

Ray Of Peace Through Music & Literature Of Tagore; With A Global Note

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Abstract:

*In joy & in sorrow, in all my work,
Whether alone or in company,
Let there be silent shower of Peace.*

Rabindranath Tagore.

Peace is a concept of harmony & the absence of hostility. Peace is not only a relationship with regard to nation but also it is a condition of mind brought about a serenity of soul. In today's scenario peace has to be taught as an important key learning by all interdisciplinary approach of learnings . It is the process of acquiring the values , the knowledge & developing the attitudes , skills & behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, with others & with the world . Literature & music have a huge role to play in peace building process. They also have a strong role to play in stopping violence through interchanging cultures of different religions, philosophies, histories , geographies along with different lifestyles & even in application of different science & technology for a better living world. So for sure literature & music can be a perfect tool to contribute in constructing global peace. Tagore said ,

*“Music fills the infinite
Between two souls”*

Since in language , literature , music or in any kind of art or even in science & technology **whatever it may be man can do no more than to create his own world ... which may be** symbolized with his dreams – so there is a strong need to kindle the candle & make a clear understanding , interpretation , articulation of the concept of world peace through literature & music of Tagore and to synthesize & globalize human knowledge on peace for betterment of the world.

Key word: Peace, Harmony, Tagore ,Literature, Music.

Introduction:-

“From joy has come forth all creation. ...

‘ Sa tapas taptva sarvam asrajata yadidam kincha.

(God from the heat of his pain created all that there is.) ”.. (The Creative Ideal , Tagore)

Whether it is music or literature , what may be the art form is, it always speaks of joy, delight which seems to be deep like vast blue ocean , endless like limitless sky , which has the wondering stars full night & its darkness discovering amazing new world of peace every time we been with it,& it must be created by the unfathomed joy in which all heat of pain are made one.

So peace is not that idea which complement pain or all sufferings rather it is the feeling that come forth the oneness or harmony between all contrast.

Today the word Peace is one of the most used words, and world peace is now a days a common aspiration we all know. Many formulae are being applied to establish a bridge of understanding

& appreciation between art & literature to fill all its growing needs . Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore has found a big room in his creation's philosophy for admiration of a deep love for

peace making bridge from both inner & outer world. As we all know, from the very beginning of his life Tagore's soul always wished to search for truth ,truth which lies beyond mere forms . He

was blessed with a wonderful searching personality , so from even his childhood days he used to play with his wonders discovering every mere form's cover. May be the first source of delight or peace came from that. He discover that there is beauty in every where , rejoicing them unlimited joy of peace can be achieved in our mind. To get it one has to step out from his selfness .. conveying such message he composed many songs as well, let see one of them

Step out of yourself, the universe will respond within.

These swelling waves will break into a dance within

And the soul will be moved. ...

This realization gave him tremendous amount of positive energy which helped him out being guided by the ultimate light which causes all delight & true peace. Being brought up in an environment of *Upanishadic* background he grown up with a wonderful strong philosophical base. He knows exactly what is the way to have the heart of peace , and in many time through his words it has been noticed . Though his poetic moods sometimes weaned him away to seclusion & silence ; but still his earnestness for the global peace knew no bound , and he came again & again into the midst of the humanity to peach his ideals with expensive works . His heart even shakes in pain many time though he looked forward to the path to peace for example in “ Letters From Abroad”(p.67 – letter of 8-2-1921) he said “I long to live in the heart of peace

. I have done ray work , and I hope that my Master will grant me to sit by Him, and not to talk , but to listen to his own great silence.”

In one of his songs he said,

I too remain connected to you in the same way

You moved around connected to the universe.

Neither in woods , nor in seclusion, nor in my mind

You belong to me the same way you belong to others..

.....

You are my treasured happiness the way you are to others..

Body :-

First we have to know what is peace?

Peace has been interpreted in various ways globally by many figures throughout history . We will center our analysis both in Western & Eastern World. In western world peace means the absence of war or of violence in both physical & psychological ways. Like Albert Einstein said , “Peace cannot be kept by force , it can only be achieved by understanding. ”

In a global platform for a long time it has understood as ‘No War’ also . But if we think it in large it is a journey that began with the first community in this planet . Peace has always been humanity’s highest values for everyone..the meaning of it function at different angles . Peace has been seen as concord , or harmony and tranquility, it is known as peace of mind or serenity in eastern countries. William Shakespeare said , “ A peace is of a conquest ; for then both parties nobly are subdued , and neither party loser.”

In India Vedic dharma lays great emphasis of purification of body and mind leading to purification of soul . The concept of 5 *Indriyas* & their rightful use or the misuses leads to peace of mind or can causes unrest in mind as well . It is the wisdom of individual that helps in guiding the *Indriyas* to remain on the right path. Now coming to Rabindranath Tagore, throughout his life he strongly believed that until the big & powerful nations, aided by their superiority & big knowledge based advancement , ceased their desire for territorial expansion & control over the smaller nations , world peace could never be achieved . And according to him peace could be achieved only when contrast races & nations were free to evolve into their distinct characteristics, whilst all would be attached to the petal of humanity through the bondage of love .

Peace may be a dichotomy or continuous , static or active, pragmatic or intellectual , vivid or prescriptive. It can be either positive or negative too. But it must deliver its concept & qualities within a theory of framework , in many religion it changes with its conceptual horizons , in many discipline it varies with its definitions . Socialist , fascists, Liberians ,educationalists, artists, spiritualist & musicians may have their own different perspectives but the core concept or

the delight of experiencing peace must be the same , because it joins many in one with love of **oneness...** .for the sake of this paper we would limit our analysis to the concept of peace of literature & music of Rabindranath Tagore.

Peace & Literature :-

In “ Realization in Love ” of ‘*Sadhana*’ Tagore said, “ When we come to literature we find that **though it confirms to rules of grammar it is yet a thing of joy, it is freedom itself. ... Law is the**

first step towards freedom , and beauty is the complete liberation which stands on the pedestal of law. Beauty harmonizes in itself the limit and the beyond, the law and the liberty .”

In that beauty’ harmony line where body & mind is free we can get nothing but real peace off course , but it is hard to get that limit & go beyond easily each time because of our human nature right? But it is the artist who introduce our mind or soul to that formless feeling of limitless joy or Peace anywhere anytime through his creations. Creativity can be defined as an interpersonal cognitive phenomenon or a process that may or may not be influenced by cultural traditions but it must have effects of immediate circumstances or situations. Because people spent a huge amount of time on living outside from home for education , job etc . Even to think it creatively artists choose to spent time outside more than home sometimes for the sake of dimensional arts. So creativity has two dimension one is inner world & obviously the other is outer one. And cultural aspects has a big role here to play whether it is literature or other forms of arts.

Culture is transmitted to new generations through education but is known and learned by others cultures through art & literature. Literature allows us to transmit the profound meaning of a determinate culture, which is able to act into the subliminal world. Peace is not only the most important objective to our generation but first & foremost the acquisition of a new social behavior based in love & respect . World Peace , is an inherently interdisciplinary field, the concept is most often includes the study of politics , history, anthropology, religion & sociology, but occasionally imaginative literature. But in today’s context peace study can be very fruitful developing world peace through study of literature also. Since we all know peace is one of the recurrent subject which is treated mostly in fiction but here let us concerned about the

literature as an art form only. A literature that is mostly imaginative with a small real base a positive peace can be achieved even by that literature. It can be use as a means to get psychological & philosophical peace, isn’t it? Tagore wrote in “The Gardener LXI: Peace , My Heart”

*Peace , my heart , let the time for
the parting be sweet.
Let it not be a death but completeness.
Let love melt into memory & pain into songs.
Let the flight through the sky end
in the folding of the wings over the nest.
.....
O Beautiful End , for a moment , ...
Say your last words in silence
I bow to you & hold up my lamp
To light you on your way.*

A writer or a poet does not write for himself only rather his pen speaks for his fellow men. Every small emotions of him is not for him only , it has to be our own , otherwise it never could find the depth. Here literature has a role to play in advancing world peace, because literature ,whether handed down by word of mouth or in print, gives us a second handle on reality, to enabling us to believe the very same threats to integrity that may assail the psyche in real life. Rabindranath's sensitive & visionary mind had realized that all negative peace is concerned about nothing but a matter of time before some tragic unfortunate events which befalls on humanity. Before a week world war began , Tagore wrote to Charles Andrews a beautiful poem, named “ *The Destroyer*”, in which expressing his concern he wrote

It is the Destroyer who comes?

For the boisterous sea of tears heaves

In the flood tide of pain

The crimson clouds run wild in the wind, lashes by lightning ,

& the thundering laughter of the Mad is over the sky.

Life sits in the chariot crowned by Death.

Bring out your tribute to him of all that you have. (Das, Vol. 1,224)

The concept of world peace seem to be coming loudest from religious quarters ironically , but the biggest threat to the attainment of world peace is ideological intolerance among religious sects . There had been many visible efforts made over time at securing world peace by many forms of literature as well. Literature has often been described as the mirror of society. As it not only gives us the reflection of the happenings of our surroundings but also conveys the truth behind it. Rather it is good to say that the art of literature has the power to unite hearts through thoughts, through visions with golden rays of imaginations .. so it can easily draw one among many. So it will not over claimed if I say literature is the light that can bring the rays of peace , the ultimate delight to our living world with a gentle universal language of its own ...

Tagore wrote in “Stray Birds 90” ... “ *In darkness*

The One appears as uniform;

In the light

The One appears as manifold”

Rabindranath Tagore set forth a vision of peace and fraternity that continues to have relevance & global appeal . He actually gave a new meaning & a new interpretation to all traditional ideas. Tagore visualized a world where

“ Where the mind is without fear and head is held high ;

Where knowledge is free ;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls”

...(1912)

Our soul has tremendous hunger for peace & love of it & for immediateness of realization , whereby we would enable also to know ourselves. That love , the contemplation ,the vision that can only satisfy this hunger finds its place in literature , in art only in a very simple manner. In “Crisis In Civilization & Other Essays” Tagore said about ‘ The Principle Of Literature’..

“.. The union of hearts , as seen by us , is abstracted from the primitive needs of Nature into the glory of its own finality . And hence it has come to occupy so vast a place in literature and the arts.”

PEACE & Music :-

*“Music is the purest form of art ...
Therefore true poets ... seeks to express*

The universe in terms of music . The singer has everything within him

The notes come out from his very life .

They are not materials gathered from outside. ... Rabindranath Tagore

Music is an impressive universal language that allows us to express what is happening around us in many senses off course through an abstract form of art . At the same time it is an inseparable part of our social, cultural reality. It can be used to rise peace awareness with its expressions & impressive medium . It also can be used as a tool of sending message ,or as an instrument of presenting the country to the world audience in many preferred way. Music , being universal language , it has the power of embodying all living heritage to unite humanity around shared values and aspirations . Since growth of such peace building Art is extremely needed in today’s scenario , as a force for sharing passions & world peace.

Now let us draw some connection between peace & music. Music is peaceful or not peaceful is not because of the inherent character of the music itself , but because of the way it is used. Peaceful music is not only depends on context , but also how it is hard or delivered. Message of peace can be skillfully spread through music , for example let us one of the Tagore’s song

Besprinkle with peace on the earth

People with arid heart throng,

Look up seeking your bestow age

All gloom be dispelled , fascinations disapproved,

Liberation from grief and repentances. ..

Again let’s see how beautifully Tagore had conveyed the meaning of peace with his philosophical vision in an another notable composition ,

Ahead flows the river of Peace

Set sail O boatman

You will be my constant companion, accept me into your fold

The stars will light the path of infinity .

O savior, your grace, world end ; the vast universe spread its arm

And without fear , fathom your mercy

Will be the fare for the eternal journey

May the shackles of the within , the grand unknown.

Again pointing towards the peace ocean or the ultimate source of joy , Rabindranath said through a song..

A deep ocean of peace you are,

A mound of joy you are.

Forsaking the world,

Handing over the fire of sorrow to you,

I will dive into the ocean of bliss.

Tagore again composed to strengthen the inner strength so that we can stay firm in the way to the absolute, and wrote

In joy and in sorrow, in all my work,

Whether alone or in company,

Let there be silent showers of peace.

After seeing these songs examples we can easily say that he didn't want peace under any despotism , the first & foremost condition of peace according to him , was to be free from ego or selfness. His sensitive poetic mind , in his late thirties , was very disturbed as he witnessed such aggrandizement by British during the Boer war in south Africa (1899-1902) . As an effect , he wrote in condemning voice in his poem 'Naivedya' , which was published in the journals like Bharati , Bangodarshan & Sadhana.

“ When the national interest , which is the foundation of European civilization, is inflated to such an extent that ignores righteousness of all kinds, eventually a crevice is formed through which the evil makes its way in. The nature of self-interest is such that it always leads to hostility . At present this hostility becomes evident like thorns at the edge of European civilization . That is an early indication that the European nations will quarrel and fight with each other for their share on **earth** ”

In “ The Religion Of Man” about ‘The Music Maker ’ he said,

“ For music though it comprehends a limited number of notes yet represents the infinite. It is for man to produce the music as a **truth of expression is immense. ...it is for man to produce the** music of the spirit with all the notes which he has in his psychology & which , through inattention or perversity , can easily be translated into a frightful noise. In music man is revealed & not in a noise.”

Apart from the personal experience of the artist , many musical initiatives are being carried out around the world in the context of peace. There are also few organizations that focus on the potential of music as an educational means of achieving total Peace, working on skill for promoting communications , building social bondages , and developing cooperation with all . Music can be use to transform social realities and help keeping ourselves far away from negative peace. Tagore’s creations which has a strong *Upanishadic* base can be use as an organization that use music to promote love for humanity, love for nature, love for our almighty on various level and merge many in oneness . His music & its philosophy sweeps away all barriers between finite & infinite, love & violence, you & me, and make itself an element of reconciliation between cultures that seem to have irreconcilable differences.

Conclusion :-

Rabindranath Tagore is the name that had become personally involved in building peace world wide through his literature & music. Peace of both body & mind can be respondent with musical creativity & also literature . Above all he was an Artist who had find out the unique , the individual which yet is in the heart of the world. When he looked on a tree ,he looked on it as unique, not as a Botanist or scientist who search the scientific truth behind it . Rather it is the function that universal Artist go beyond all complications of that tree’s reality or physicality &

find a source of joy from it by its existence in our conscious world to get simple way to peace even from it. And how does he do **it? ... not through its peculiarity which is the discord of the** unique , but through its personality which relates it with absolute harmony or Peace. And therefore the creator or the artist has to find out the inner concordance or inner form of each thing with its cover or outer form to discover peace. From decades Artists & Poets are giving us that purest form of joy & simple source of peace. Through cultural interchanges or even through interdisciplinary approaches in today’s educational system we can also enrich ourselves with such simple way to joy, freedom or simple peace of both inner & outer side of ourselves as well as of the world too.

Also in today’s modern science & technology based world music is being used as a therapy of mind & body too, it has been proved scientifically that it can be a great idea to work on peace in a cognitive level through music therapy also.

Obviously only literature & music won’t bring us a world at peace only. It could be done by each possible effort together . But considering present scenario , it is very much important that we explore & apply all possible opportunities & power of literature & music for peaceful & effective conflict transformation , both supporting & promoting it , because it is gradually becoming an indispensable reference point for transforming & reinventing the world in which we live , and in which we want to live.

Source :-

Every songs of Tagore has been translated into English by Anjan Ganguly taken from Geetabitan.com.

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