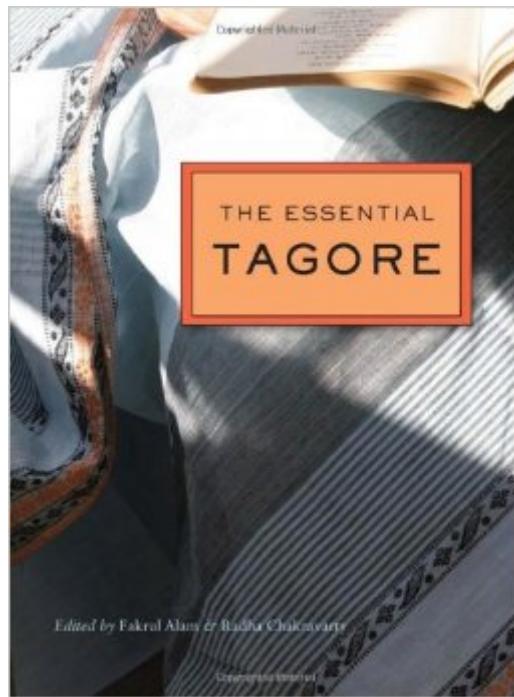


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# The Essential Tagore



## Synopsis

The Essential Tagore showcases the genius of India's Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian Nobel Laureate and possibly the most prolific and diverse writer the world has ever known. Marking the 150th anniversary of Tagore's birth, this ambitious collection "the largest single volume of his work available in English" attempts to represent his extraordinary achievements in ten genres: poetry, songs, autobiographical works, letters, travel writings, prose, novels, short stories, humorous pieces, and plays. In addition to the newest translations in the modern idiom, it includes a sampling of works originally composed in English, his translations of his own works, three poems omitted from the published version of the English *Gitanjali*, and examples of his artwork. Tagore's writings are notable for their variety and innovation. His *Sonar Tari* signaled a distinctive turn toward the symbolic in Bengali poetry. "The Lord of Life," from his collection *Chitra*, created controversy around his very personal concept of religion. *Chokher Bali* marked a decisive moment in the history of the Bengali novel because of the way it delved into the minds of men and women. The skits in *Vyangakautuk* mocked upper-class pretensions. Prose pieces such as "The Problem and the Cure" were lauded by nationalists, who also sang Tagore's patriotic songs. Translations for this volume were contributed by Tagore specialists and writers of international stature, including Amitav Ghosh, Amit Chaudhuri, and Sunetra Gupta.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 864 pages

Publisher: Belknap Press; 1St Edition edition (April 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674057902

ISBN-13: 978-0674057906

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #203,477 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Indian #55 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > India & South Asia #63 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian

## Customer Reviews

After learning about Tagore at the Art Institute in Chicago, I decided I had to read his writings. I have

fallen in love with his poetry and am so happy that I have this book which allows me to read not only his poetry but his essays, stories, and plays. He's truly the most amazing writer I had never heard of!!

Oh boy, what a disappointment! The breadth of this endeavor was oh-so promising. But this volume will set back the reputation of the transcendent, genius poet Rabinadranath Tagore for a decade or two. The authors made the terrible mistake of FORCING Tagore's lines to rhyme in couplets rather than let his imagery flower in all its incomparable majesty. Instead of a display of constant genius we get thousands of rhymes worthy of the worst of high school poetry. For those new to Tagore, go for older volumes of his poetry, prose, and plays. Stay away from this travesty--a total whiff. What were they thinking; trying to show off their own cleverness? Tagore would slap them with a big, colorful, wet flower. Fail.

Tagore is such an essential addition to my library. I adore him. I wished there had been more poetry, but it is a comprehensive overview of his large body of work.

In a grad class we studied Tagore, and this book is the best representation of his works, his thoughts, and his creative life. It's a sad mistake that we in the USA don't know more about him because he wrote prolifically in every genre possible, and his insights and creative force, talent and inspiring way of viewing life, are brilliant. A must read and I highly recommend this to anyone who would want to broaden his perspective and add perhaps new ways of understanding the Indian culture and the people on our planet in all cultures.

I got stuck taking a tagore class in college that used this book. I found to appreciate his works through a concentrated study of his work. Its a great cheap way to learn about the works of one of the most important writers in the worlds history.

Tagore is brilliant and is the complement to Ghandi in the Indian Pantheon. More practical and in some ways wiser than Ghandi as well. You will thoroughly enjoy this book.

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