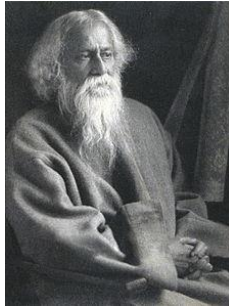




## VISHWABHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOLAMRAVATI

### Eternal Heroes



### RABINDRANATH TAGORE

**Ravindranatha Thakura (7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941)**,—<sup>1</sup> sobriquet **Gurudev**, was a **Bengali polymath** who reshaped **Bengali literature** and **music**, as well as **Indian art** with **Contextual Modernism** in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of **Gitanjali** and its "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse", he became the first non-European to win the **Nobel Prize in Literature** in 1913. In translation his poetry was viewed as spiritual and mercurial; however, his "elegant prose and magical poetry" remain largely unknown outside Bengal. Sometimes referred to as "the **Bard** of Bengal", Tagore introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature, thereby freeing it from traditional models based on classical **Sanskrit**. He was highly influential in introducing the best of Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of the modern Indian subcontinent.

A **Pirali Brahmin** from **Calcutta** with ancestral **gentry** roots in **Jessore**, Tagore wrote poetry as an eight-year-old. At the age of sixteen, he released **his first substantial poems** under the pseudonym **Bhānusingha** ("Sun Lion"), which were seized upon by literary authorities as long-lost classics. By 1877, he graduated to his first short stories and dramas, published under his real name. As a humanist, Universalist internationalist, and ardent anti-nationalist he denounced the **British Raj** and advocated independence from Britain. As an exponent of the **Bengal Renaissance**, he advanced a vast canon that comprised paintings, sketches and doodles, hundreds of texts, and some two thousand songs; his legacy endures also in the institution he founded, **Visva-Bharati University**.

Tagore modernized Bengali art by spurning rigid classical forms and resisting linguistic strictures. His novels, stories, songs, dance-dramas, and essays spoke to topics political and personal. **Gitanjali (Song Offerings)**, **Gora (Fair-Faced)** and **Ghare-Baire (The Home and the World)** are his best-known works, and his verse, short stories, and novels were acclaimed—or panned—for their lyricism, colloquialism, naturalism, and unnatural contemplation. His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: India's **Jana Gana Mana** and **Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla**. Some sources state that **Sri Lanka's National Anthem** was written by Tagore whilst others state it was inspired by the work of Tagore. He died at the age of 80 years on **7 August 1941**.