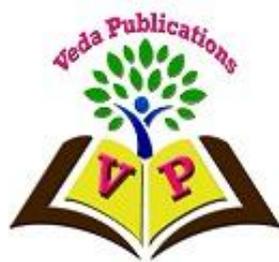


**TAGORE'S HUMANISM:A SELECT POEMS FROM "GITANJALI"**

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Tagore's *Gitanjali* is a collection of 108 Poems." *Gitanjali*" is a collection of poems originally in Bengali and are translated into English. These are the song offerings by the poet to the Divine. Each poem of "*Gitanjali*" displays the simplicity of thoughts. The translated poems into English too are excellent in their Divine filled thoughts .The Poems are the thoughts about the Divine. They are the thoughts about the offering of one's own heart at the feet of God. The sense of devotion in this collection of poems translated into English is indescribable. The ideal way of reading the poems of "*Gitanjali*" is to read and understand each thought and proceed further. No thought seems to be far away from Tagore's pen. Apart from the sense of devotion, there is an element of human approach in "*Gitanjali*". A devotee finds his God, a seeker finds his master, an explorer finds his destination, a lover finds his beloved in these Poems. Tagore expresses that service to mankind is service to God. Without serving our own fellow human beings, we can never see God. God lies in the poor and the wretched. We see God through our services to mankind. Man's life is a journey. Our destination is to reach God. We can reach Him only through our kind-heartedness, generosity, love and help to our fellow human beings. This paper deals with a select Poems from "*Gitanjali*" in which Tagore advises a temple priest, addresses a devotee to realize God in his noble actions. All the spiritual and philosophical poems of Tagore from "*Gitanjali*" purely humanistic.

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"*Gitanjali*" is a collection of poems translated into English. Each poem of "*Gitanjali*" displays the simplicity of Tagore's poetic Imagery. Tagore writes about giving up God in one page and making work as worship. The readers are impressed by Tagore's sense of dedication to work. In the very next poem he manages to describe the complete devotion of a human in God. This is the human approach of Tagore in "*Gitanjali*". W. B Yeats gives a beautiful and fitting tribute as a preface to this edition. Anyone reading this anthology should not miss the Preface of "*Gitanjali*".

In the poem "Leave this chanting" - the humanistic approach is at its height. The poet asks the priest,

"Leave this chanting, singing and telling of beads!

Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut?

Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!

He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground



And where the path maker is breaking
the stones
He is with them in Sun and Shower
And his garment is covered with dust
Put off thy holy mantle and even like
him come down on the dusty soil !
Where is the deliverance to be found?
Our master himself has joyfully
Taken upon the bonds of creation
He is bound with us all forever
Come out of thy meditations and leave
aside thy flowers and incense
What harm is there if thy clothes
become tattered and stained?
Meet him and stand by him in toil and
in sweat of thy brow"

This poem is an excellent example of Tagore's Humanism. Tagore doesn't appreciate the devotion of the priest in the temple, with the doors all shut. When the poor are toiling in tilling the hard ground, the devoted priest worships in the temple. That gesture of the priest is not commendable according to the poet. The poet guides the priest to find God in the "sweat" of the hard working people.

Another poem wonderfully translated into English is about the worthy, simple and great gifts that God gives to us unasked..."The sky and the light, this body and the life and the mind, saving me from perils of over much desire"

God treats all human beings equally. The simple gifts of God are the greatest gifts to mankind. The perils of human life are the uncertain goals.

"When I awaken and hurry in search of my goal,
Day by day thou art making me worthy of full acceptance by refusing me ever saving me from perils of weak uncertain desire"

The simplicity of life makes us happy. This is the simple meaning of this poem.

The humanistic element is also seen in Song 36. Tagore prays to God to remove the poverty of his heart. He also prays for strength to bear his joys and sorrows lightly. He wants to have the broad - mindedness filled with Love. He wants to serve the fellow human beings.

"This is my prayer to thee, my Lord

Strike Strike at the root of penury in my
heart
Give me the strength lightly to bear my
joys and sorrows
Give me the strength to make my love
fruitful in service
Give me the strength never disown the
poor
Or bend my knees before insolent
might
Give me the strength to raise my mind
high above daily trifles
And give me the strength to surrender
my strength to thy will with love"

Each poem of Tagore translated into English is packed with a beautiful thought. The assurance of God to human life, the shelter from restless journeys is described in this poem.

"Thou hast made known to friends
whom I knew not
Thou has given me seats in homes not
my own
Thou has brought the distant near
And made a brother of the stranger
I am uneasy at heart when
I have to leave my accustomed shelter
I forgot that there abides the old in the
new
And that there also thou abidest
Through birth and death in this world
or in others"

Tagore is a humanist. He talks about many spiritual related ideas in his poems. There is a subtle humanism in his poems. Their sweetness is unending. The readers are fascinated to his poems because of their easy to read and understand nature. Even in his spiritual poems we find humanistic approach which is inseparable from his poetry.

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