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Quotes by Tagore, Rabindranath

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Born May 7, 1861, Calcutta, India. Died Aug. 7, 1941, Calcutta. Bengali poet, writer, composer, and painter. The son of Debendranath Tagore, he published several books of poetry, including Manasi, in his 20's. His later religious poetry was introduced to the West in Gitanjali (1912). Through international travel and lecturing, he introduced aspects of Indian culture to the West and vice versa. He spoke ardently in favour of Indian independence; as a protest against the Massacre of Amritsar, he repudiated the knighthood he had received in 1915. He founded an experimental school in Bengal where he sought to blend Eastern and Western philosophies; it became Vishva-Bharati University (1921). He was awarded the 1913 Nobel Prize for Literature.

I have become my own version of an optimist. If I can't make it through one door, I'll go through another door -- or I'll make a door. Something terrific will come no matter how dark the present.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

We gain freedom when we have paid the full price...

- Tagore, Rabindranath

Emancipation from the bondage of the soil is no freedom for the tree.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

Your idol is shattered in the dust to prove that God's dust is greater than your idol.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

We come nearest to the great when we are great in humility.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

The burden of the self is lightened with I laugh at myself.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

When I stand before thee at the day's end, thou shalt see my scars and know that I had my wounds and also my healing.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

We live in the world when we love it.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

What is Art? It is the response of man's creative soul to the call of the Real.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

No civilized society can thrive upon victims, whose humanity has been permanently mutilated.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water. Don't let yourself indulge in vain wishes.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

The truth comes as conqueror only because we have lost the art of receiving it as guest.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

Bigotry tries to keep truth safe in its hand

With a grip that kills it.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

- Tagore, Rabindranath



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