



**CHAPTER 1**  
**THE NEED FOR RELIGION**  
**(M.K. GANDHI)**

**NOTES**

**SUMMARY**

The need for religion is an extract from “*Young India*” written by **M.K. Gandhi**. Here he is not speaking of any particular religion but religion in a broad sense. However he feels that religion alone can instil in man the spirit free from fear.

In this extract, Gandhi states that the greatest and the most immediate need is a proper religion spirit. He adds that owing to the religions spirit being dominant in us, we are living in a state of perpetual fear. We fear the temporal as well as the spiritual authority. In his humble opinion, fearlessness is the first thing indispensable before we could achieve anything permanent and real. The quality is unattainable without consciousness. He strongly proposes us to fear god and we shall cease to fear now.

In deep sense of sorrow, he states that faith is gradually disappearing in the student world. He strongly suggests that at the first step to a true education is a pure heart. He knows that god is neither in heaven or in down below, but in everyone- be a Hindu, a Muslim, a Paris, a Christian man or woman. He requests the teachers to cultivate their hearts and establish a heart contact with the students today. According to him the fact that teachers and professors work for the wages they get, they have no time to give to the students outside the classroom which is the greatest stumbling block in the development of the life and characters of student today. He strongly suggests fashioning our hearts rather than our brains.

He confesses that his inability to drive the truth of the law home to those who have no faith in and no need for a power infinitely higher themselves. His own experiences had let me to the knowledge that fullest life is impossible without an immovable belief in a living law in obedience to which the whole universe moves, a man without faith is like a drop thrown out of the ocean, bound to perish.

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