

Sri Sri Sitaramdas Omkarnath Samskrita Siksha Samsad

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BLUE PRINT OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR
"RABINDRANATH AND THE VEDIC LEGACY "

Ref. :

Date :

Vedic record one of the earliest attempts of man to enquire about the origin and sustenance of the world. With the help of a rich weaving of stories and metaphors Vedic try to answer the question, a question that stirred human mind since the dawn of civilization, viz., Who am I? Tagore's family tradition was deeply immersed in the Upanisadic thought, which permeated to Tagore since his early days. Upanisadic monism, its attempt to explain the origin of creation in terms of *Ananda*, its emphasis on a Being that penetrates into whole of creation - all these ideas achieve a new height in the philosophico-creative works of Tagore. It won't be exaggeration to claim that Tagore is the ablest twentieth century commentator of Upanisadic literature.

Bhagavadgita is considered as the essence of Indian philosophical thought. It advocates a brilliant synthesis of different approaches to human emancipation. Perhaps this synthetic approach inspired Tagore to borrow ideas of Bhagavad Gita and to explain them with his own realization and imagination. Gita's views on sacrifice (*Yajna*), its espousal of disinterested action (*niskama karma*), its characterization of a calm intellect (*sthitadhi*), its emphasis on performance of one's own personal and social duties—all these ideas exert great influence on Tagore's personality and creative works.

Tagore's literary genius is sustained and nourished by the literary heritage of classical India. The classical Sanskrit literary world provided Tagore with the imaginative space where Tagore played with his genius. Tagore in his commentaries on several Sanskrit dramas and poems elaborates on the morals of these works and shows how these messages fit in the classical Indian ethos. The aspiration and ideals of the classical Indian people get manifest in these literary works. Tagore's commentary on the two great Indian epics brings out the message of the eternal India. Here we get a new understanding of what history is, thanks to Tagore's insights.

Sri Sri Sitaramdas Omkarnath Samskrita Siksha Samsad proposes to undertake a National Seminar on the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Tagore. This seminar, we hope, will enlighten us about Tagore's historic role in reinterpreting and reassuring us about the clarion message of classical Indian heritage. There will be three phases in this national seminar. The first day of the seminar will focus on Tagore and the Upanisads. In the second day the seminar will concentrate on Tagore and Bhagavadgita. In the third day we would focus on Tagore and Classical Sanskrit Literature.

The National Seminar will be completed within three days.

(Dr. Suresh Kumar Banerji)
Registrar