



## Spirituality in Tagore's Play the Post Office

### KEYWORDS

spirituality, love, hope

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**ABSTRACT** *Tagore takes life optimistically. Tagore always appears to believe in the eternal possibilities of human resources. An individual must remain an individual, and by remaining individual, one must explore and expand one's valuable individuality for the goodness of one and universe. All his glory and honor is burnt into an excellence for the onward march of humanity. As Amal is in search of creation, he doesn't mind to become a curd man or postman. He is in search of real happiness. An Individual cannot but embrace the society to which he belongs, it is equally true that he cannot help doing justice to himself bearing in mind the fact about the life of an individual permeates the process of discovering himself to enter deeply into oneself until and unless he is enlightened with the true meaning of his very existence, the meaning of life.*

Spirituality is of course a broad term. Spirituality is shown as something serious, caring for life recognizing life, uplifting life is spirituality, and keeping it in its true spirit of celebration, joy and sincere love, faith and hope and waiting for salvation. Today people are mature enough and they are realizing the need for spirituality in their lives. Everyone is yearning for a sense of serenity, calmness, inner peace and love. At the heart of each person is a longing for truth, for love and spirituality is able to open the lid that has been blocked for so many years. Today most suicides are committed by educated. This is because they don't know how to nature their souls. People need support from within. Spirituality is for rich as well as for the poor. It opens the hearts of the rich and gives self confidence to poor. According to H. H. Sri Sri Ravishankar's philosophy:

"Love, joy, bliss, compassion, beauty and enthusiasm are all made up of the spirit. Enlivening these is spirituality. To grow in unconditional love and in beauty is spirituality." (Ravishankar 38)

Is our business merely to eat drink, be get children, and earn our living... And finally die? Is there no better end to human life? Only Spirituality can give the answer of above question the purpose of life as researcher believe when we see the purpose of life from all sides, from every angle, then the product that we want in life is a love that doesn't die out, a love that doesn't cause pain, a love that grows and stands forever. If you have lots of money, fame, all that you need if you have and if you don't have love then life would appear to be barren. From every angle we come to the same point that all we aspire for in our life is love, a divine love, a love that is ideal. The purpose of life is to flower and bloom in that ideal love. Love is the core of entire existence. That is why Jesus said "Love is God" "Love is seeing taking minimum and giving maximum. Love is giving more, but taking very little" (Ravishankar 10)

Rabindranath Tagore was one of the immense writers in Renaissance, who believes in humanity. In his *The Post Office*, he is simple in style and expression; but the drama remains complex in its various themes and its depth of meaning. *The Post Office* bears the impression of the experiences of his own inner and outer life. Tagore writes about the mental states and moods of men and the progress of human thoughts and aspirations.

The title *The Post Office* suggests the place where a thing changes every day, the place where all kinds of news happiness, sorrow, and information comes. *The Post Office* seems to be a place where all the days are not the same, it also ap-

pears to suggest that in the path of spirituality human being also face the difficulty but once the king's letter (call of divine) comes than there is no misery at all.

The main character is a small boy by the name of Amal. The boy has an intense curiosity for the outside world, and yearns for the type of knowledge that can't be acquired from a book. Another character is the Doctor, he is the man who diagnoses Amal, and will not let him leave the house because he is sick. On the other end of the spectrum is Madhav, Amal's guardian. He is the man that believes in learning from books, and feels more comfortable in home than outside. The Dairyman is another character; he is a lowly curd peddler, not learned but experienced. The watchman is a loyal servant to the king; he is knows of the government and king's systems. Along with this character is the Headman; he is an Indian who is placed in power by the king but not popular with the local population. Sudha is a girl, gathering flowers, she is happy to help her parents. Finally, there is a group of boys, who encourage Amal to defy the doctor and leave the house.

Spirituality turns outer world in love and peace as researcher has described earlier when outer world comes in the connection with spirituality than there is only love. Here Madhav as outer world and Amal a spiritual soul.

Madhav: ....Your system is very, very hard for the poor boy; and he is so quiet too with all his pain and sickness. It sears my heart to see him wince, as he takes your medicine. (PO 4)

Tagore appears to convey that when one is not awaken in spirituality of joy, love and enthusiasm than the circle of life and death is there for sure. The choice is individuals. Where does time go? The river of time flows into the sea of Eternity whither the spiritual life longs to fly but whither it can go only through Divine Grace. If we were to know the value of time, how well ordered our lives would be! The following dialogue between watchman and Amal is full of profound symbolism.

Amal : Won't you sound the gong, Watchman?

Watchman: Time has not yet come.

Amal : How curious! Some say time has not yet come, and gone by! but surely your time will come the moment you strike moment you strike the gong!

Watchman: That's not possible: I strike up the gong only when It is time. (PO 15)

Tagore sees life with creation, joy, happiness. Hope and faith

are one the unique characteristics in both the plays. In *The Post Office*, after meeting with watchman, Amal has a hope that the king one day would send a letter to him. As Watchman says: "of course one fine day there may be a letter for you in there." (PO 17)

Amal is full of hope till the end of the play. In second Act when Amal is on the bed, he says to Gaffer

"It isn't sad. When they shut me in here first I felt the day was so long. Since the king's post office was put there I like more and more being Indoors, and as I think I shall get a letter one day, I feel quite happy and then I don't mind being quiet and alone. I wonder if I shall make out what'll be in the king's letter?" (PO 32)

Amal is not the real son of Madhav. But when Amal is not well Madhav become upset. There is bondage of love as in the following dialogues:-

Amal: Can't I go near the window today, uncle? Would the doctor mind that too?

Madhav: Yes, darling; you see you've made yourself worse squatting there day after day. (PO 27)

*The Post Office* is translated by Tagore from Bengali play a Dak Ghar Language used by Tagore is very simple and reader can easily understand the dialogues and their possible meanings intended of Tagore. The setting of the play suggests an Indian village.

Tagore's main effort through his career has been to build up on nature and romantic foundation. In *The Post Office* Amal is not allowed by Madhav to sit near the window. However, Amal sits at his window where he observes the procession of life passing. He is a source of delight to them all he is delighted himself in turn by them. Not only does Amal discover romance in the daily activities of the people about him but he also infects them with his own romantic attitude. Dairyman sees new vision of his village, Shamli River, of cattle grazing and woman drawing water, Watchman who invents the possibility of a letter coming to Amal from the king and of the king's post office being set near Amal's window for the purpose, as Amal is very near to salvation.

In *The Post Office* tells Amal; "My gong sounds to tell the people, Time waits for none, but goes on forever". (PO 16). In *The Post Office* Amal passes the time, He is not well in First Act To watchman Amal talks about time:-

Amal: How curious! Some say time has not yet come, and some say time has gone by! But surely your time will come the moment you strike the gong! (PO 15)

Tagore's unfailing faith in man and divinity, his concern for women and solicitation for children, his sympathy for the poor and the downtrodden, his philosophical speculations and practical wisdom, his perception of belief and the evolution of taste-all find expression in the all-encompassing sweep of his writings in a magnificent synthesis of philosophical profundity and aesthetic luxuriance. With the passage of time Tagore has only grown in stature and is now reckoned as an increasingly significant and complex personality. Whether seen as a great sentinel or a complete man, the finest exponent of the Bengal Renaissance or the harbinger of a new age, a majestic personality or a deeply scarred individual, it is tremendous joy of reading *The Post Office* and in text all creation of Tagore.

Tagore is a man who expresses his ideas through theatre. This play expresses love and an extensive use of symbols to emphatically present thoughts. These characters, their names, situation and events are all telling and symbolically suggest something higher. The playwright probably desire to express what normally is overlooked by mankind. Or do they preach this? Yes and no. Indirectly, his play is a sort of preaching. There is an unfailing undertone of information. However, this is not the main objective of his creativity. No, because he enjoy writing and want to share with mankind what they clearly see, hidden under the carpet, beyond ordinary man in understanding. Thus, here is a joy of watching a good play as well as an interesting of the deeper meanings of life. The joy is in or either side.

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