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Tagore on Nature: Integrating Non-Dualism with the Natural World

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## Abstract

Rabindranath Tagore's spiritual philosophy offers a unique intersection of nature and nondualism, challenging traditional Advaita Vedānta. While Advaita Vedānta emphasizes the oneness of the self with Brahman, often detaching from the material world, Tagore's deep connection to nature appears to contradict this view. This paper explores this paradox, examining how Tagore's reverence for nature, especially in his philosophy, coexists with and questions the tenets of non-dualism. Through key works like Sādhanā, the paper highlights how Tagore's portrayal of nature transcends mere materialism, revealing the divine presence within the natural world. Tagore views nature not as a separate, transient phenomenon but as a reflection of the self and a means of spiritual realization. This perspective challenges the Advaitic ideal of detachment, suggesting a more integrative approach to non-dualism that includes both the spiritual and the material realms. The paper argues that Tagore's philosophy offers a dynamic reimagining of non-duality, one that emphasizes interconnectedness rather than separation. Nature, in Tagore's view, is not an obstacle to spiritual awakening but an active participant in the journey toward self-realization. This approach enriches contemporary interpretations of Advaita Vedanta, proposing a more inclusive spiritual identity that embraces both the earthly and the transcendent. By integrating nature into his non-dualistic framework, Tagore presents a vision of oneness that resonates with modern environmental and spiritual movements, highlighting the relevance of his work in today's global conversations on interconnectedness and spiritual identity.

Keywords: Tagore, Advaita Vedānta, Non-dualism, Nature, Spirituality, Interconnectedness.