

WHAT has come to be known as environmental thinking today is not a recent phenomenon...

Carson used the images of silences and absences to make a case for the experience of horror in spring — a season of crudities, cruelties and indifferences experienced in terms of absences of so many things...

Rabindranath Tagore and His Ecological Spiritualism

by Azfar Hussain

environment as absences incarnate, given the extent and nature of environmental degradation people have been experiencing globally...

sences in the Western sense; but, they are integrative, holistic, and Buddhist at times...

BOTH as a poet and as an activist, Rabindranath Tagore has dwelt on the question of environment...

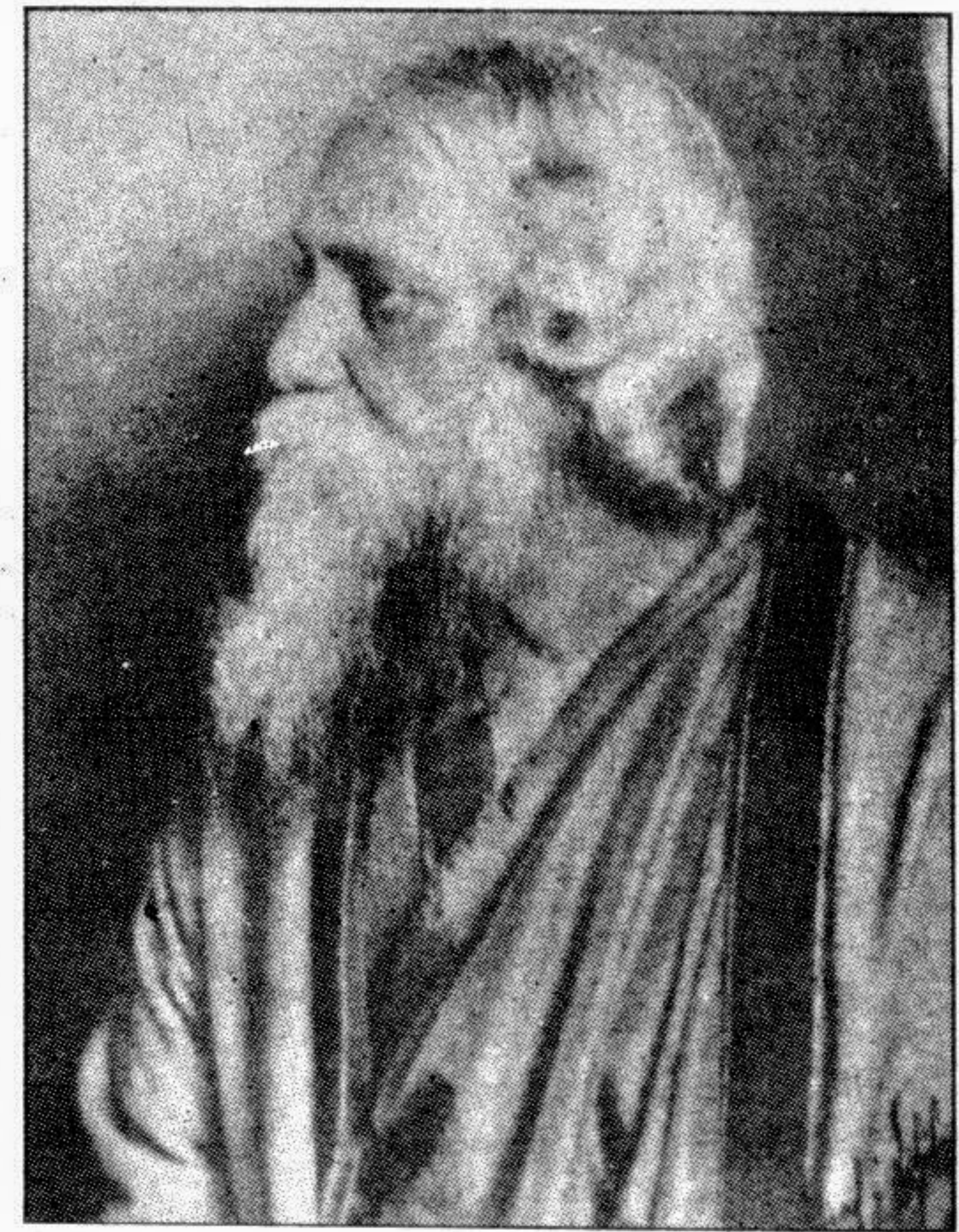
Tagore, almost consistently in his poetry and songs, locates the very site of this unity, this spiritual experience...

to his intimate relationship with nature. Tagore's environmental sensitivity is greatly dominated by his consciousness of nature...

But, what is this harmony of environment? Does it only mean living in an active contact with nature?

day. According to Tagore, the harmony of environment certainly depends on the harmony maintained without, the harmony one sees in terms of one's intimate relationship with nature...

Now, while speaking of internal harmony, Tagore also comes up with the idea of belonging to you."



sense-training which, in fact, he made compulsory for the students of Shantiniketan. Tagore himself maintains in his education-policy of the ashrama...

internal and external) environmental consciousness and thinking which draw elan and energy from the Kalidasian image and idea of the tapovana in the Vedic age...

ronmental thinking, there lies nothing but man — man only. The centrality that Tagore attributes to man unmistakably lends a strongly humanistic colour to Tagore's environmental sensibility...

T AGORE is not only a visionary with regard to his environmental thinking; nor he is a mere idealist

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RABINDRANATH Tagore, the youngest son of Maharshi Devendranath Tagore was entrusted, in 1891, to look after the Tagore estate which spread over to Patisar of Rajshahi, Shahjapur of Pabna and Brahimpur of Nadia districts of Bengal.

It was not understood why Rabindranath Tagore was assigned to look after the zamindari of the Tagore estate is the first place, as he was known to be a soft-spoken, kind hearted personality with a literary bend of mind.

It was really a difficult assignment for Rabindranath Tagore to manage. Initially, he was asked to inspect and report back to his father the affairs of the estate.

Rabindranath held his father in high esteem and, to an extent, was scared of him too. Here I would like to quote from Rabindranath himself: "Although my grandfather had handed over the management of the estates to my father, he himself controlled the expenditure."

Rabindranath Tagore as a Benevolent Zamindar

by Mohammad Amjad Hossain



Rabindranath among the tenants at Shelaidah.

like a school boy going for examination. This was the period when Rabindranath was on probation.

Having served a year or so as an apprentice, Rabindranath earned the confidence of his father who was a real hard task master as far as zamindari was concerned.

It is true that Rabindranath Tagore wrote profusely during his stay in Shelaidah. But it is equally true that he also proved his managerial skills as a zamindar during the same period.

There were examples that he sacked his own staff members on hearing complaint from tenants. The staff knew it well that no amount of negligence, however small, would escape his notice.

If any tenant was not satisfied with the decision of the village panchayat he had the option to appeal to five pradhans appointed by the zamindar. They used to hear the appeals of the tenants. It is really amazing that no tenant filed a case in the Magistrate or Munsiff courts during the tenure of zamindari of Rabindranath.

ered with bed sheet the Hindu tenants would sit and Brahmins would occupy the middle area while officers of sadar kachari and other kacharis would take their designated seats.

Chief rent-collector and other Hindu officers were surprised to witness that all tenants having removed bedsheets and chairs sat on the carpet together and Rabindranath took his place in the middle.

Rabindranath pledged himself to save and protect the Muslim tenants from the clutches of money-lenders who were predominantly from the Hindu community.

That Rabindranath was an efficient and successful landlord was reflected in the writing of a British ICS, C. Malley, in the Rajshahi district gazetteer in 1916.

Two Poems of Rabindranath Tagore

Translated by Kazi Fazlur Rahman

The Undaunted

A toy paradise we shall not build on this earth Resonant with enchanting yet wailful melodies Nor my beloved, we shall make up our bridal bed with sweet sorrows of Cupid's arrows;

The Love Eternal

It's you I loved in countless ways and hundreds of times. In many incarnations spanning eons without a break.

I listen to the tales of the past. And of pangs of ancient loves. Of stories to the partings and meetings in the days long gone;

From the heart of the time without a beginning You and I floated together in the river of love. In the love of countless lovers, we loved