

TRIBUTE TO KAVIGURU ON HIS BIRTHDAY

My tribute to Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore on his birthday. Tagore apart from being a poet, author, lyricist, educationist and playwright, was a mystic and a philosopher. This facet of his personality has not been explored well and still remains obscure to a large extent. In his philosophy, Nature, Love and Worship - all converge and become a path to the Divine. One of his most beautiful prayers was not translated into English by him and is available only in Bengali. I love it so much that I translated it and it remains a continuous source of strength for me. The poem is called THIS IS NOT MY PRAYER (Bipodey morey rakkha koro, a nohey mor prarthana in Bengali):

*This is not my prayer my Lord, that You protect me from danger;
But may I never be afraid of danger.*

*No matter, if You do not console me in my sorrow and grief;
Grant that I may have the strength to conquer my sorrow.*

*No matter, if help does not come my way;
Let my own courage remain unbroken.*

*When harm comes my way, when only rejection is my lot;
Let my heart ever remain pure and calm.*

*This is not my prayer my Lord, that You deliver me;
But may I have the will to overcome.*

*No matter, if you do not comfort me, do not lighten my burden;
Grant that I may have the strength to bear my burden.*

*In the sunshine of my prosperity,
In humility, I shall try to know your holy face;*

*And in the dark night of my adversity,
When nothing is left but defeat and despair,
Grant that I should never doubt You.*