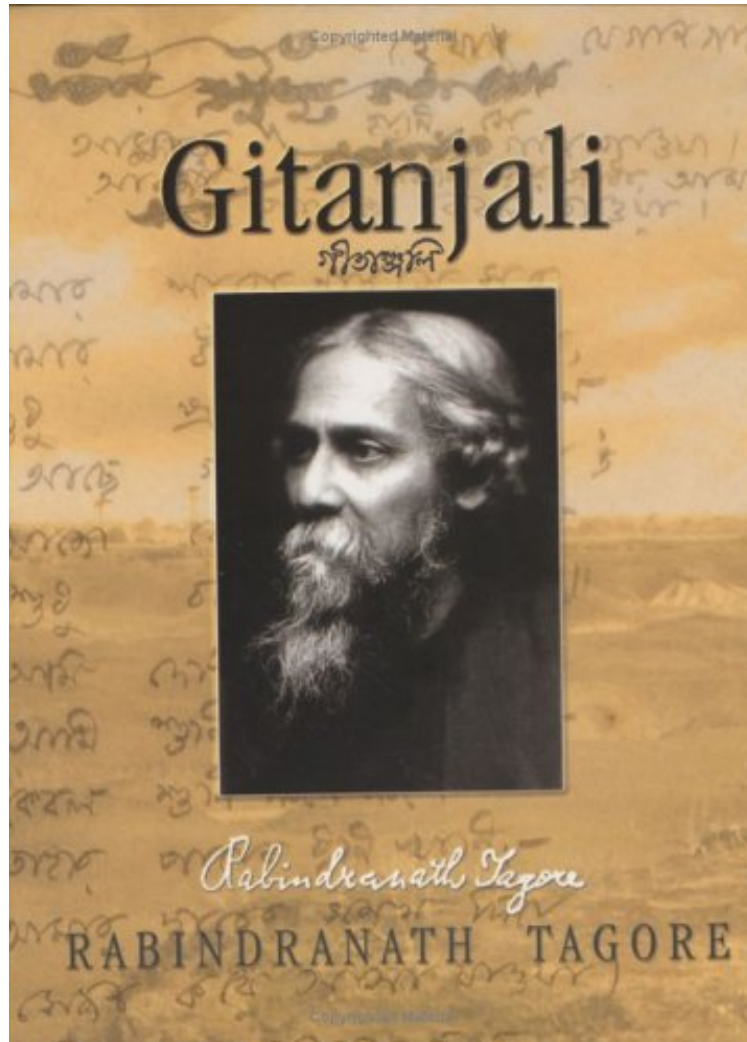


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Rabindranath Tagore : Gitanjali before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gitanjali:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A remarkable and fascinating reinvention of a classic By Glenn J. Shea We return to Birbhum, which in the nineteenth century saw the birth of the protean figure of modern Indian literature, Rabindranath Tagore: poet, playwright, songwriter, folklorist, educational reformer, Nobel laureate. In 1912, in his fifties and with a large body of Bengali-language poetry behind him, Tagore translated a book of his "austere devotional songs" into English: GITANJALI. It was a wild success and is still many readers' introduction to Tagore; but to some its Anglo-Indian English may resemble the bad, solemn early twentieth-century slush that made "mystical verse" something people would leave the state to avoid. In 2011, with a spate of Tagore anniversaries looming (the

hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of his birth in 1861; the hundredth of the publication of GITANJALI in 1912; and the hundredth of the Nobel in 1913) the British poet and translator William Radice produced a new edition of GITANJALI that would tackle some of the questions that had long attended the work. He has made a fresh translation directly from the Bengali, as Tagore's prose translations had radically altered the originals and disguised the formal variety of the collection; he has reprinted the only existing manuscript of Tagore's that Tagore had given to his friend, the artist William Rothenstein, which restores not only the original order of the poems but allows us to read them without the revisions of the printed edition, attributed largely to William Butler Yeats; and includes the version as originally published--the GITANJALI we know. It is a remarkable and fascinating reinvention of a classic, which has convinced me once again not only of the work's place in Tagore's career but of the unique quality of its vision and music. This edition is a wonderful compliment to Radice's other selection of Tagore's verse (SELECTED POEMS, Penguin, 1987), a Tagore you can recommend without apology or embarrassment, and which gives us a poet who alters your notion of twentieth-century poetry. TAGORE: AN ANTHOLOGY, edited by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson (St. Martin's, 1997) gives a good selection of Tagore's prose, verse and non-fiction. Glenn Shea, from Glenn's Book Notes at www.bookbarnniantic.com 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Song Offerings for Tranquility By THREEKAY Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest ever multifaceted poet, writer, artist and lyricist, from Bengal was honored with a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his profound book of Song Offerings called Gitanjali. He thus became the first ever non European to receive this highest award in Literature in the world. As per my understanding of the book, this is one such book that should be read and at the same time heard over in song or hymn form. It is a collection of over one hundred hymns or poems that have been converted into songs in various forms. The songs/hymns are all written in praise of the Lord and mostly waiting for His arrival to take him away with him in peace. Most of the hymns are based on the loveliness of life and its beauty enhanced by the surrounding nature unveiled through the poet's mind and heart. One can experience peace and eternal happiness while listening to these hymns. It is said that these hymns have been recourse to the Western world which was at civil strife and under deep threat of a War. Literature has been redefined in the Western world after this book has created tremors in world of English literature. Though the personification of the singer is a female (as per my understanding) in the book, I deeply appreciate the author's ability to produce such a wonderful experience of peace and harmony in a troubled heart and mind. Positives: One would be called a genius if he understands the gist of the entire collection of song offerings at one go. A repeated audience to this great collection would carry the soul to an eternal happiness and make him/her devoid of all materialistic pleasures and troubles irrespective of age and sex. I would recommend a copy of this song book or audio device at one's ready disposal to read or hear whenever he or she is off mood. A must read by every Indian and every citizen of the world who is at strife with his internal and external troubles. Negatives: Most of the song offerings appear to be inclined towards retirement of life and appear to those who have lost everything and just waiting for God's arrival to take him/her away from this materialistic world. My rating is 4.5 out of 5. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It is beautiful spiritual poetry By C. Skidmore This is not a story: it is poetry. It is beautiful spiritual poetry. Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali is my favorite book of poetry. Each poem finds wonder and relationship with the Divine in very commonplace occurrences. This particular printing strings all of the individual poems together so that I had to use another edition to separate them with dividing lines and the number of the poem in the margin. Fewer pages make for a slimmer book, so I am happy to have this copy to carry with me when I want to.

This deluxe edition of the Tagore classic features the manuscripts of the original Bengali poems. The English translation done by the poet himself appear on the right hand pages. The book also includes: Introduction by W.B. Yeats; the English translation of the Introduction to the French edition; photographs of the medal and citation of the Nobel Prize awarded to Tagore; a selection of newspaper clippings; Tagore's Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

I would read Gitanjali as I would read the Bible for comfort and for strength. -- Paul Nash Rabindranath Tagore, like the Indian Civilization itself, has been content to discover the soul and surrender himself to its spontaneity -- W. B. Yeats, September, 1912 From the Author AUTHOR. R. TAGORE. (NOT A. CONAN DOYLE) About the Author Rabindranath Tagore, is one of the greatest of Indian Poets who could pen his poems both in Bengali, his mother tongue and also English. He wielded tremendous influence not only on the literary scene but also on the freedom movement. His classic Gitanjali won him the Nobel Prize for literature.