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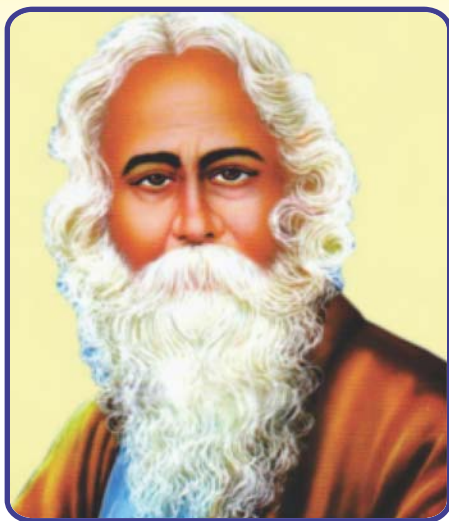
Where the Mind is without Fear

- You must have heard the saying that 'East or West, India is the best'
- Have you been fearful at any time?
- Did your mind work normally at that time?
- Can our mind work better when it is without fear?



About the poem.- The poem "Where The Mind is Without Fear" is an extract from the famous work of Tagore, 'Geetanjali'. The poem is suggestive of Tagore's love for India and her culture that inspired his muse. The poet seems to have felt deeply and intensely, all that he expresses here. He visualizes the country where the people's mind is free from fear and narrow mindedness. He prays to God that India may become a place where under God's guidance they choose the path of Truth and are ever willing to explore new branches of knowledge.

Now let us enjoy Tagore's poem on the advantages of the mind without fear.



Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
 Where knowledge is free;
 Where the world has not been broken up into fragments.
 By narrow domestic walls;
 Where words come out from the depth of truth;
 Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
 Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
 into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
 Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever- widening thought and
 action-
 Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake.



Rabindranath Tagore

GLOSSARY:

world	: (here) human Society
fragments	: small parts of something, pieces
domestic walls	: internal divisions due to caste, creed, language etc
striving	: to try very hard to achieve something
perfection	: the act of making something perfect
stretches	: widens, makes something longer or wider
muse	: the goddess of music and knowledge

Activity - I

A. Tick the correct alternatives.

- I. What is this poem about?
 - a) honesty
 - b) woman empowerment
 - c) patriotism
 - d) literacy
- II. How is the world broken into fragments?
 - a) by fear
 - b) by narrow domestic walls
 - c) by free knowledge
 - d) None of these

B. Say whether the following statements are True or False-

- I. People can achieve perfection with struggle.
- II. People are free, frank, fearless and live with dignity in India.
- III. People in India are never willing to accept new ideas on the basis of reason.
- IV. Conservatism makes people unprogressive.
- V. The people of a free nation must not be dynamic and progressive.

C. Answer the following questions in 10 to 20 words:

- I. '..... heaven of freedom, my father,?'
What does the poet mean by 'my father' here?
- II. Where has this poem been taken from ?
- III. What divides the world into parts ?
- IV. How can people achieve perfection?
- V. Which path did the poet choose?

D. Answer the following questions in 20 to 30 words each:

- I. How can the country be awakened?
- II. What does the poet convey about India and its people?

Activity - II

A. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B-

A

1. fragments
2. striving
3. awake
4. knowledge
5. stretch

B

- a. understanding and skill through learning
- b. to make longer or wider
- c. trying very hard to get something
- d. to wake up
- e. pieces

Activity - III

The teacher recites the following lines and the students follow:

My India, "O my nation, my India"

I want to worship you, I want to bestow on you

Everything which is mine, I want to sacrifice on you.

I always feel to be proud, that you have given me,

A peaceful place in your heart, "O, India".

I always salute you, I always salute you.

VandeMataram, VandeMataram

Activity - IV

What do you want to do for your mother land? Write a short paragraph on it.