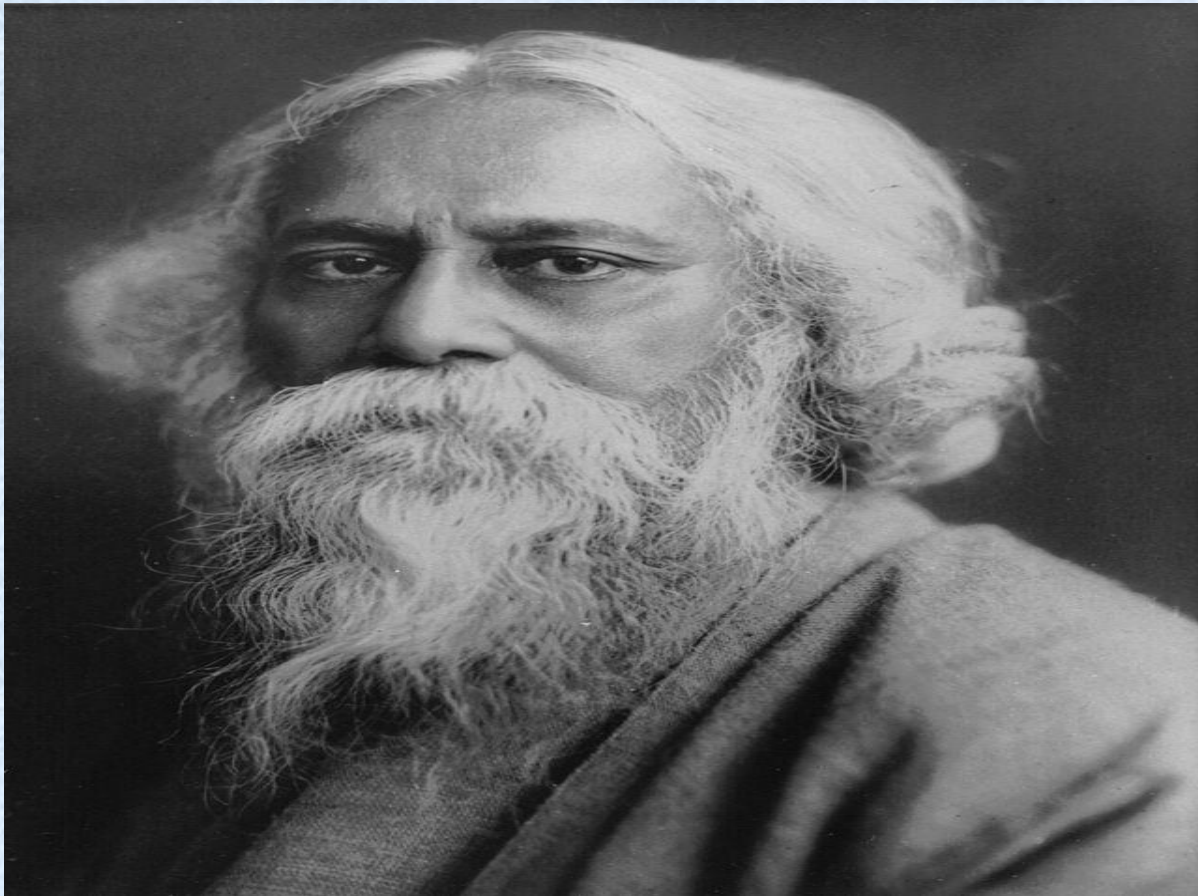


SEMINAR PRESENTATION
Where the Mind is Without Fear
by Rabindranath Tagore

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RABINDRA NATH TAGORE

About the Poet

Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941) was a Bengali polymath- poet, writer, composer, philosopher and painter. He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of the "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse" of **Gitanjali**. In 1913 he won the **Nobel Prize** in Literature. Tagore's poetic songs were viewed as **spiritual and mercurial**; however, his "elegant prose and magical poetry" remain largely unknown outside Bengal. Tagore wrote poetry as an eight-year-old. At the age of sixteen, he released his first substantial poems under the pseudonym **Bhānusimha** , which were seized upon by literary authorities as long-lost classics. By 1877 he graduated to his first short stories and dramas, published under his real name. As a **humanist, Universalist , internationalist, and ardent anti-nationalist**, he denounced the British Raj and advocated independence from Britain. As an exponent of the Bengal Renaissance, he advanced a vast canon that comprised paintings, sketches and doodles, hundreds of texts, and some two thousand songs; his legacy also endures in the institution he founded, **Visva-Bharati University**. His novels, stories, songs, dance-dramas, and essays spoke to topics political and personal. **Gitanjali** (Song Offerings), **Gora** (Fair-Faced) and **Ghare-Baire** (The Home and the World) are his best-known works, and his verse, short stories, and novels were acclaimed—or panned—for their lyricism, colloquialism, naturalism, and unnatural contemplation. His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: India's "**Jana Gana Mana**" and Bangladesh's "**Amar Shonar Bangla**".

Original Bengali script

চিত্ত যেথা ভয়শূন্য, উচ্চ যেথা শির
জ্ঞান যেথা মুক্ত, যেথা গৃহের প্রাচীর,
আপন প্রাঙ্গণতলে দিবশবরী
বসুধারে রাখে নাই খণ্ড ক্ষুদ্র করি,
যেথা বাক্য হৃদয়ের উৎসমুখ হতে
উচ্ছসিয়া উঠে, যেথা নির্বারিত স্রোতে
দেশে দেশে দিশে দিশে কর্মধারা ধায়
অজস্র সহস্রবিধ চরিতার্থতায়,
যেথা তুচ্ছ আচারের মরুবালুরাশি
বিচারের স্রোতঃপথ ফেলে নাই গ্রাসি,
পৌরুষেরে করেনি শতধা, নিত্য যেথা
তুমি সর্ব কর্ম চিন্তা আনন্দের নেতা,
নিজ হস্তে নির্দয় আঘাত করি, পিতঃ
ভারতের সেই স্বর্গে করো জাগরিত।

English Translation

**Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic
walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert
sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and
action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.**

HISTORY

Where the mind is without fear (Bengali: চিত্ত যেথা ভয়শূন্য, Romanized: Chitto Jetha Bhoyshunno, is a poem written by 1913 Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore before India's independence. It represents Tagore's vision of a new and awakened India. The original poem was published in 1910 and was included in the 1910 collection Gitanjali and, in Tagore's own translation, in its 1912 English edition. Where the mind is without fear is the 35th poem of Gitanjali, and one of Tagore's most anthologized poems. It is an expression of the poet's reflective spirit and contains a simple prayer for his country, the India of pre independence times. This poem was most likely composed in 1900. It appeared in the volume Naivedya in the poem titled "Prarthona" (July 1901, Bengali 1308 Bangabda). The English translation was composed around 1911 when Tagore was translating some of his work into English after a request from William Rothenstein. It appeared as poem 35 in the English Gitanjali, published by The India Society, London, in 1912. In 1917, Tagore read out the English version (then titled 'Indian Prayer') at the Indian National Congress session in Calcutta.

Central Idea of the Poetry In this poem, written in the context of India's independence movement, Rabindranath has beautifully portrayed the need and success of individual freedom to rise above political freedom. He called on India and Indians to be vigilant. It can be said that Rabindranath has expressed his freedom through this poem. The fact that only political freedom is not complete freedom is clearly expressed in this poem. According to Rabindranath, independence was not only liberation from British rule, but also the scope or imagination of freedom was wide in his mind. Freedom is not only the transfer of political power but also personal freedom, freedom of knowledge, freedom of free thought is essential for a nation as a whole, these words are observed in this poem.

Summary of the Poetry

Freedom means where the mind will be fearless, that is, there will be no fear in the human mind. Where man will live with dignity by raising his head, where knowledge will be open, knowledge will be for all, there will be no difference. The justification of freedom will apply only where there will be no discrimination between people. Everyone will live together. Where there is no boundary between rich and poor. Only then is freedom possible. Freedom will be where people will speak their heart without hesitation. That is where the truth will be uttered from the heart. Because honesty is the best way, so where there is truth, there is freedom. With this he envisioned an independent India where human activities would spread like free currents in the country and abroad. That is, their work will not be hindered by political boundaries. Freedom will be where people's efforts for success or their actions will not be trapped in any political barrier. The poet imagines freedom where it is impossible to confine knowledge and justice with trivial conduct, irrational customs and rituals. That is, freedom will remain where reason and knowledge will not be defeated by superstition and superstition. So the poet is praying to God above all to make India such a free country with his own hands. That India will be free from discrimination, bigotry, lies, oppression and superstition. And then India will become a paradise