



## Gitanjali

by Rabindranath Tagore (1861 - 1941) Translated by the author

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	1 hour 40 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1188
Language:	English	UPC:	0683422135095
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Poetry, Philosophy		

**Gitanjali** is a collection of 103 poems translated from the original Bengali collection by the author, Rabindranath Tagore. The word *gitanjali* combines the words for “song” and “offering”, hence the subtitle “Song Offerings”. The word “anjali” has a devotional connotation, which can be applied to the volume, which is sometimes called a “prayer offering of song”.

The original volume was published in 1910 and contained 157 poems. Tagore took extensive liberties in producing the 1912 English edition, omitting some, altering others, and combining still others. The book included an introduction by the noted Irish poet William

Butler Yeats and became famous in the west, which led Tagore becoming the first non-European author to win the Nobel Prize in 1913.

Nature and the spirit figure prominently throughout, as in poem no. 57:

*Light, my light, the world-filling light, the eye-kissing light, heart-sweetening light! Ah, the light dances, my darling, at the centre of my life; the light strikes, my darling, the chords of my love; the sky opens, the wind runs wild, laughter passes over the earth. The butterflies spread their sails on the sea of light. Lilies and jasmynes surge up on the crest of the waves of light. The light is shattered into gold on every cloud, my darling, and it scatters gems in profusion. Mirth spreads from leaf to leaf, my darling, and gladness without measure. The heaven's river has drowned its banks and the flood of joy is abroad.*

**Rabindranath Tagore** (May 7, 1861 – August 7, 1941) was a Bengali writer, artist, composer, and humanist who reshaped Bengali music and literature as well as Indian art during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was born a Pirali Brahmin in Calcutta to a well-to-do family with roots in the Jessore gentry. He was a child prodigy and polymath, writing poetry at the age of eight and publishing his first poems, stories and plays at age sixteen. His creative work helped modernize Bengali art by rejecting rigid classical forms and linguistic structures and looking to the personal and political for topics, helping spur a Bengal Renaissance. His work is noted for its naturalism, lyricism, cultural grounding, and contemplative tone. His canon consists of hundreds of paintings and drawings, hundreds of works of poetry, fiction, and essays, and over two thousand songs. The national anthems of India and Bangladesh were written by Tagore. He was an outspoken activist opposed to the British Raj and a proponent of independence from Great Britain. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.