



Spiritualism In Rabindranath Tagore's “Gitanjali”

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Abstract : "Geetanjali" is deeply intertwined with spirituality, as Rabindranath Tagore explores themes of divine love, human longing, and the search for meaning in the universe. The poems reflect Tagore's own spiritual journey and his belief in the interconnectedness of all beings with the divine. Through his verses, he invites readers to contemplate the mysteries of existence, the nature of the soul, and the quest for transcendence beyond the material world. "Geetanjali" serves as a spiritual guide, offering solace, inspiration, and a glimpse into the eternal truths that lie beyond the realm of everyday life. The aim of this paper is to find out how the poet drew the picture of spirituality throughout the poem "Gitanjali".

Key terms: spiritualism ,dimension ,deceased ,Rituals,alchemist, transcend ,navigate ,enlightenment ,grapple ,scepticism ,redemption ,pursuit .

Introduction

Spiritualism is a belief or a system of philosophy that emphasises the existence of a spiritual realm or dimension beyond the physical world .It often involves the belief in communication with spirits of the deceased or other non-physical entities ,and it may incorporate practices such as meditation ,prayer or rituals aimed at connecting with the spiritual realm . Spiritualism can vary greatly in its belief and practices ,depending on individual interpretation and cultural influences .One of the central tenets of spiritualism is the belief that it is possible to communicate with spirits of the deceased or other non-physical entities.

This communication can occur through mediums or other spiritual practices .Spiritualism may emphasise the interconnectedness of all beings and the universe viewing all life as part of a larger spiritual whole.This perspective can foster feelings of unity ,companionship and empathy toward others .Spirituality has,, sometimes one of the most misused and misconstrued of it has acquired diverse and somewhat conflicting meaning.

Spirituality in terms of literature Spirituality in literature is a rich and varied theme that explores the human search for meaning, connection, and transcendence. It often delves into questions about the nature of existence, the divine, morality, and the soul. Writers use various literary devices, symbolism, and allegories to convey spiritual insights and experiences, drawing from religious traditions, philosophical concepts, and personal reflections. Examples range from classic works like Dante's "Divine Comedy" and Herman Hesse's "Siddhartha" to modern novels such as Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" and Yann Martel's "Life of Pi." These literary works invite readers to contemplate profound questions and often offer perspectives that can inspire introspection and personal growth.

Exploration of Existential Questions

Spiritual literature often delves into existential questions about the purpose of life, the nature of reality, and the existence of higher powers or forces.

Use of Symbolism and Allegory

Writers frequently employ symbolism and allegory to convey spiritual truths or experiences that transcend literal interpretation, allowing readers to engage with deeper layers of meaning.

Reflections on Morality and Ethics

Spiritual literature often explores themes of morality, virtue, and ethics, examining how individuals navigate ethical dilemmas and strive for spiritual growth and enlightenment.

Incorporation of Religious Traditions

Many works of spiritual literature draw inspiration from religious traditions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and others, weaving religious teachings, stories, and symbols into their narratives.

Personal Journeys of Transformation

Characters in spiritual literature often embark on personal journeys of self-discovery, transformation, and enlightenment, encountering challenges, insights, and revelations along the way.

Interplay of Faith and Doubt

Themes of faith and doubt are common in spiritual literature, as characters grapple with questions of belief, scepticism, and the search for meaning in the face of uncertainty.

Exploration of the Human Condition:

Spiritual literature often explores the complexities of the human condition, including suffering, redemption, forgiveness, and the pursuit of inner peace and fulfilment.

Inspiration for Personal Growth

Through its exploration of profound questions and spiritual insights, literature can inspire readers to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences, fostering personal growth and transformation.

Universal Themes and Appeal

While rooted in specific cultural and religious traditions, spiritual literature often addresses universal themes and experiences that resonate across diverse audiences, inviting readers of all backgrounds to explore the depths of the human spirit.

Poem no.1-5

The very first line of the poem talks about the immortal touch of god's hand ,here gurudev means Tagore talks about the godliness which he attained through his songs and music and he said that god's gifts are countless and continue from age to age .

From the continuation of it ,the individual soul knows how to attain god through intoxicated feelings of joy and the person forgets himself or herself and describes god as his friend ,lord and master .

The light of gods' music spread the whole cosmos from the bottom of the sea to the bountiful skies. Our human body is the temple of god. We should make it pure and always try to be communal with gods.

Poem no .6-10

The poet compares his life with a flower and he offer this flower before its fades away ,he offer his service without any other means just to connect with god ,The poet Never uses any ornamentation words while writing geetanjali and he says god himself is the master poet ,he further talks about mother who never loss care for her child ,in this world men always leaves his burden to god ,and god always help the needy ,those who are proud and over attitude god never help them ,god always with poor ,humble and lonely forlorn people .

Poem no.11-15

Here the poet mentions that ,God is to be found among the tillers ,road builders and the workers or labourers ,god is omnipresent and omnipotent,he was busy all the time because he looking all the creatures ,man find everywhere to god but god is within yourself,poet never saw god's face but sometimes he heard the sound of god's footsteps outside his house and he lives in the hope of meeting one day with gods,and he always honour to offer his song to connect with god .

Poem no.16-20

The poet consider that he perform his duty with whole heartedly by composing poem and forgot all worldly pleasure but another side people mock at him and said to him that he forgot his duty to perform for our society ,he wholeheartedly waiting for god's presence ,and he believes one day surely god will visits him but hereafter never saw god ,but he feels the footsteps of god,and he realise that god is within in his heart .

Poem no.21-25

After a long waiting ,poet knows god will not come to visit him he has a spiritual voyage but god is in another shore of the ocean poet opens the door of hope but his hope was shattered and he was longing for a communion with god ,the did not dare for death ,if death will come ,he welcomes passionately ,he is very much confident about his rebirth and again he want to worship through his spiritual quest.

Poem no .26-30

The poet fails to meet the god but still he has the feelings to godliness and after that he has feeling a longing to see the light of god in his heart and he feel uncomfot because of death ,he try to make his life a bright one ,but again darkness arises all around ,poet is totally confused with worldly pleasure and full of materialistic things and he says that all pleasure things are the prison of our pure soul ,the poets pure soul now totally despair for the longings of gods meetings .

Poem no .31-35

The poet feels that because of his worldly pleasure he fails to attain god ,and he becomes the slave of his desire .In between these ups and downs he is urging for one corner his godliness feelings and he consider that because of his sinful desire he can not devort fully to attain godliness,The poet appeals to god to transform the universe from bad to good ,from dark to light to attain freedom ,patriotism and perfect intellectualism.

Poem no.36-40

Here the poet wants to help the poor and needy and he asks god to purify his soul ,and he wants to surrender himself completely to god ,his intellectual and spiritual resources has been exhausted,he

needs to refine his poem and want to write new themes. He try to reunion with god and try to forget all wealthy desires ,his only cry to attain god ,he needs god's attention to eradicate all evils from human life and he feels that his imagination has dried up and he refresh his imagination to attain god and wants to become a meaning one .

Poem no.41-45

The poet seat roadside and waiting for god,he compare himself with a begger ,He sits on the grass and admire the sky ,and dreaming for god's visit here he frustrated more ,and hereafter he want to sail another world to forget all the worries and try to recapture his godliness ,and after again he was unsatisfied not to get any kind of positive signs from god .

The very important point is that God often entered the poet's heart but he was unknown.

But god did not feel annoyed ,this means god is omnipresent and omnipotent,after that the poet will wait and watch the wayside ,and he knows happy moment will arrive soon and he smiles after recollection the god's thought,God will comes in sunny days of April ,God comes in the rainy and darkness of july nights ,god is everywhere ,he help to come out all the distress of human life .

Poem no.46-50

Here the poet feels that god is very nearer to him and he will communal with god soon ,whole night the poet will wait for god's coming ,but god will not come at last ,here the poet and his companions are search of god ,the poet himself search of god but suddenly his companion again lost the way,here the poet says that god is the beauty and loveable things in the nature .poet always sung the song of god but god likes a simple song and poets unknown when gods appear in the throat of poets.God gives the grain to a beggar and he dont have nothing but in return the poet receives a gold coin from the beggar.

Poem no .51-55

Here the poet is hopeless ,but god is present everywhere and he never makes sad to his devotee ,god is already present but the poet was not aware of god's arrival ,here the very line no. 52 ,the poet considered himself as a woman devotee,whose beloved departed every early morning from herself who made a garland for god and very minutely he detailed that he himself is a rose with soft petals ,passionately waiting for god's arrival .God created all the earthly things which human always admire ,god is the destroyer and preserver and all the happenings are happened through nature,a woman who offered water to the fellow traveller and fulfilled his thrust ,here again depicted the charity and virtue in the poem ,again the poet himself compare him with a women who is passionately waits her lover called "God".

Poem no .56-60

Here the poet says that god and human beings are interconnected to each other how much important god for us and at the same time god gives us same important ,The poet needs light not

the illusion he needs the light of sun and the moon ,and furthermore he says that he need to sing the song of universe ,line no .60 talk about the children who can play freely ,can shout and dance without aware any worldly matters ,the children are the innocent gift of god .

Poem no.61-65

Here the poet talk about infants sleep ,when a infant sleeps they forgot the world and sleeps soundly ,and smiles joyfully their limbs are soft and fresh these all qualities are given by god only ,when a child got a toys he feel enjoy and all the sources of pleasure he got from the nature only ,god's mercy and grace always with poet and the poet feels god presence always ,the poet never feel alone ,here the poet again says that god always listen the songs of poet / him .

Poem no.66-70

Here the poet says that he has preserved the purity ,thar aroma ,radiance and loveliness ,and he completely surrendered himself to god ,and at the end of the days the poet completely surrendered to god through his poetic genius ,talent and music .Here the poet talk about nest ,here he says that our soul is nest and every soul is dwell of gods soul ,here the poet compares the feelings of human beings with the dark cloud ,the poet find all the qualities with nature then touch with divine spirit ,the poet means to say that all the happenings directly or indirectly connected with gods.

Poem no.71-75

Human soul is the perfect place for God ,but sometimes we humans forget our touch with God because of worldly materialistic things. God always seeks man's devotion ,God is always "Maya".God is responsible for everything like man's desire for God's touch ,joy and sorrows .Here the god again imagine himself as a woman devotee and wants to go out from his house he would go to meet just a gopi to meet Lord krishna .

Poem no.76-80

Here poet wants to stand face to face before god after his all work over and he f should speechless before god ,here the poet consider that god is his father ,and wants to touch god's feet and also realise god is his brother and friend ,the poet makes a commitment here that he never share his income and wealth with a fellow human beings ,further the poet says that the universe is a masterpiece of god's creation ,everything is inside it ,no one missing anything ,it is miracle and marvellous universe the very elements of perfection .sometimes the poet engage himself with the commercial activities and due to this he forget his duty to god ,and after he feel pain not able to do his duty on time . Here again the poet compares himself to a cloud which is lost in moisture ,again he waits for God's touch to illuminate ,and he completely surrenders himself to god.

Poem no 81-85

Here the poet considers that god always helps him through his divine hands ,and man should not lose any time in his quest after god ,and god always waits to help human beings .The poet has nothing to offer god ,here he called mother to god ,he has tear all sorrows ,excet nothing to give god ,a man suffer much to separate from god ,here the poet talk about warriors who is helpless they try to fight the battle of existence ,they need to know actually their existence and who they are ,human being always lead a life of labour and toil on this earth and atlast they surrender himself to god and keep all their belongings and possessions .

Poem no .86 -90

Poem no .86 to 101 express the poet's view about death and his reactions to the possibility of his own death come nearer ,here the poet consider that death is ultimately gods messenger,no one can escape from reality ,here the poet shows respect to death and worship it ,the poet has lost his beloved and he looked her everywhere but he unable to find her anywhere ,poet urge the god respectfully to welcome death and wants to meet his beloved after death ,the poet saw a ruined temple where no one can offer their worship because its an desolate place ,Poet leads the life of materialistic things like good and evil ,the poet will welcome his death most peacefully .

Poem no .91-95

Here the poet wait for his death with full of joy without any sorrow,he consider death as his bride and he waits for his bridegroom ,death brings him precious gift for the poet, now poet never feel sorrow not getting materialistic things related to worldly pleasure and he things only heavenly pleasure after death ,here the poet thinks that his death nearby and he say farewell to the fellow human beings he consider that after his death his journey may be a difficult one but he cannot feel any kind of pain or afraid ,the poet compare death means another life and he never feel any kind of regret to welcome death .

Poem no .96-100

The poet has tasted all the sweetness of worldly life he catches all the glimpse of earthly life and he only wait for god's coming and ready to depart from this world ,when the poet was a child he consider that god is his playmate when he was young he thought that god is his all power ,his all ego was gone after understanding god's power ,here the poet completely wants to surrender himself to god means he is now ready to die ,there is no point in resisting the will of god ,here the poet consider god was a driver ,who can drive a deep ocean and find out the precious pearl ,god wants to surrender every sorrow grief and pain to god's feet .

Poem no .101-103

Through this poem the poet exercises all poetic gifts that he learns in every corner of his life including sweet ,bitter and sour experience ,and he finds all the secrets of life ,here he uses his poetic powers

through knowledge and wisdom ,through his poetic experience he says that god is not a single figure ,god always presents in nature ,the very last number of poem the poet surrender himself completely to god ,he stand in front of god's door like july rain cloud hanging above the earth ,and he offered all his songs to god ,his complete journey of life he surrender to god ,like a flock of cranes fly back to their mountain nests after a day long flying ,and completely needs rest ,likewise here the poet completely surrender himself to god and need death as total rest .

Conclusion

In "Geetanjali," Tagore's exploration of spirituality goes beyond mere rituals and dogma, delving into the depths of the human soul. Through his evocative language and lyrical imagery, he paints a vivid picture of the divine presence in nature, in human relationships, and within the self. Each poem serves as a profound meditation on the interconnectedness of all things and the quest for meaning and transcendence in life. It inspires readers to embark on their own spiritual journey, seeking truth, beauty, and harmony in the world around them.

"Geetanjali" is not just a collection of poems; it's a spiritual journey woven with threads of divine inspiration and human longing. Tagore's words transcend the boundaries of time and space, touching the hearts of readers across generations. Through his poetry, he invites us to explore the depths of our souls, to seek solace in the beauty of nature, and to discover the divine within ourselves. Each verse is a beacon of light, guiding us towards a deeper understanding of spirituality and a more profound connection with the universe.

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