

A REVIEW OF THE NOVEL "MALINI" BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE

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Abstract: Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, writer, painter, & philosopher from India who was of Bengali descent. The majority of his work is focused on fostering connections with average citizens. One of his most well-known works, *Malini*, tells the narrative of a beautiful princess who was a driving force in the adaptation of a traditional religion, despite the fact that she was influenced by the Buddhist religion. Rabindranath Tagore addresses the issue that arises in society whenever a member of it decides to practice a different faith via the lens of this story. People are able to relate to his tales very simply because the characters he portrays in his tales are portrayed in a manner that is extremely straightforward.

Keywords: Indian poet, Philosopher, Novelist, Painter, Rabindranath Tagore, *Malini*, Buddhist religion

Introduction:

In this post, we will talk about Rabindranath Tagore's *Malini*, which is one of the most well-known novels ever written. *Malini* was written in the early 20th century [1]. The accomplishments of Rabindranath Tagore are going to be the topic of discussion in this essay. In addition to that, we will watch a synopsis of the movie about his life as well as one of his novels. The well-known novel *Malini*, which tells a tale of love and hatred centered on religion, friendship, and devotion, will be the primary topic of discussion in the following chapter. We will talk about the characters in this book as well as the lessons that may be learned from reading this book. Tagore was very good at following the Buddha's precepts [2]. Tagore, who is himself a great exponent of humanity, was profoundly moved by the Buddhist philosophy of humanism [3]. Tagore, the author, paid his respects to the Blessed One, who prioritized the primacy of deed over the so-called nobility of birth. Tagore's three plays, *Malini*, *Chandalika*, & *Natir Puja*, were all inspired by different Buddhist tales, and they served as vehicles for him to extol the enduring values of Buddhism [4]. In the story of *Malini*, there is a royal princess by the name of *Malini* who, like Buddha, seeks to enlighten those who are mired in ignorance. In the following paragraphs, we will talk about Rabindranath Tagore's most significant accomplishment as well as the contribution he made to the realm of literature [5]. Because he was the first Indian artist to have his paintings seen in galleries in Europe and the United States, we will also investigate the ways in which he has influenced contemporary artists. The majority of the work, including drama, plays, stories, music, and playwrighting, was completed by him. This will be covered in the narrative. He conveyed his message on devotion, betrayal, and faith through the medium of his novel *Malini*, which is referenced in the following article.

The Life of Rabindranath Tagore:

The National Anthem of the United States was written by the Indian poet, writer, & philosopher Rabindranath Tagore. He is most remembered for penning this patriotic song. On May 8th, 1861, he entered the world in Kolkata. Banerjee (2020) claims that the fact that he was born into a family of social reformers and philosophers provides him with a genetic advantage that enables him to be such an outstanding poet and writer. The works of Rabindranath Tagore, which include poetry, short stories, and novels, span a wide range of topics related to Indian culture. Every one of the short tales and books that he wrote turned out to be ground-breaking, and they ushered in dramatic changes in society [6]. He wrote a number of books and short stories, all of which attempt to address the issue of division, territorial boundaries, & discrimination based on location. According to Som (2017), the purpose of the books, poetry, and short stories that he penned was to encourage fraternity all around

the world. A message of love and peace can be found throughout each and every book. Despite the fact that Rabindranath Tagore had a strong desire for patriotism, he was well aware that anything is good and healthy as long as it is done within reasonable boundaries [7]. Rabindranath Tagore discusses a wide variety of topics, including those related to society, politics, culture, religion, and morality. His compositions of puravi, also known as morning songs and evening songs, have earned him a lot of notoriety. In the year 1890, he penned a poem titled "Mansi," in which he discusses the various social and political difficulties of the time. Several of his most famous poems, like Sonar Tari, Chitra, Kalpana, and Naively, were written with the intention of conveying to the rest of the world a message of peace and fraternity [8]. According to Alam (2017), in addition to being a talented writer and poet, he was widely recognized for his work as an outstanding educator. He was the man who established the Shantiniketan University we know today. Instead of spending his time in religious institutions like temples and ashrams, Rabindranath Tagore devoted his life to serving humanity. When he passed away in Kolkata in 1941, it was the darkest hour for the nation as a whole.

The Contribution of Rabindranath Tagore:

Gitanjali, which was written by Rabindranath Tagore, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. He is the first person of Asian descent to ever be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. According to Gourishankar (2017), he is also famous for being the author who first brought the form of the short story to Bengali literature [9]. Also, he is well-known for establishing a university that bears the name Shanti Niketan. In addition to being the composer of the National Anthem of Bangladesh, he is also the composer of the National Anthem of India. His work served as the basis for the composition of the national anthem of Sri Lanka. One of his most significant accomplishments is that he is often regarded as the best contemporary poet to come out of India. He began writing poetry when he was eight years old, and when he was sixteen, he composed a poem called BhanusinhaThakurerPadabali, which is now considered to be one of the most famous poems ever written. The concept that all of God's creations are interconnected is a recurring theme in Rabindranath Tagore's poetry. According to Richarson (2019), he is famous for the novel ideas that he has as well as the unique mind puzzles that he comes up with. At the age of twenty, he began writing plays, and by the time he was thirty, he had become the most prominent playwright of his day thanks to his works Chitrangada, Chandalika, & Shyama. Rabindranath Tagore is recognized as a towering figure in the world of literature during the 20th century, as stated by Tagore and Kiran (2017). Tagore is also noted for his contributions to the field of poetry [10]. Rabindranath Tagore's body of work includes not just poetry, short tales, and plays, but also eight novels, four novellas, and a collection of essays. Chokher Bali, Noukadubi Gora, GhareBaire, & Char Odhyay are just a few of the excellent works that he has written. Both new literacy criteria and a new artistic rate have been implemented everywhere around the country. The ideas that Rabindranath Tagore expressed in his writings had a significant effect on the way people thought in society. Another one of Rabindranath Tagore's accomplishments was that he began painting when he was sixty years old. He began by drawing doodles, and then he progressed to painting intriguing human features, bizarre monsters, and mystical landscapes. He died in 1941.

He is the first Indian artist to have his paintings displayed in Europe, Russia, and the United States, as stated by Narasipurum et al. (2018). His paintings have also been shown in India. He painted in a manner similar to that of current painters and went on to become an inspiration to many contemporary artists. There are more than 102 pieces that are identified as being in the collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art. Because he was one of the most well-known educationists, he is best remembered for establishing Visva-Bharati University. The fact that Rabindranath Tagore is the only individual to have written the national anthem for both countries is Rabindranath Tagore's most notable accomplishment. He has composed the song "Jan Gan Man" for India, as well as "Amar Shonar Bangla" for Bangladesh. Both of these songs are in the Bangla language. Further recognition came from Oxford University in the form of an honorary degree for Rabindranath Tagore. He was the very first author in the subject of education to be awarded with this prestigious prize. Rabindranath Tagore is sometimes referred to as Gurudev in some circles.

Literature by Rabindranath Tagore:

Rabindranath Tagore is the author of a wide variety of works, including but not limited to novels, poems, essays, short tales, plays, travelogues, & thousands of songs. According to Mamilla et al. (2017), he is well-known for being the person who originated the form of the genre written in Bengali. The majority of the stories he wrote were motivated by the everyday experiences of regular people. In addition to that, he is well-known for his autographic writing. At the age of twenty, he composed his first play, which was titled *Valmiki Pratibha*. In it, he experimented with a broad variety of theatrical genres by using reimagined versions of kirtans and traditional tunes. Another poem by Rabindranath Tagore, *Dakghar* was written in 1912 and tells the story of a little boy named Amal who was staying with his uncle when he passed away from an incurable illness. The poem is set in the home of the boy's uncle.

According to Sarabhai & Joshi (2020), the works of Rabindranath Tagore are characterized by a rhythmic quality as well as an upbeat and lyrical tone. *Visarjan*, which is an adaptation of the novel *Rajarshi*, which is also written by him, is considered to be one of the best dramas that he has ever written [11]. In the year 1877, Rabindranath Tagore began composing his first short stories. His first attempt at writing a short story was titled "*Bhikharini*," and it told the tale of a woman who made a living by soliciting alms from strangers. He is the author of the book *Galpaguchchha*, which is a collection of eighty-four short stories. Rabindranath Tagore's creative and intellectually stimulating concepts are presented in the form of short stories that may be found in the book *Galpaguchchha*. Rabindranath Tagore's narrative focused mostly on everyday people and the problems they faced in their daily lives. His novels are titled *Chaturanga* and *ShesherKobita*, and he has authored both of them. In addition to his literary works, Rabindranath Tagore is most remembered for the *RavindraSangeet*, a collection of around 2,230 songs that he created.

Rabindranath Tagore's writings, whether poems, novels, or plays, were always rhythmic and lyrical in nature. In 1971, the song "*Amar Shonar Bangla*," which was written by Rabindranath Tagore during the protest of the division of Bengal, was chosen to be the national anthem of Bangladesh. Tagore wrote the song during the protests of the partition of Bengal. According to Singh & Deol (2019), his body of work served as the impetus for the composition of the national anthem of Sri Lanka. Rabindranath Tagore did not begin painting until he was sixty years old. A number of Rabindranath Tagore's works are based on scrimshaw created by the Malanggan people of northern New Ireland.

In each of his stories, he endeavored to give the protagonist the same perspective on life that he had. In his writings, he made a consistent effort to shake off the conventions of conventional culture. He is open-minded, and in his stories, he tries to put the issues concerning conventional culture and helps to develop modern society. He also contributes to the construction of modern civilization. The fact that his books have been translated into a wide variety of languages all around the world is evidence enough of his greatness as a writer. His tales almost always centered on the lowliness and the ills that were prevalent in society. In addition to that, he had an interest in politics, and he is opposed to the government of Britain. He was opposed to the ideas that Mahatma Gandhi advocated for and is against the Swadeshi Movement.

Synopsis of Malini, the Novel:

Rabindranath Tagore is responsible for the writing of a number of well-known poetic plays, including *Malini*. The narrative is told through Malini's perspective, and it touches on topics such as religion, devotion, friendship, & faith. This is a tale of love and loathing for each other. According to Banerjee (2020), Rabindranath Tagore attempted to alter the way that people think about religion through the medium of this work. He did so in the hope that it would influence their opinions. The main character of the book is a young woman named Malini who comes from a royal family but has an unconventional way of thinking. After receiving an education from a Buddhist monk, she finds that she is drawn to the Buddhist religion. *Kemenkar*, *Supriya*, the king, the queens, and the Brahmins are the other characters that appear in this drama. In the book, we will see that Malini is forced to deal with a number of challenges as a result of the diversity of her beliefs. Because she did not adhere to the customary religious practices, the Brahmins, *Kemenkar*, and *Supriya*, as well as the monarch, all advocated for her exile.

Once Malini had been exiled for a period of time, the story will show us that when she eventually came back, the Brahmins were prepared to acknowledge her as a goddess in some way. But, *Kemenkar* & *Supriya* were not satisfied. We discovered in the book that *Kemenkar* and *Supriya* had

been childhood best friends, and that when Kemenkar attempted to conquer the kingdom with the help of Supriya, Supriya betrayed him by notifying the monarch of his plans. The Kemenkar was not prepared to acknowledge Supriya's treachery, and as a result, he took his life. The fact that Kemenkar's best friend Malini asked his father for forgiveness despite the fact that Kemenkar had killed his comrade demonstrates how great Malini's ideology was.

Taking Notes from Malini:

The story of love and heartbreak is told in the novel Malini. Rabindranath Tagore aimed to demonstrate to the world the myriad guises that people might assume through the medium of this play. As we've seen in the story, Malini has to go through a lot of trouble due to the fact that her opinions are different from those of others, which demonstrates that it's not an easy thing to do to have a different perspective than other people. It is possible, according to Lewisoh (2017), to be a member of a royal family without having any interest in riches, success, or the royal pleasures associated with those things. Using the medium of this work, Rabindranath Tagore hoped to demonstrate to readers that they are free to practice their faith in whatever way that they see fit. As part of the friendship, we have also witnessed both treachery and vengeance. In this section, an essential lesson is being conveyed to society, namely that nobody is permanent among us. Everyone, for whatever reason, is capable of betraying someone else, as we saw in the book when Supriya deceived Kemenkar, who then took her life in order to exact his revenge. This demonstrates that betrayal can take place even in close friendships.

After finishing this book, we come away with the understanding that one should always have a generous spirit toward forgiving others. This is demonstrated by the fact that we witnessed how loyal Malini was when she pleaded with her father to forgive Kemenkar. The lesson that may be learned from this book is about faith, devotion, love, hate, and having the courage to have diverse opinions. This book demonstrates Rabindranath Tagore's more contemporary ideas, as he seeks to tear down the barriers that religion creates in society. She has risked exile from her palace in order to fulfill her childhood dream of becoming a prince. This demonstrates how difficult it was for regular people to follow other religions at that time period. He has the goal of challenging the conventional way that people in the society think about adhering to the established religion. A betrayal in the friendship is one of the themes explored in this book, which aims to teach its readers not to put their whole trust in anyone because it is possible for anyone to act differently at any time.

Evaluating Rabindranath Tagore's writings critically:

Rabindranath Tagore was possibly one of the rare writers who had the potential and literary skill to write in such a diverse range of genres. No other writer was able to produce work that was as eloquent and outstanding as what this one did, and on such a constant basis. He is also one of the few renowned writers & novelists who worked with literary categories ranging from songs to poems. His work can be found in many different types of literature. The author was also a deeply patriotic human being, as is evident from the fact that he turned down the honor of "Knighthood" when it was offered to him. According to Chakrabarty (2020), there are also a great number of stories, poetry, and prose pieces that demonstrate how much the author despises the superiors' practice of oppressing the inferiors. The relevant play Malini is an all-encompassing account of casteism as well as the effects it has on people and the lifestyles they lead. Malini can be said to be the similarity of every holistic as well as pure human being in this world, whereas Kemnakar & Supriya; who are also holistic in their feelings serve selfish purposes. It is a beautiful depiction of the consequences of following blindly certain ideologies without concerning or seeking the truth and logic behind them. The narrative illustrates how ignoring logic may change the course of people's lives in significant ways.

Not only in the play "Malini," but also in another of Rabindranath Tagore's well-known plays called "Guru," he depicts the same notions of the negative impacts of casteism and the consequences of it. The narrative also depicts a variety of other feelings, like love, vengeance, gratitude, and betrayal, among others. Rabindranath Tagore is considered to be one of the most influential writers of all time. His body of work is comprised of each and every type of emotion that humans are capable of feeling. This brilliant author has produced a body of work that encompasses the full range of human emotions, from betrayal to forgiveness and all in between (Chelliah and Litt 2019). When the book is analyzed

from a scholarly perspective, it is clear that the author made an effort to center the story around the unpopular principles of rationality with equality among all other types. This was the case because these concepts were not widely held during that era. It has been discovered that Rabindranath Tagore disregards the communal hierarchy of Brahmins as well as Brahmin ideology in many of the works that he has produced.

Even though he is a Brahmin, he has never stopped having a positive attitude about various types of people and the beliefs they hold. This can be seen in the autobiographical instances of his encounters with his family's tailors and maidworkers when he was a child. The writer possesses a dignified personality, which is reflected in his creative works as well as the secondary data sources, which exhibit the writer's dignified nature.

When the popularity of the work is compared to the fame that the author has received over the course of all these years, it is not difficult to conclude that he is possibly the best writer, poet, composer, and novelist to come out of the state of Bengal. This assertion can be made with relative ease. Rabindranath, like many other authors active during that time period, dedicated a significant portion of his body of work to illuminating the issues of injustice and prejudice. *Malini* is a comparable type of work, and an analysis of the play will assist the reader in comprehending how complicated and widespread the issue of caste discrimination was throughout the relevant time period indicated in the play-novel. The fact that every character in the play has reasoning to support their own beliefs is one of the most notable aspects of the play. With the exception of the play's main protagonist, *Malini*, none of the other characters are accepting of the beliefs of other people, which demonstrates how traditional norms and beliefs can make their respective adherents extremely closed-minded.

Conclusion:

We have covered Rabindranath Tagore's life story in this post for your reading pleasure. Poet, writer, social reformer, playwright, & storyteller Rabindranath Tagore was born in Bengal, India, and is of Indian descent. He is the author of a number of well-known books, including *Chokher Bali*, *Chaturanga*, *The House and the World*, and a great deal of other works. In this piece, we took a look at one of the most well-known books ever written, and its title was *Malini*. In the book, we follow the journey of a beautiful princess named *Malini*, who, due to her unconventional views on religion, is forced to overcome a number of obstacles. We have also witnessed the incident in which *Kemenkar's* childhood buddy *Supriya* betrayed him, prompting *Kemenkar* to take his own life in order to exact his vengeance. The themes of love, friendship, betrayal, and dedication run throughout this entire book. Because of his significant contributions to the world of literature, Rabindranath Tagore has been honored with a great number of accolades and awards. He is the first author to ever get an honorary degree from Oxford University and the first person of Asian descent to be awarded the Noble Prize. *Shanti Niketan* the emblematic representation of his desire in learning is something that he created himself.

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