

## Introduction to Gitanjali

William Butler Yeats

This text is a report of a conversation between W. B. Yeats and a Bengali doctor of medicine about Rabindranath Tagore's famous work Gitanjali. Gitanjali is a collection of 103 poems composed by Tagore originally in Bengali language and later translated into English by himself.

Highlighting the greatness of Gitanjali, Yeats says these poems have stirred his blood and the doctor says to read at least one line helps to forget the troubles of the world. The poetry is so abundant and simple. It seems that the new Renaissance has been born in India. Tagore is as great in music as in poetry and his songs are sung from the west of India into Burma wherever Bengali is spoken. Tagore started writing plays and novels at the age of 19. In the beginning he wrote about natural objects, later he wrote love poetry after that his art grew deeper, religious and philosophical. All aspirations of mankind are in his hymns. He has spoken out of life. His family has been great for generations. When he was a boy he had all round him in his home literature and magic. Yeats compares western writing and Tagore's writing. He says western writing is propagandist; there is much criticism, warfare and lacks creativity whereas in Tagore he finds simplicity of life. Whole people and whole civilization have been taken into this imagination.