

TAGORE'S SONG OFFERING

Dr. Rajnish Mishra

Assistant Professor, Department of English

SGPG College, Sarurpur-Khurd, Meerut

**BA English Part II, Paper 2
(IWEPP)**

20 January 2020

GITANJALI

Gītāñjali, a collection of poetry, the most famous work by Rabindranath Tagore, published in India in 1910.

Tagore then translated it into prose poems in English, as Gitanjali: Song Offerings, and it was published in 1912 with an introduction by William Butler Yeats.

Medieval Indian lyrics of devotion provided Tagore's model for the poems of *Gītāñjali*. He also composed music for these lyrics.

Love is the principal subject, although some poems detail the internal conflict between spiritual longings and earthly desires. Much of his imagery is drawn from nature, and the dominant mood is minor-key and muted.

The collection helped win the Nobel Prize for Literature for Tagore in 1913, but some later critics did not agree that it represents Tagore's finest work.

SONG NO. 1

Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel
thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life.

This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast
breathed through it melodies eternally new.

At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy
and gives birth to utterance ineffable.

Thy infinite gifts come to me only on these very small hands of mine.
Ages pass, and still thou pourest, and still there is room to fill.

SUMMARY

God had made man imperishable and everlasting because it is God's pleasure to make him so. Man's physical body is a weak, breakable vessel into which God has imparted life. Into it God gives life again and again and thus renders mortal man immortal.

The poet is a mere reed which God designs into a flute. He is the instrument through which God the musician plays new and melodious songs, carrying it over hills and valleys.

When God places his hands on the poet his limited heart expands into unlimited bounds through joy and happiness and from this is born inexpressible joy which becomes poetry. God's unlimited gifts are received by man's limited hands. Life after life God continues to pour his blessings on man. God pours inspiration eternally.

ANALYSIS

Tagore begins his 'song-offering' with a beautiful conceit of human life. The human soul is eternal whereas his body is perishable and mortal, but God wills it so that man is in reality immortal.

His mortality is an illusion.

The reality is that God blows his spirit into him and thus lives on ever after, though the body may die again and again. God is the supreme creator who inspires eternally melodious music out of the frail instrument that is man.

ANALYSIS

The limited and bound human heart expands into limitless joy and thus poetry is created out of divine inspiration.

Man is a frail vessel, a breakable being, and he is a little being, but he is endowed with an endless, everlasting life as God continues to pour his blessings on man and God's gifts are in such bounty that it is never exhausted.