



# SRI AKILANDESWARI WOMEN'S COLLEGE, WANDIWASH

## SINGLE AUTHOR STUDY

II PG ENGLISH  
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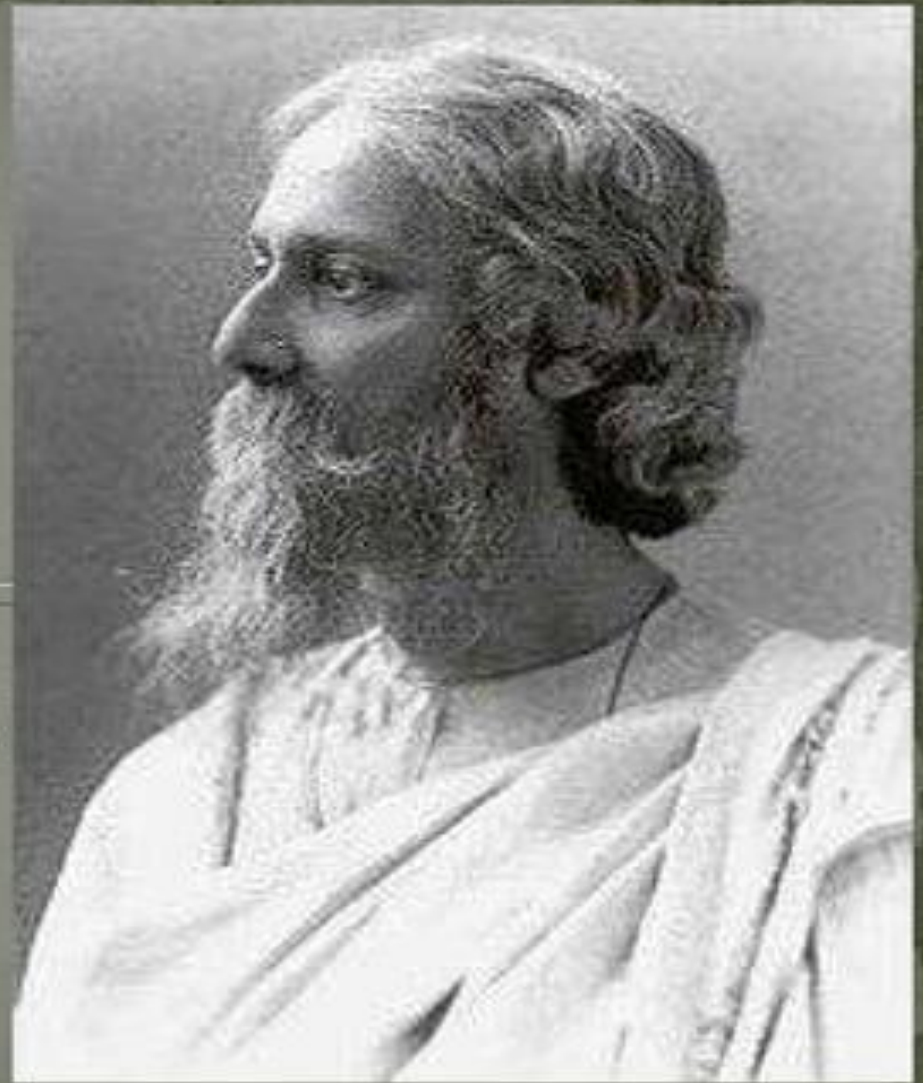
# SECTIONS

- Section 1: Gitanjali – Song offerings
- Section 2: The Postmaster
- Section 3: Kabuliwala
- Section 4: Malini
- Section 5: Stories by Tagore

# **GITANJALI**

**BY**

**RABINDRANATH TAGORE**



# **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

▣ Robindronath Thakur

7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941

▣ Gurudev Tagore , was a Bengali poet, novelist, musician, painter and playwright

## **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

- ❑ Tremendous influence on Bengali literature, culture & Indian literature
- ❑ Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913
- ❑ Knighted by the British Crown in 1915, which he returned after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.

## **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

- The only writer who has written anthems of two countries, India & Bangladesh.
- Founder of Santiniketan – the Visva Bharati University.
- Proponent of Indian independence

# WORKS OF TAGORE

COMPOSER OF....	
POEMS	3,000
SONGA	2,000
VOLUMES OF	40
PLAYS	50
NOVELS	8
NOVELLAS	4

# GITANJALI

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**“SONG OFFERINGS”**

**A collection of prose translations  
made by the author from  
the original Bengali  
With an introduction by  
W. B. YEATS**



H A collection of 103 poems,

- Largely translations, by Rabindranath Tagore himself
- The translations were undertaken prior to a visit to England in 1912, where the poems were extremely well received.

↳ Gitanjali (Gitanjoli) is also the title of an earlier Bengali volume (1910) of 157 mostly **devotional** songs.

n The word 'gitanjoli' is composed from "**git**", song, and "**anjoli**", offering, and thus means - "**An offering of songs**"

■ Half the poems (52 out of 103) in the English text were selected from the Bengali volume, others were taken from these works (given with year and number of songs selected for the English text): Gitimallo (1914, 17), Noibeddo (1901, 15), Khea (1906, 11) and some from other works.

- The word for offering, anjoli, has a strong devotional connotation, so the title may also be interpreted as "prayer offering of song"
- The English collection is not a translation of poems from the Bengali volume of the same name.

POEM NO. 72

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**THEME OF GOD AS LOVER AND  
GOD LIVING WITHIN**

**POEM NO. 72**

Life of my life, I shall ever try to keep my body pure, knowing that thy living touch is upon all my limbs.

I shall ever try to keep all untruths out from my thoughts, knowing that thou art that truth which has kindled the light of reason in my mind.

POEM NO. 69

---

THE THEME OF ONENESS WITH  
NATURE AND NATURE  
AS EMBODIMENT OF DIVINE  
INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH  
ROMANTICISM

POEM NO. 69

The same stream of life that runs  
through my veins night and day  
runs through the world and dances  
in rhythmic measures.

## POEM NO. 8

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### THEME OF FREEDOM FROM MATERIAL BONDAGE

## POEM NO. 8

The child who is decked with prince's robes and who has jewelled chains round his neck loses all pleasure in his play; his dress hampers him at every step.

In fear that it may be frayed, or stained with dust he keeps himself from the world, and is afraid even to move.

POEM NO. 86

---

THE THEME OF DEATH

POEM NO. 88

Death, thy servant, is at my door.  
He has crossed the unknown sea  
and brought thy call to my home.  
The night is dark and my heart is  
fearful - yet I will take up the lamp,  
open my gates and bow to him my  
welcome. It is thy messenger who  
stands at my door.

# THE POSTMASTER

Rabindranath  
Tagore

*Theme: - The Portrayal of Women and  
Social Oppression in Rabindranath  
Tagore's 'The Postmaster'*

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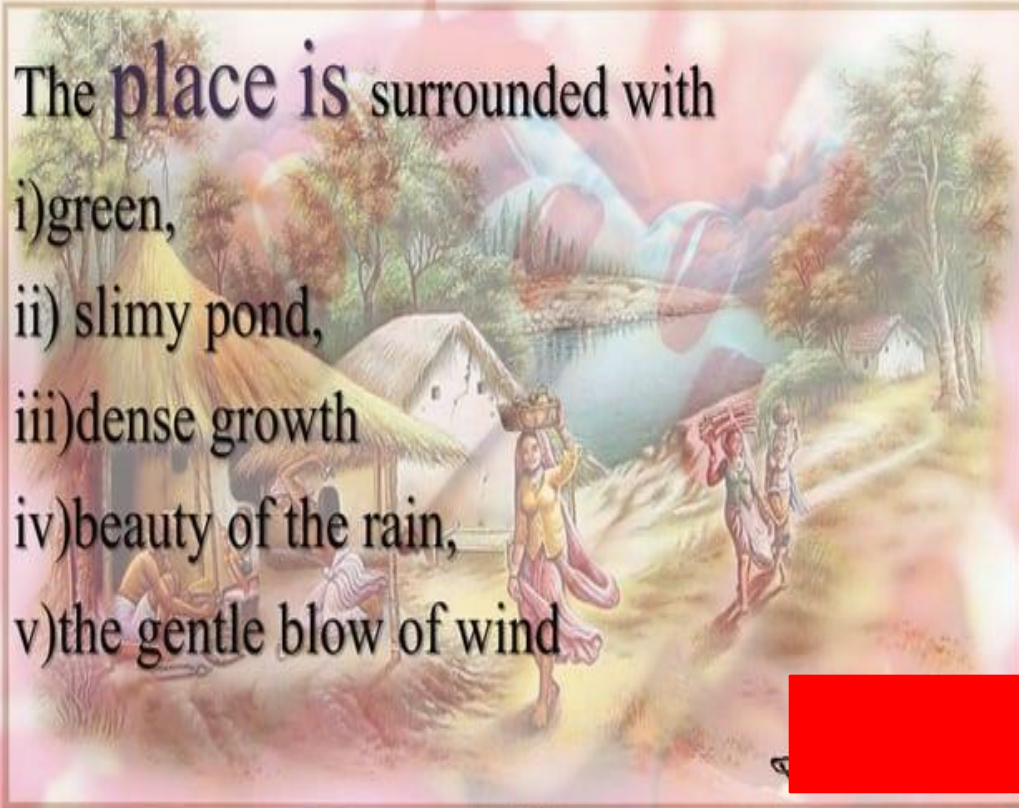
## *THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND THE LIFE OF A POSTMASTER*

- **Narrator:-**Resident of the village
- **Native:-**busy city of **Calcutta;**
- who is appointed to hold the post in the small village
- **Village name:- “Ulapur”**
- tries to adapt his new lonely life in the remote village
- “His life is compared as Fish out of water”

## ABOUT THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:-

The **place is** surrounded with

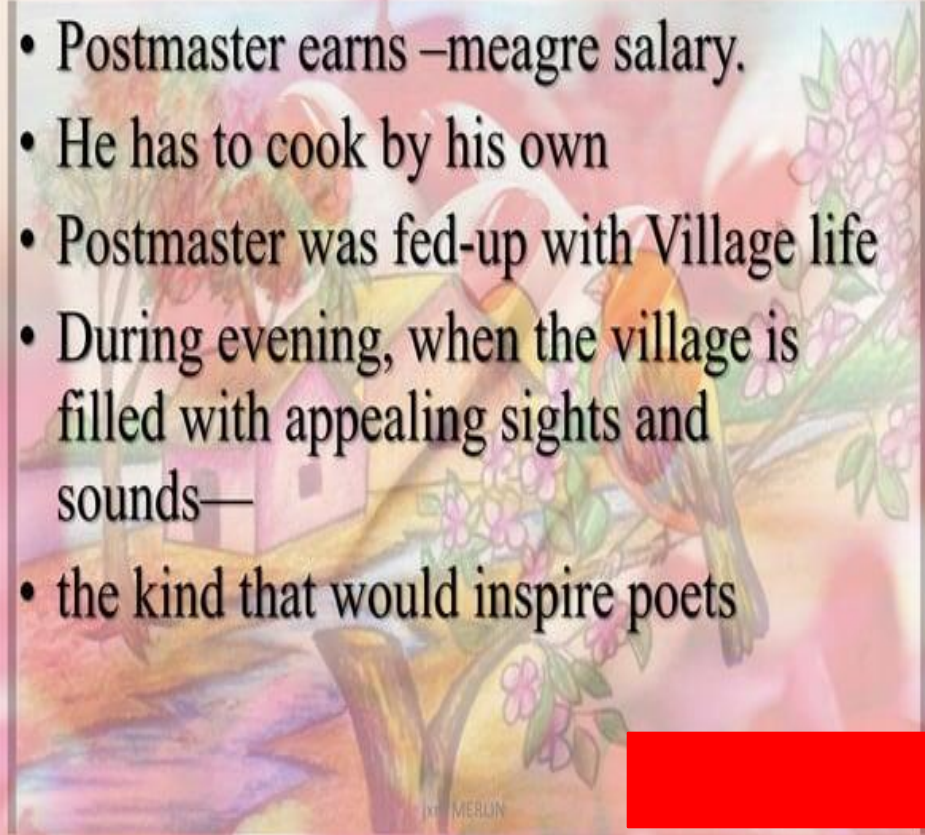
- i) green,
- ii) slimy pond,
- iii) dense growth
- iv) beauty of the rain,
- v) the gentle blow of wind



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## POSTMASTER'S BORING LIFE

- Postmaster earns –meagre salary.
- He has to cook by his own
- Postmaster was fed-up with Village life
- During evening, when the village is filled with appealing sights and sounds—
- the kind that would inspire poets



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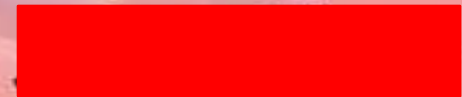
## BEST COMPANION OF POSTMASTER

- His office and living-room were in a dark **thatched shed**
- It was difficult for him to find “Best companions in the Village”
- His best companion- “Ratan” (Orphan girl)-
- Who is around 12-13 years old.

- Evenings Time:-
- The postmaster himself recalls his home, his mother and sister
- He cannot share these thoughts with the local workers
- He feels comfortable discussing them with the **innocent young girl.**
- Ratan begins speaking of the members of the postmaster's family.
- She also imagines how each of them looks”

## UNBEARABLE SITUATION OF THE POSTMASTER

- ✓ Decided to leave Ulapur after he recovered from his fever.
- ✓ He decided to apply for **“Transfer”**
- \*Reason:-Due to Unhealthiness of that place.
- ✓ Finally Application of Transfer was rejected.
- ✓ So he had to resign his post and return to his native.

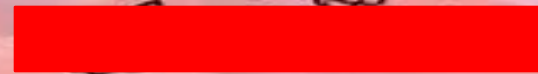


## RATAN IN DISTRESS

- ✓ She asks ***“Dada will you take me to your Home????????”***
- ✓ next day after morning bath
- ✓ The Postmaster said ***“I shall tell my successor to look after you.”***
- ✓ It Clearly refers that he refused to take Ratan with him.
- ✓ By these kind words she could not bear it.
- ✓ Then She burst out weeping and heart broken.

- ✓ She refused to stay anymore.
- ✓ She forbids him to say about her to anyone
- ✓ Before the Postmaster leaves the village he presented whole of his month's salary
- ✓ Finally Ratan fell at his feet and cried

“Oh, Dada, I pray you, don't give me anything, don't in any way trouble about me,” and then she ran away out of sight.”





- ❖ THE POST MASTER **UNDERSTOOD** HER FEELINGS.
- ❖ BY THE **STRANGE BEHAVIOUR** OF RATAN
- ❖ RATAN LONGS FOR HER DADA

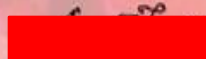




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# Kabuliwala

## Story in Short...

**Kabuliwala is a Bengali short story written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1892.**

**The story is of a merchant from Kabul, who comes to Calcutta (present day Kolkata), India each year for selling dry-fruits and while living in India.**

**He becomes friends with a five-year-old girl Mini from a middle-class aristocratic family.**

## Theme

The main theme of this story is **filial love—the deep love that fathers have for their children.**

In the story we encounter three examples of filial love—

- 1) the author and his daughter Mini;
- 2) the Kabuliwala and his own daughter in Afghanistan; and
- 3) the Kabuliwala and Mini.

In this story Kabuliwali comes to India every year to sell dry-fruits and to meet this girl named Mini.

## **Kabuliwala :- Characters**

### 1) The Narrator :-

Mini's father and the story's unnamed first-person narrator and protagonist. The events of this story largely take place in the narrator's study and just outside of his house. The narrator describes the story.

### 2) Rahamat / The "Kabuliwala" :-

Rahamat is a traveling fruit seller from Afghanistan, or a Kabuliwala, and is often referred to as such. He sells dryfruits in Kolkata. He has a family in Afghanistan with a daughter like Mini.

3) Mini:-Mini is the only child of the narrator and his wife. She is a talkative, inquisitive, and energetic five-year-old. She is very close with her father and becomes good friend of Kabuliwala.

### 4) The Narrator's Wife / Mini's Mother:-

Like the narrator, Mini's mother is never named in the story. Unlike the patient and laidback narrator, Mini's mother has a short temper and is quick to scold Mini for her mistakes.

### 5) Parvati:-

The narrator refers to Rahamat's daughter back in Afghanistan as "his little mountain-dwelling Parvati," suggesting that that's her name.

## Summary: (page.1) Start of Friendship

The Kabuliwallah is from Kabul. His real name is Abdur Rahman. He works as a peddler in India. He goes to Kabul once a year to visit his wife and little daughter.

In the course of selling goods, once he reaches to the house of writer. Then his five years daughter, Mini calls him 'Kabuliwallah! A Kabuliwallah'.

When Kabuliwallah goes to visit Mini she is afraid because he is wearing loose solid clothes and a tall turban. He looks gigantic.

When the writer knows that Mini is afraid, he introduces her with him. The Kabuliwallah gives her some nuts and raisins.

She is not now afraid of Kabuliwalla.

## Summary (page.2) Close Friendship

Mini becomes happy from next day, the Kabuliwallah often visits her and he gives her something to eat.

They crack jokes and laugh and enjoy. They also feel comfortable in the company each other.

The writer likes their friendship. But Mini's mother doesn't like it.

She thinks that the peddler like Kabuliwallah can be child lifter. However, Mini and the Kabuliwallah becomes intimate friend.

## Summary (page. 3) The Murder and Jail

The Kabuliwallah sells seasonal goods. He also sells Rampuri shawl.

Once he sells a Rampuri shawl to a customer on credit. He asks him for the money many times but he doesn't pay. At last he denies buying the shawl.

The Kabuliwallah becomes very angry and stabs the customer. Then he is arrested by police and taken him to the jail. He is jailed for eight years.

## Summary (page. 4) Meeting with Mini after Jail

When he is freed from jail after eight years, at first he goes to visit Mini .

Now Mini is a grown up girl. She is in the costume of a bride. It is the wedding day and he isn't allowed to visit her. He requests the narrator to meet her.

She does not recognise Kabuliwalla, her past friend.

He tries to describe their friendship but of no use.

## Summary (page. 5) The Ending...

Suddenly Kabuliwallah remembers his own daughter in Kabul. She must be grown up like Mini.

He shows a piece of paper with a palm impression of his little daughter to the narrator.

He misses his daughter.

The writer knows that the Kabuliwallah has no money to go back to his house so the writer cuts off the wedding expenses like a light and bands and gives one hundred rupees to the Kabuliwallah and sends him to Kabul to meet his daughter.



# Malini

## Malini

- Rabindranath Tagore

*Tagore* in his poetic play “**Malini**” presents a story of love and hatred.

The play deals with a conflict between love and hatred as well as selfish way of thinking and broadmindedness.

It is based on the concept that love in its absolute and pure form is all radiance, all pervading, and all compassionate.

The play also shows that petty selfishness assumes the name of love and rules the world with hatred.

## Malini

- Rabindranath Tagore

Malini, the princess of a Hindu kingdom had her education with Buddhist monks and started preaching their principles in the kingdom. Because of her preaching of new religion, the majority of Hindu Brahmins was agitated and started demanding Malini's banishment from the place.

Realizing the suffering of the people, Malini herself wanted to be banished from the palace in order to solve their problems.

A group of Brahmins led by Kemankar started demanding Malini's banishment appearing in front of the palace.

## Malini

### - Rabindranath Tagore

Supriya, a member of the group and the best friend of Kemankar didn't agree with the view of the group and accused them of trying to determine the truth by numbers. Because of fear of rebellion as the army was openly in their side, the Brahmins started praying the goddess to take human form to help them.

In the meanwhile, Malini appeared there and the Brahmins believed that the goddess granted their prayer and took human form.

Malini spoke to them with divine confidence and persuaded them that she wanted to help them.

The Brahmins were impressed by her love and personality and restored her back to the palace.

Realizing the threat to his religion, Kemankar decided to go abroad to bring soldiers and to uproot the new creed (religion) from the kingdom.

## Malini

### - Rabindranath Tagore

He asked his friend Supriya to him informed about the situation. But Supriya betrayed his friend Kemankar by handing over his letter to the king to gain Malini's confidence.

With the help of the letter that revealed Kemankar's plan, the king arrested Kemankar.

The king offered Supriya reward but he politely rejected it and requested the king not to kill Kemankar.

On being asked about his last wish, Kemankar desired to see his friend Supriya. Kemankar argued that the only way to solve their argument was to die together at which Supriya agreed.

Kemankar then killed Supriya by striking him with the chain. The king stood up with and sword to kill Kemankar but Malini requested the king to forgive him.

## Malini

### - Rabindranath Tagore Criticism of Malini

Tagore, the unparalleled champion in the South Asian literature fascinates the attention of the readers towards 'politics'.

Honestly, politics is not ruled by the good will of the people but it is driven with conspiracy.

Through the religion, the writer dramatizes so called politics.

The extra ordinary character 'Malini' not only haunts her own tradition by accepting the voice of the people but also explodes modernity, freedom and civilization.

The real meaning of democracy can not be interpreted by the palace but it can be redefined by the people.

Therefore it is said that the voice of the people is the voice of het god.

## Malini

### - Rabindranath Tagore

The overall plot of this play is simple and wonderful because the writer has applied his unique treatment which is also quite popular in the south Asian politics.

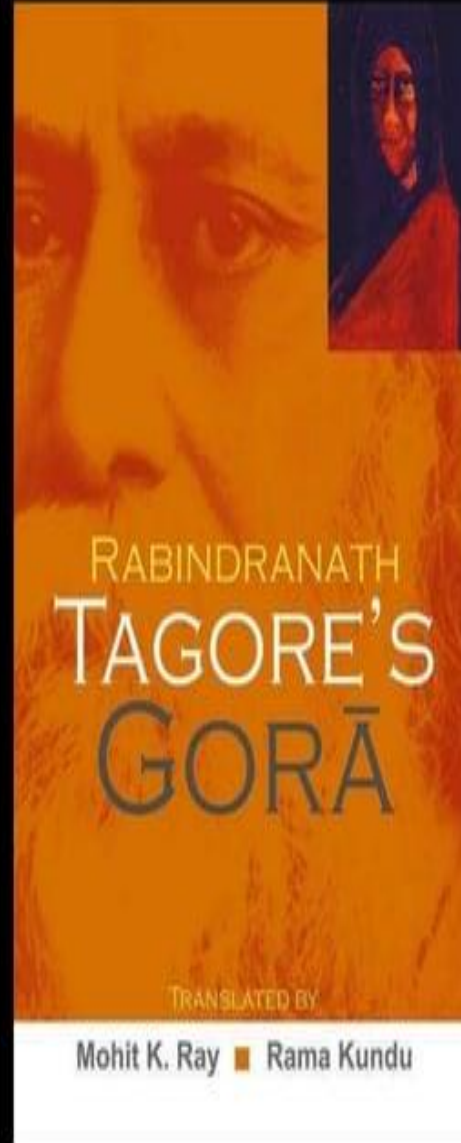
The writer has invited successful, dedicated and determined characters to dramatize his mission one of the prominent character is Kemankar, who not only plays or holds the leading responsibility but also gives the lesson of transformation.

Being the antagonist, he plays the role of protagonist by winning the heart of the people and the princess Malini. He has consistency and dedication for the road map he has drawn for the kingdom. He is the peculiar politician who wants to destroy the palace.

For this he goes to the foreign land to collect armies with weapons. He knows that his own armies aren't sufficient enough for transformation. Unfortunately, he gets betrayed by his own friend Supriya.

# Gora

- *Gora* (Bengali: গোরা) novel,
- set in Calcutta (now Kolkata),
- in the 1880s during the British Raj.

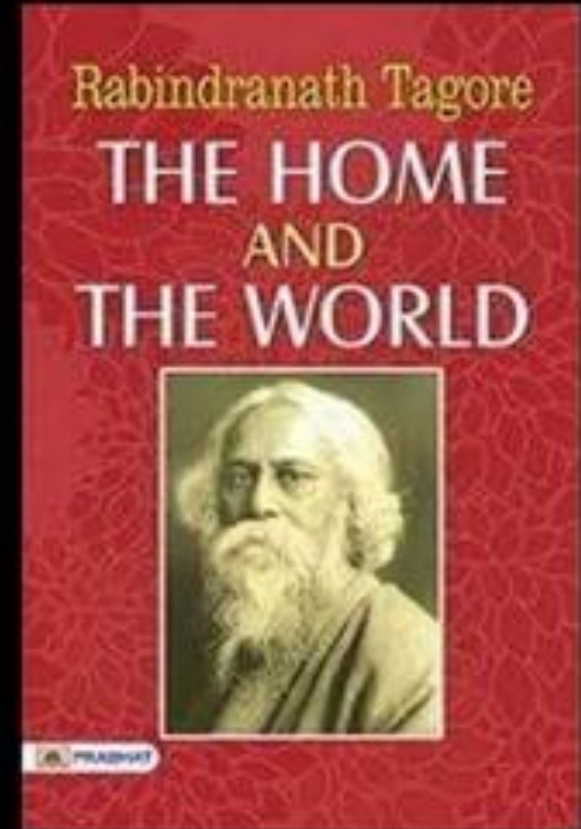


## Themes of The Novel

politics and religion  
liberation,  
universalism,  
brotherhood,  
gender,  
feminism,  
caste, class,  
tradition versus modernity, urban elite versus rural peasants,  
colonial rule, nationalism and the Brahmo Samaj

# The Home and the World

- original [Bengali](#), ঘরে বাইরে,  
*Ghôre Baire* or *Ghare Baire*,  
“At home and outside”
- Genre - Autobiographical novel
- Publication date - 1916
- two of the main characters, Nikhil  
and Sandip





# Theme of the Novel

- 1.Nationalism
- 2.Tradition Vs. Modernism
- 3.Sanip and Nikhil
- 4.Illusions
- 5.Truth
- 6.Love and union
- 7.The role of Women
- 8.Religion versus nationalism

# Subha



- Subha – title of the story is given after its central character Subhasini, a dumb girl.
- Subhashini is youngest of the three sisters of Banikantha's
- Subha has no friends but two cows Sarbbashi and Panguli. She keeps herself isolated from others.
- Her only human friend is Pratap who wastes his time in fishing. She is a burden for her family.
- She is taken to Calcutta and handed over their dumb girl into bridegroom and returned home.
- After ten days every one identified that she is dumb. She wept silently and endlessly.

**Thank You...**