

“Where the Mind is Without Fear”

Lecture by

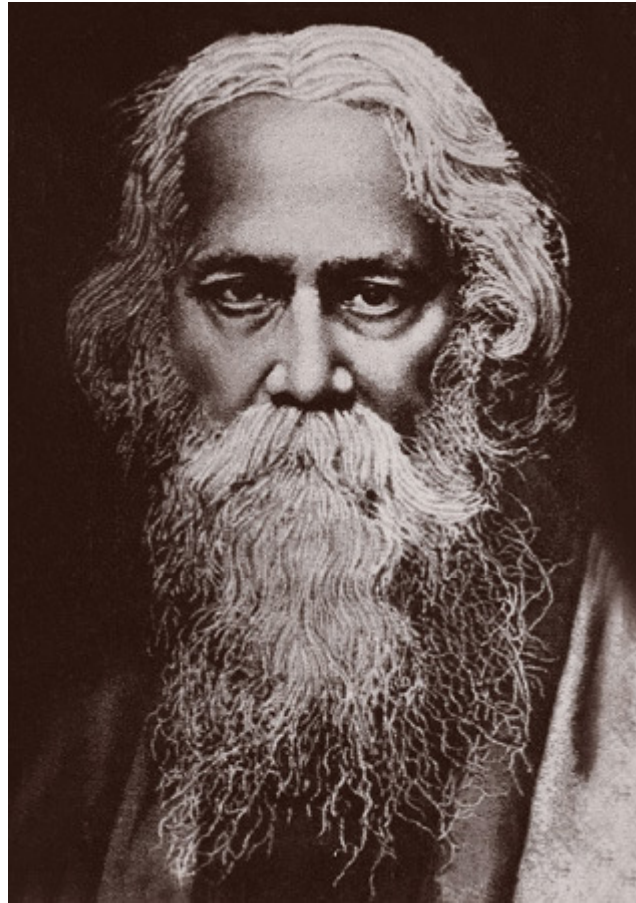
Bindu Gulati

Lecturer English

Bindu 234@live.in

9872463799

About the Poet



➤ **Rabindranath Tagore is to Indians what Shakespeare is to the English.**

- **He founded Shanti Niketan which promoted naturalistic philosophy of teaching.**
- **Kabuliwala, Geetanjali, Gora are few of his famous works. He won Nobel Prize for Literature for his work “Geetanjali”.**

Where the Mind is Without Fear

Introduction

- **The poet draws a picture of free India.**
- **He dreamt of a country with no boundaries.**
- **This poem is his idealistic dream about India.**
- **It is self explanatory.**
- **Tagore prays for the welfare of the country.**

Poem

**Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by
narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from
the depth of truth;**

**Where tireless striving stretches its
arms towards perfection ;
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the
dreary desert sand of dead habit ;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever- widening thought and
action.....**

**Into the heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake.**

EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT

**Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by
narrow domestic walls;**

**Where words come out from the
depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its
arms towards perfection .**

Word meanings

- 1. Fragments- pieces**
- 2. Head is held high- self respect**
- 3. Domestic- pertaining to family.**
- 4. Striving –try hard.**
- 5. Tireless- without getting tired.**

Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem “Where the Mind is without Fear” by “Rabindranath Tagore”. The poet prays to God that his country India should be a heaven of freedom.

Explanation:

The poet prays to God that there should be an atmosphere of fearlessness. Knowledge should be free for all. The country men should not be divided over caste and creed. People of the country should speak the truth and be God blessed to have a perfect life. They should not get tired of working.

**Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the
dreary desert sand of dead habit ;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever- widening thought and
action.....**

**Into the heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake.**

Word Meanings

➤ **Stream : river**

Dreary : dull

Reason :intellect

**Dead habit : old
customs**

**Desert – dry area of
land**

**Awake- to get up
from sleep**



Explanation:

The poet prays to God that Indians should be logical & progressive in thoughts & actions. They should have the power to reason out the bad and useless customs. Only God can help by guiding the people. God should make India a paradise on earth.

Central Idea

This poem is a reflection of the poet's good and ideal nature. He has utmost faith in God. He prays to God with all his heart that He should guide the countrymen to work hard, speak the truth, be forward and logical in approach. Rabindranath Tagore aspires to see the country and his people to be in peace and prosper. He loves his country a lot and wishes for its welfare.

THANKS