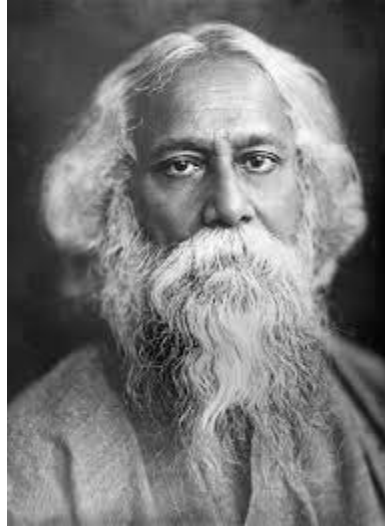


RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Rabindranath Tagore, lovingly remembered as Gurudev, was one of India's greatest literary and cultural icons. Born on 7 May 1861 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), Tagore was a remarkable polymath—poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer, and painter—whose contributions continue to inspire generations across the world.

A leading figure of the Bengal Renaissance, Tagore reshaped Bengali literature, music, and Indian art in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His writings reflected deep sensitivity, lyrical beauty, and profound philosophical thought. His works often explored themes of love, nature, spirituality, and human emotions, making them timeless and universally relevant.

Tagore is best known for his celebrated collection of poems, *Gitanjali (Song Offerings)*, which earned him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. With this achievement, he became the first Asian and the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, bringing global recognition to Indian literature and culture.

A versatile and prolific writer, Tagore authored poems, novels, essays, short stories, and plays. Some of his notable works include *Gora*, *The Home and the World*, and *The Post Office*. He also composed over 2,000 songs, known collectively as *Rabindra Sangeet*, which remain an integral part of Bengal's cultural heritage.

Tagore's influence extended far beyond literature. A visionary educationist, he believed in learning through creativity, nature, and freedom. This vision led to the founding of Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, where education was nurtured through the harmonious blending of art, literature, and life.

A significant moulder of culture in the Indian subcontinent, Tagore also wrote and composed India's national anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, and inspired the national anthem of Bangladesh. His contributions to India's cultural and intellectual heritage remain unparalleled.

Rabindranath Tagore passed away on 7 August 1941, but his legacy lives on through his words, music, and ideas. Revered as the "Bard of Bengal" and known by titles such as Gurudev, Kobiguru, and Biswakabi, Tagore continues to be celebrated as one of the most influential figures in Indian literature and history.