

Last Passage of Rabindranath Tagore's Speech
At Berlin's Friedrich Wilhelm University (Today's Humboldt University)

On 1st June 1921

(According to the sound protocol of the recording made on that occasion, both preserved at
'Lautarchiv', Humboldt University; spelling mistakes corrected and Sanskrit diacritics added)

"India holds sacred and counts as places of pilgrimage, all spots which display a special beauty or splendour of nature. The Himālayas of India are sacred and the Vindhya hills. Her majestic rivers are sacred. Lake Mānasa and the confluence of the Ganges and the Yamunā are sacred. India has saturated with her voice and worship the great nature with which her children are surrounded, whose light fills their eyes with gladness, and whose water cleanses them, whose food gives them life, and from whose majestic mystery comes forth constant declaration of the infinite in music, scent, and colour, bringing awakening to their souls. India gains the world through worship, through communion of soul.

The idea of freedom to which India aspired was based upon realisation of spiritual unity. It is India's duty to be loyal to this great truth and never allow it to be extinguished by the storm of passion sweeping over the present day world. That is why we must be careful today to try to find out the principle, by means of which India will be able for certain to realise herself. That principle is neither commercialism, nor nationalism. It is not merely self-determination, but self-conquest and self-dedication. The voice of this truth was heard in India's forests of old above the din of race conflicts; it was declared in the Upaniṣads and expounded in the Gītā; Lord Buddha renounced the world that he might make this truth a household word for all mankind; Kabīr, Nānak and other great spirits of India continued to proclaim its message. India's grand achievement, which is still stored deep within her heart, is waiting, to unite within itself Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian, not by force, not by the apathy of resignation, but in the harmony of active co-operation.

*ānandadhiyeva khalv imāni bhūtāni jāyante,
ānandena jātāni jīvanti,
ānandaṃ saṃprayanty abhisamviśanti."*

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