Written to an American friend, 9th July 1897.)

<u>Shared by</u> – Dr. Mrs. Mrinalini P. Thaker English Department