

he says, "My songs share their seats in the heart of the world with the music of the clouds and forests."

Tagore's poetry is indeed characterized by patriotism, and this has been the means of winning for him the name of "The Soul of Bengal." His poetry also speaks of the deep things of life and with him all these things are intimately at one with the things of nature. One Indian said, "Every morning at three, I know for I have seen it, he sits immovable in contemplation and for two hours does not awake from his reverie upon the nature of God."

All of his works, wonderful as they are, give us no reason to regard him as a saint, or one who is above our own common nature. He is one of us in the very highest sense of the word. He has known the love of woman, sons and daughters, and small children.

At the age of twenty-three Tagore married. Shortly after this he went to the country to manage the family estate on the banks of the Ganges. Here, where he had gone, a little reluctantly too perhaps, he found great profit in the way of experience. He came into touch with real life and people, which aided him greatly to write concerning everyday affairs.

Not long after his trip to the country a great sorrow came upon him;—what he looked upon as his Varsha Shesha or "fall of the year." Within a very short time he lost his wife, his daughter and his youngest son. The outcome of this loss was a determination to do something which would be of benefit to the young people of his time.

Tagore possessed those qualities which favor the life of an ascetic; yet, a man of superior intelligence and outlook, he was driven to look to the grievancees of his time, and became, instead of an ascetic, a healer, friend, and poet. His own people looked upon him perhaps not so much as a poet, as a great leader who had set his hand to a great and noble task, that of setting up a school where pupils would go forth equipped to do their part in the work of delivering the soul of a new India.

■ ■ ■ The school Shanti Neketan or Abode of Peace in the remarkable little community near Bolpur, is the praiseworthy result of his desire to aid his country. This school, like most