

Enclos.¹⁵⁰ (*sic*)
C/o L.K.E., Dartington, Totnes, Devon
10 July 1930

Dear Amiya Babu,

It was a great pleasure to hear from you. After some alarums? I made the excursion here, and had 2 or 3 days with the Bard and have advanced to a stage whereby with your help, I should be able to publish the songs as I wish. (Need I say what a profound pleasure it has been to meet my friend Gurudeva again? and Rathi and Pratima Devi, and Lal?)

In answer to your kind messages. I should have great pleasure in meeting again, believe me, and in meeting your wife. I shall be here for 1 or 2 weeks, then in (or near) London as I want to finish Bengal, as thesis and book. I go North about September. Do let me know if you're to be in or near London. I should be glad to talk over Bengal and hear what you feel needs saying to strengthen the links of understanding, as you said, and break down barriers.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Geddes.

14.7.30. P.S. I realise after writing out the list that transliteration of 16 songs, – translation of 7 of these, will be a big job and I know you have plenty to do yourself. Perhaps, if you've time to do some, and find some one to help me with others, – those for which you have no time. It would be nice to get the book ready for the poetic translator, as soon as may be – beginning with a few. If you could send me, first the transliterations of those for which I have translations, we could start...

A G.

¹⁵⁰ What the enclosure might have been, is not apparent.

C/o L.K. Elmhirst
Dartington Hall,
Totnes, Devon

13 July 1930.

Dear Mr. Bake,

It is a pleasure to know that you have tackled the great work of noting Dr. Tagore's songs: a difficult but fine task. I owe you many apologies for not having answered your kind letter of 16.2.28 (I think it was): some of the MS was lost and various delays to my work made me very behind hand with this and other things I wished to do. I have just had 3 days with Dr. Tagore and we have gone over a number of songs: herewith is the best of those noted. I've noted enough of the airs to identify them by.

Will you tell me which, if any of those you've noted? I might also include some noted by Benoit ('Inde is now Amar').

I am writing to *her*, Amiya Chakravarty (asking him to forward this for me) and asking him to let me have the words and translated. I have to have these translated in verse by a friend so that the songs could be sung in English. (the Poet had suggested my trying this too – but success is uncertain).

I wonder if you have been in touch with Philippe Stern, (*sic*) (90 Boulevard Malesherbes, Paris) of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, who is interested in the publication of Oriental music, and offered to help with the publication of these. I did not accept, feeling that, as English is the European language spoken in India, and her closest [illegible] is with Britain and USA that these songs should first be published in English. Phil Sterne (*sic*) however is a good, careful man who is making a genuinely scientific study of Oriental music. His official notations for special features of Oriental music would be worth adopting. I hope that you will not keep my letter so long unanswered as I have kept yours.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Geddes

Geographical Department
University Edinburgh
6 November 1934

Dear Gurudeva,

It is so long since I have written that you may well wonder what has become of me, and of what I hoped to complete for you. Instead of being able to say today (as I should so dearly like to) that any share of the task is done, I come to ask if you will honour the memory of your friend, my father, by giving your name to the accompanying letter to the Principal. If so, will you "Air Mail" your consent, to me, as the Outlook Tower Committee have asked me to write to you.

I wish you could meet my wife, she would dearly love to know you.

And now as to the Songs – your songs, – I've tried one or two translators in vain; but one more has promised to try, and I'm sending some of the verses and tunes and I'm to try playing them over to her. Since I saw you I did get literal, prose translations, but not yet the singable translations I hope for.

It's true that I've not pushed the matter as I hoped to, ... my Professor has helped me at the two geographical books (*sic*) I've now almost finished "Bengal" and the "Western Isles of Lewis and Harris". One interruption to these I must confess – the "Spirit of the Tartan" (of which I'd like to send you a note later, for it would never have been written but for seeing and hearing the song Dramas for "Sacrifice" and the "Dark Chamber" – and "Spring Tune".

Well, if you can Air Mail the word "Yes", I shall be grateful – and all of us deeply glad.

With homage and affectionate greeting to all from

Arthur¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ The end of the letter, after 'Sacrifice', is continued in the left-hand margin.

24 November 1934

Dear Arthur,

It was nice to get your letter and have your news. I heartily approve of the project of a suitable memorial to your father and I gladly give my name as a signatory to the appeal.

With affectionate greetings to all of you,

Yours sincerely

Rabindranath Tagore¹⁵²

Arthur Geddes Esq.,
Geographical Department,
The University,
Edinburgh

¹⁵² The signature, including the parenthetical information, is hand-written, signed by Tagore, in what otherwise is a typed letter, which is quite uncharacteristic of Tagore.

The Geographical Department
Edinburgh University
4 December 1934

Dear Gurudeva,

It was a great pleasure to receive, this morning, your warm letter and your acceptance of our request to sign the memorial to carry on my father's work. (I have sent it on to the Secretary). We value it.

Bengal is daily (almost hourly) in my thoughts and I wish that, someday, I might re-visit India, and Bengal. As I said, my study of Bengal is nearing completion. Further, I've a capable assistant helping with preparatory maps of India's population as a basis for my promised work on India. Of course India will only be a reconnaissance but when that is made the visit to India would show me so much that I did not see (for lack of eyes!) when I was there last, and that no one has described.

“Bengal” is on my own plan (and will be my own venture). “India” is to be written for a good series (Harrap) but I think the recommendation of their Geographical editor (Prof. Rudmose¹⁵³ Brown) would have pleased you – “Other books describe India as the European sees it, and the “Commercial geographes” written up to now too often show how money is made out of India —. Let's have something that tries to show how the ryot [peasant], and the citizen, see their country, and how they make their life there, and might make a better one!”

I've often thought of your scheme of “travelling geographers”, of a travelling school (or College) through India, and how immensely interesting it would be to join it! You said (when Andrews pled with you to go strong for political unity of India) “If we cannot win our blood, we will not spill it together.” Perhaps the first step is to mix minds – as you do at

¹⁵³ In the hand-written letter, the name looks like 'Ron', but is spelt out in the typed letter and the 'ud' are written over the two second letters by hand.

Santiniketan somewhat (though not many come from other provinces)¹⁵⁴, and beyond that, to send an embassy of learners through the land! How much could they see, learn and understand, take with them and bring!

With thanks once more,

and warm affection

Arthur¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁴ In Arthur's hand-written letter, this section is in brackets, while in the typed copy of it, it is within two dashes.

¹⁵⁵ On top of the typed copy, there is a hand-written note saying, 'In case my letter's not legible, my wife has a typed ...'. The end is cut off in the photocopy of the typed copy.

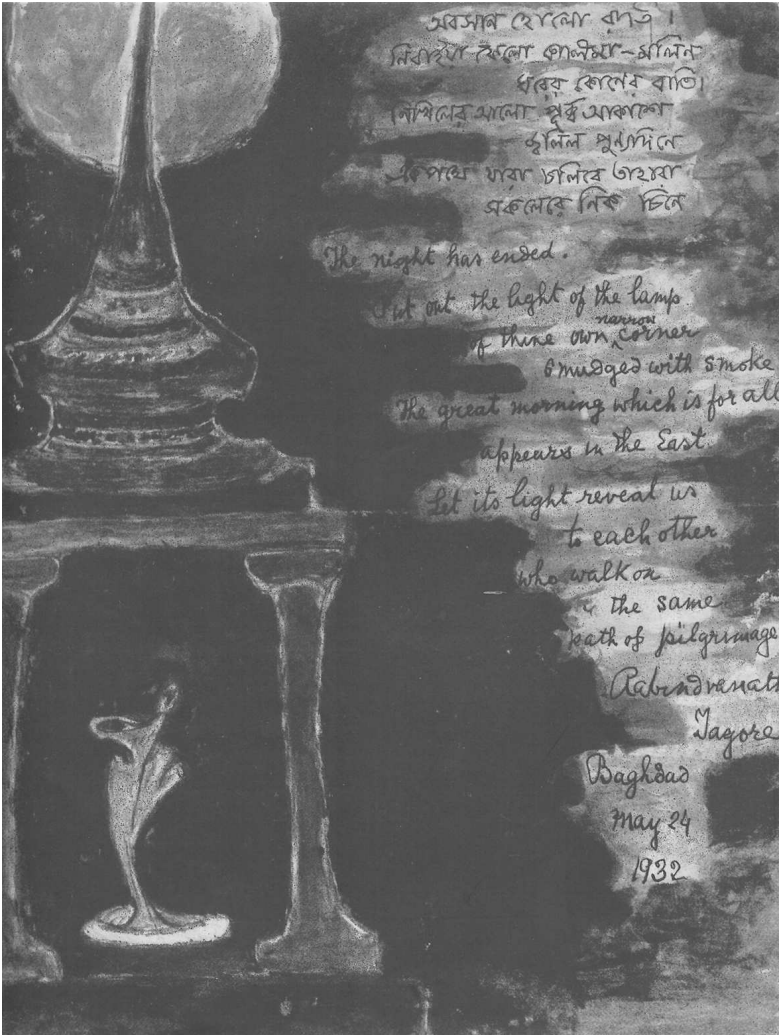
The eternal dream
is borne on the wings of ageless Light
that rends the veil of the vague
and goes across time
weaving ceaseless patterns of Being.

The mystery remains dumb,
the meanings of this pilgrimage,
the endless adventure of existence
whose rush along the sky
flames up innumerable rings of paths,
till at last knowledge gleams out from the dusk
in the infinity of human spirit,
and in the dim lighted dawn
she speechlessly gazes through the break in the mist
at the vision of Life and of Love
rising from the tumult of profound pain and joy.

Santiniketan
16 September 1929

(composed for the Opening Day Celebrations of the Indian College,
Montpellier, France)

From: Das, Sisir Kumar, ed., *The English Writings of Rabindranath Tagore*,
(1996) Volume Three, p. 86.



অরজন হেরান্য বাণ ।
 নিশিহেরা-বিলোম কোমল-প্রসন্ন
 ধরক কোলক বাণি
 নিশিহেরা মালো মুকুটমালা
 কলিন প্রদীপ
 নিশিহেরা ধারা জনিত গহর
 প্রকলিত নিরু চিত্ত

The night has ended.

Put out the light of the lamp
 of these own ^{narrow} corner
 smudged with smoke
 The great morning which is for all
 appears in the East.

Let its light reveal us
 to each other
 who walk on
 the same
 path of pilgrimage

Rabindranath
 Tagore

Baghdad
 May 24
 1932

Poem by Tagore written shortly after the death of Patrick Geddes
(English version overleaf)

The night has ended.
Put out the light of the lamp
of thine own narrow corner
smudged with smoke.
The great morning which is for all
appears in the East.
Let its light reveal us
to each other
who walk on
the same
path of pilgrimage.

Baghdad, May 24, 1932

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