

Tagore's contribution in shaping up Indian literature and life

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Abstract

Rabinder Nath Tagore ji is known as compelling figure in Indian Literature. Being sovereign in nature, he manifested various dimensions of Hindu culture and experimented with transcendent themes in his native language. Tagore ji's prolific compositions dealt with commoners' emotion, struggle, and values made his approach globalized in the era of colonized Indian. His advocacy of humanity using myths left a rich legacy to Bengali literature. Tagore ji's ideas of knowledge, inner strength, listening human instincts are still counted as greatest treasures in Indian literature. Optimistic note in his works and theme of commoner's life established his identity as a cultural icon. His works are translated in many languages. He acclaimed Nobel Prize for his naturalism, lyricism, colloquialism and unnatural contemplation. Call for freedom, cultural identity and humane attitude and creative self-expression are the significant expression ever found in his works. Need for intellectual development and natural expressions strike the readers' hunger for intellectualism, humanism and spiritualism in Indian circumstances.

Keywords: Amalgamation, spontaneity, accumulation

Introduction

When we talk about Indian literature, our focus is generally, limited and confined to R.K. Narayan, Milk Raj Anand and other feminist writers. Undoubtedly, prominent and most read literary works and their writers mostly enjoy the readership. In all our delusions and illusions, we generally, rather conveniently forget Rabinder Nath Tagore ji who displayed Bengali, Indian and English literature, not an exaggeration if we say an amalgamation of all these three maintaining their individual identity. Tagore ji bagged Nobel Prize in literature, when sovereignty in politics was a distant dream, Tagore ji enabled us to enjoy it in English literature with his famous work Gitanjali. With Gitanjali we not only attained fame worldwide but also manifested before world the mythological spiritual and also ethical dimensions of Indian culture, religion and rich Hinduism which sent waves of surprise and honour for Indian culture and religion worldwide.

Here in this paper the point of discussion is not Gitanjali, also not any work of Tagore ji showing his skills as a short story writer or as a dramatist or tor as a novelist, here, the main focus is on the gems of wisdom strewn everywhere in his works, collected in various books to guide, inspire and strengthen people in their distress and to fructify their talent and give good shape to their lives. I would like to quote such inspiring lines from Tagore ji's poems.

Where the mind is without fear
 I and the head is held high
 Where knowledge is free
 Where the clear stream of
 Reason has not lost its way
 Into the dreary desert sand of
 Dead habits.
 Where the mind is led forward
 By this into ever wondering
 Thought and action... (*Inspiring Thoughts*)

In above lines, he refers to 'thee' the god and beseeches his grace and help but his point of view is very liberal approach is purely scientific, he does not invoke any divine or super natural agency but churns up the inner strength of an individual. His perception and ideology also supports a mind without fear, which can realize the value of himself, his belongings and also the surroundings. His vision is to have a head with great and high self-esteem and knowledge without any bondage or barrier of caste, religion or socio-economic background. He supports with clarity and transparency not to be deceived by manipulators or equivocator, but it should be steady, avoiding diversions should shun the bad habits which mar its beauty and eclipse its sheen.

Tagore ji's remarkable feature is to bind human soul with super soul. He wants people to rise, realize their dreams, shape up their career and professional life but also in shade and grace of God. Almighty is the controlling force in entire work of Tagore ji, a contributory agencies to lead, direct and guide human instincts and actions. He takes work as a command of God and recommends the same for his reader. For Tagore ji, life is a never-ending, ever growing pursuit of knowledge ever increasing, even growing to benefits the humans.

Age considers, Youth ventures, with in four words, he sums up the creative adventurous nature, risk taking ability and curiosity of youth and a check required on them by experience and consideration of seasoned people. Assigning supreme importance to man, he writes

The fish in the water is silent,
 The animal on the earth is noisy
 The bird in the air is singing
 But man has in him
 The silence of the sea
 The noise of the earth and
 The music of the air. (*Stray Bird 43*)

Tagore ji stresses upon the inner strength and virtues of man

and continuously suggests mankind that man is strongest, absent of species and his strength is beyond measure. Talking about over rationality and undue priority to logic only, he substantiates

A mind all logic is like
A knife all blade it makes
The hand bleed that uses it. (qtd. in McBride 96)

Temprance, emotions and mutual understanding are also requisite for Tagore ji to sustain life well. Even during freedom struggle, Tagore ji's prime thought and priority was definitely to freedom. He disapproved bondage and compulsion of any kind, anywhere. He presents

The soil in return for new service
Keeps the tree tied to her
The sky ask nothing and leaves
It free (*web*)

Now, we see, he believes in spontaneity and also advocates free deliverance of knowledge and ideas. Freedom has been his first love as expressed in his every work. His contribution even to freedom straggly is very important and unforgettable. Presenting his views on liberal ideas and community spirit, he writes

Whatever we treasure for ourselves separates us from others. (*web*)

Our possessions are our limitations. He stresses upon the facts that possession limit our capabilities and our expansions. Accumulations are juxtaposed against expansion and mutual relationships expressing his ideas about service he writes

I slept and dreamt that life was joy
I awoke and saw that life was service
I altered and behold service was joy. (*Stray Bird*)

How beautifully he connects life with joy: joy with service is remarkable and worth noticing. To conclude we can say that Tagore ji's views are sermons in miniature, to guide ignorant and suffering humanity. Though he is not much talked about but his contribution is somehow the first and greatest. His gems of wisdom are inscribed on heart of people.

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