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## TAGORE, WAS AN INDIAN POET AND A SAGE

**M.SHANTIAH**

Lecturer in English, S.M.L.Govt.Degree College, Yemmiganur(Thaluk), Kurnool (Dist)



**M.SHANTIAH**

### ABSTRACT

Song 36 from *Gitanjali*, is written by Rabindranath Tagore. It is a song offering to God by the poet. He prays to God that the roots of weakness which act as barriers between him and the Almighty should be removed. The root of penury means the lack of spiritual strength. It should be cut off here the image is that of a wood cutter hitting hard with an axe at the root of a tree. The poet prays to God to give him the strength to bear his joys and sorrows equally.

**Key words:** Offering, weakness, spiritual, strength, joys, sorrows.

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## INTRODUCTION

Rabindranath Tagore was born in 1861. His father is Maharshi Debendranath Tagore was a leader of the Brahma samaj in Bengal. He was a great Indian poet and a sage. He made a mark early in life in creative thinking and versification. He started writing poetry at the age of eighteen. In 1900 he established an experimental, self governing school at Shantiniketan and after twenty years he founded Vishwabharati, an International University there. He was a lover of nature, like Wordsworth, Shelley and others and had a mystic fascination for it at the same time he was realistic and matter of fact and practical. His writings are Sandhya Sangit (evening song), the Awakening of the water fall, Prabhato Sangit (Morning songs). He was a poet, storyteller, dramatist, and essayist. He wrote Naivedya. He got the Noble prize for Gitanjali in 1913, ("An Offering of Songs") it was translated into English. His admirers planned to celebrate his seventieth birthday, but it was stopped on account of Gandhiji's arrest on fifth January 1932. Bernard Shaw came to Bombay, but regretted inability to visit Shantiniketan. He paid a visit to many places in India and Ceylon. He died on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1941.

Tagore was a versatile genius who distinguished himself as a poet, painter, musician, dramatist, short story writer, educationist and philosophical thinker. The growth of his mind took place during the exciting

period in the history of India when the old order was yielding place to the new and his native Calcutta became the arena and saw the encounter between two diverse cultures of the East and the West. His Philosophy deals with idealism. He was popularly known as Gurudev. He wrote the song Janaganamana in Bengali language which was taken as a National Anthem by the Indian government and the Bangladesh.

### **Song 36, from Geetanjali**

Rabindranath Tagore is one of the best known Indian writers who wrote both in his Mother Tongue (Bangla) and in English. He was a Poet, Playwright, Novelist, Painter, Educator and Musician. He translated a collection of his own poems, Gitanjali ("An Offering of Songs") which was published in 1912. In 1913 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is the Author of the Indian National Anthem as well as the National Anthem of Bangladesh.

### **About the Poem**

In this poem the poet prays that the roots of weakness which act as barriers between him and the everlasting, all encompassing love of the supreme being be removed. He prays that he be made strong enough to accept joy and sorrow in the same way, to have the big-heartedness to serve people with love, never to scorn the poor and to rise above all pettiness. He wants to be gifted with the spirit of surrender to the Almighty.

"Song 36 from Gitanjali", is written by Rabindranath Tagore. It is a song offering to God by the poet. He prays to God that the roots of weakness which act as barriers between him and the Almighty should be removed. The root of penury means the lack of spiritual strength. It should be cut off here the image is that of a wood cutter hitting hard with an axe at the root of a tree. The poet prays to God to give him the strength to bear his joys and sorrows equally.

He prays to God to give him the capacity to serve others that they may be benefitted greatly. He prays to God to give him the strength for not ignoring the poor. Knowing that the poor need our help, we should not give them up. We should help them. The poet prays to the Almighty to give him the capacity for not bending down before the rude and proud people.

He prays to God to give him the strength to raise his mind above all the unimportant things in the daily life. Finally, he prays to God to give him the strength to surrender himself to the Almighty. It means that he should do everything that God wants him to do.

### **CONCLUSION**

Tagore was a great Indian poet and a sage. He made a mark early in life in creative thinking and versification. He started writing poetry at the age of eighteen. In 1900 he established an experimental, self governing school at Shantiniketan and after twenty years he founded Vishwabharati, an International University there. He was a lover of nature, like Wordsworth, Shelley and others and had a mystic fascination for it at the same time he was realistic and matter of fact and practical. His writings are Sandhya Sangit (evening song), the Awakening of the water fall, Prabhat Sangit (Morning songs). Tagore was a poet, storyteller, dramatist, and essayist. The poem, Song 36, is a song offering to God by the poet. He prays to God that the roots of weakness which act as barriers between him and the Almighty should be removed. The root of penury means the lack of spiritual strength. It should be cut off here the image is that of a wood cutter hitting hard with an axe at the root of a tree. The poet prays to God to give him the strength to bear his joys and sorrows equally.

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