Your Name

Instructor Name

Course Number

Date

India is the land of people with remarkable devotion that go on journeys to reach a deep understanding of nature. These people are known by the name ‘Yogis". They leave the comforts of their home and endure the hardships of nature. They develop amazing powers of body and mind through Yoga. One such journey of a boy named Neelkanth who traveled across the wonders of India has inspired millions of people. He studied different Hindu's Old Scriptures. All along his family knew that one-day Neelkanth will leave his home to become a Yogi. On June 29th of 1792 at the age of only 11 years, he started the journey (*Incredible True-Life Story of Neelkanth | Unforgettable Journey*).

**Experiences Relayed**

In the north, he climbed the roof of the world, the home of snow while he faced waterless deserts on the other side. He saw people with the development of agriculture, have good knowledge of astronomy and mathematics. His journey included traveling from his hometown to India's holiest river, the Ganges. When people first interacted with him, they were impressed by his intelligence and asked him to come to the town of Haridwar, which was an important place of pilgrimage. When the chief of the pilgrimage asked him to make that place his home, he replied that his journey is like a cloud and wherever there is thirst, he will travel there. He then reached Shripur a mountain village famed for its temple named Kamleshwa. The village there was fearful of a lion, people asked him to take shelter, but Neelkanth had already spent time in the wild and was acquainted with those animals. The villagers asked Neelkanth to stay, but he denied by saying that what they need is the courage to rise above fear and not him (*Incredible True-Life Story of Neelkanth | Unforgettable Journey*). He spent wintertime in the Himalayas with sheer determination and faith, when others left their houses. There he spent time in Hindu religion most sacred mountain mount Kailash. He then spent his time in Muktinaath the historical temple of Vishnu. He spent four years in the Himalayas and then moved east to share his stories with others. He then moved towards Rameshwaram temple and from there on continued his journey to the southern part of India. In the end, he arrived in the area of Gujrat. There he met Ramanand who requested him to be his successor, at first he hesitated but then realized that this was the spiritual home that he was looking for.

**Asceticism and Mysticism**

Neelkanth has inspired many people through his journey. India is a very large and populous country of different religions, sects, and cultures. Through his traveling, he shared his efforts and stories of sacrifice, hardships, and wisdom achieved through it. That has helped many people to live in harmony and peace. His lifestyle and journey is a true example of Hindu renunciation called Sannyasa. Sannyasa is defined in terms of a simple life with no materialism. It includes the study of meditation and ethical values. Mirabai and Ramananda were previous great examples of Hindu Yogi's that were an inspiration for many people like Neelkanth. The life of Neelkanth was not different from many other Yogi's but the major characteristic that set him apart was his age and wisdom. There isn't any example of a Yogi greater than Neelkanth. The journey’s in general help these Yogi’s that travel through different cultures and then share their experiences with others. As for one of the biggest countries in the world. India has many religions and cultures, and these differences can often cause problems. However, it is through these mystic Yogi's who share their stories and bring harmonies among people.

**Unity in Diversity**

Hindu religion is not a religion that follows one specific God. Different people have different beliefs and specific set of Gods associated with them. Hindu religion is a very diverse religion. With diversity, there can be disharmony as well; however, with the implications of proper teachings, it can be avoided. That is why different Hindu Yogis and swamis have historically focused on the term "unity in diversity". This statement implies that no matter where you are, or from whichever branch of Hinduism you are, you will be treated equally. Although there are some classifications today, the teachings of different Yogi's like Neelkanth have always focused on the unity of different cultures. This is because he knew only then can they serve humanity.

**Work Cited**

*Incredible True-Life Story of Neelkanth | Unforgettable Journey*. *YouTube*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmuIyUDJL5E. Accessed 3 Oct. 2019.