

Rabindranath Tagore (An Introduction 1)

PG Semester 3

CC 13

Unit I

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Tagore was creative genius who played a crucial role in the cultural renaissance of India and Bengal in the 19th and early 20th century. As well as being a Seer poet, Tagore's achievement included notable contribution in the fields of music, literature, plays, art and education reformer. Rabindra Tagore was Asia's first Nobel Prize winner. He was awarded the NOBEL Prize for literature in 1913 for his book Gitanjali. Tagore was born in 1861, the youngest son of Debendranath Tagore and Sarda Devi. Debendranath Tagore was himself an influential Bengali and member of the Brahmo Samaj. Although very wealthy he had an underlying spirituality, qualities which to a large extent were inherited by his youngest son Rabindranath. As a young boy Rabindranath Tagore was asked to sing by his father. Debendranath was so impressed with the soulfulness of his singing that he credited him with a valuable gift.

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Rabindranath Tagore wrote his first poem at the age of six and as a young boy studied the classical poetry of Kalidasa. He also studied the Upanishads, languages and modern sciences. In 1878 he travelled to England in the hope of becoming a barrister. However in 1880 he left University College London and returned to India because his father had arranged his marriage to Mrinalini Devi. Thus Tagore returned home to get married and look after his family estates. This enabled a productive period of writing poetry, plays and short stories. In 1901 Tagore moved to Shantiniketan (West Bengal) where he found an ashram, dedicated to returning educational traditions of ancient India. Later this school was to be expanded and given the name of Shriniketan Abode of Peace. This project was dear to Tagore's heart throughout his life.

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Dr. Md. ShahanaWaz Alam