

Rabindranath Tagore wrote his poem *Where The Mind Is Without Fear* in the first decade of the Twentieth century. It is the 35th song in his famous book *Geethanjali* which was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913. Included in the volume called *Naibedya*, the original poem bears the title ' **Prarthana**' i.e. prayer. The poem is a prayer to a universal father-figure, presumably, God.

Central Idea :

This poem is a reflection of the poet's good and ideal nature. He has utmost faith in God. He prays to God with all his heart that He should guide the countrymen to work hard, speak the truth, be forward and logical in approach. Rabindranath Tagore aspires to see the country and his people to be in peace and prosper. He loves his country a lot and wishes for its welfare.

The poem was written when India was under British colonial rule, struggling for freedom. But for Tagore, freedom was more than merely political; it was to be truly spiritual. The present poem reads like a prayer for that spiritual freedom. True freedom means liberation from the shackles of fear. The head 'held high' is a manifest posture of that liberated mind. The whole world of man must be re-integrated. Narrow, parochial walls

A figure of speech that

Runs throughout the poem is a rhetorical device known as **Anaphora**--the repetition of *Where* at the beginning of lines.

Synecdoche--mind refers to the person.(part for the whole)

Alliteration---h repeated. Head held

.....by the narrow loyalties of caste creed and religion. Prejudice and superstitious which narrow the mind and divide people would be a thing of the past. Where the words of truth come out from the depths of the heart and are spoken out courageously in the open for the world to hear. People would work for perfections in the clear light of reason leaving aside all superstitious rituals.

Where everyone is free to toil and work hard for anything they desire either for their own or for the good of the nation. Everyone is encouraged to strive tirelessly till they attain full satisfaction in reaching their goals and perfection. Where blind superstitious habits of thought and action have not put out the light of reasoning. Where people's mind should not dwell in the mistakes of the past nor be possessed by it. On the other hand they should be led by the

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