MYTH AS A MODE OF SPIRITUAL CONQUEST IN TAGORE’S THE ASCETIC

JAGDISH JANBANDHU

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & HEAD,
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
SHRI MATHURADAS MOHOTA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE,
UMRER ROAD, NAGPUR – 440 009 MAHARASHTRA.

ABSTRACT
Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), a universal humanist, Nobel laureate, poet, dramatist and a sensitive nature lover gives vent to the philosophical conundrums that assert the possibilities of human salvation through spiritual conquest in his play Sanyasi or The Ascetic, first published in 1917. The present paper endeavours to focus its concentration upon the spiritual conquest of the ascetic, the protagonist of the play, liberating his alter-ego from the bondage of illusory world of seclusion and to merge into the quotidian proceedings of life through love and attachment, touch and contact realizing ultimately the bliss of the Infinite within the Finite.

The philosophical concerns on the verge of terrestrial ground remain an important aspect to Tagore. Hence, borrowing the myth of Jada Bharata from Vishnupurana, a compassionate attachment to the gritty existence through love, truth, and human contact has been conceptualized for individual salvation by means of a covenantal relationship with a little girl. The Ascetic imbibes the true nature of reality with a coda which has been momentarily misconstrued for his spiritual ascension. Eventually, the realization of the Finite redeems the self to become one with the Infinite.

KEY WORDS: spiritual conquest, Jada Bharata, The Finite, The Infinite, love, contact, truth, Compassion, salvation, humanism.

Works Cited:
4. Rabindranath Tagore The Ascetic New Delhi: Macmillan India Ltd., 1980. print