

August 25, 2021

To

Steve Dorman
Director of Parks
Harris County Precinct Three
(713) 274-0940
16215 Clay Road, Suite 214
Houston, Texas 77084

AND

Randy Keenan
Assistant County Attorney

SUB: TAGORE GROVE AGREEMENT

Dear Steve and Randy

Thank you for your time the other day at the Ray Miller Park.

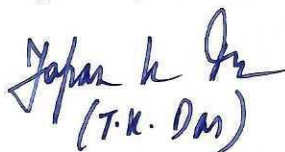
As per Randy's email, dated August 19, 2021, attached please find the Tagore Grove Agreement signed by Tagore Society of Houston Office Bearers.

Please send us a copy of this agreement after this is fully executed by your office.

We look forward working with you. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Tagore Society of Houston
42 Asbury Park CT
Sugar Land, TX 77479


(T.K. Dan)
Cell: 281-701-6242

LICENSE AGREEMENT

This License Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between **Harris County**, a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the "County," and the **Tagore Society of Houston**, a Texas nonprofit corporation, hereinafter referred to as (the "Tagore Society"). The County and the Tagore Society are each referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

In consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements and benefits contained herein, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, both Parties agree as follows:

I. Recitals

- A. The Tagore Society has decorated and utilized a non-exclusive license within a portion of Ray Miller Park (the "Park"), in a circular configuration substantially as shown in Exhibit A. The Park is a fifteen (15) acre public park located within Precinct 3 of Harris County having an address of 1800 Eldridge Parkway. The Tagore Society now wishes to extend said license and make certain improvements to the licensed area, which currently contains a monument, surrounded by a black iron fence and flowering bushes arranged in a circular pattern around the monument. The portion of the Park to which this Agreement is applicable is hereinafter known as "Tagore Grove."
- B. The Tagore Society's purpose in obtaining the license referenced hereunder is to foster and promote Indo-American relations and cultural awareness.
- C. The County is willing to grant the license to the Tagore Society for the purposes set forth above, subject to the terms and conditions provided herein.
- D. The Tagore Society acknowledges that one of the primary responsibilities it must undertake in exchange for the license is the obligation to maintain and manage Tagore Grove in a safe, clean and functional condition throughout the license term.

II. Property

- 2.1 Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the County hereby grants to the Tagore Society a non-exclusive license to use, make improvements to, manage and maintain Tagore Grove (the "License"). Tagore Grove is described more specifically in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- 2.2 This Agreement does not convey any interest in real property to the Tagore Society. Rather, this Agreement conveys merely a non-exclusive license to use Tagore Grove according to the terms and conditions herein.

- III. Term: The term of this Agreement is ten (10) years, beginning on the day the County notifies the Tagore Society that it approves of its Improvement Plan (the "Commencement Day"), and ending ten (10) years later.

IV. Improvements

- 4.1 The Tagore Society will not improve or place any improvements upon, change, or alter Tagore Grove or the remainder of the Park in any way without (a) the written approval of the Improvement Plan by the County Commissioner of Precinct Three, or his duly authorized agent, (the "Commissioner") and (b) receipt of notice from the Commissioner that the Tagore Society is approved to proceed making the improvements, changes or alterations (known

hereafter as “Improvements”) shown on the approved Improvement Plan. All requests for Improvements must be made in writing and include such detailed drawings and architectural/engineering designs as the Commissioner, in his sole discretion, requires. The Tagore Improvement Drawings, substantially as depicted on Exhibit “A”, may, at the election of the Commissioner, constitute the Improvement Plan or the Commissioner may require additional detail or information from the Tagore Society as part of the Improvement Plan.

- 4.2 If the Commissioner makes notes or comments on the Improvement Plan as a part of its approval, the Tagore Society will incorporate those revisions into the Improvement Plan and re-submit the same for approval. All Improvements will be made using first-class material and labor.
- 4.3 Any affixed improvements, defined as any Improvements that would, upon removal, cause damage to the Park or County property, will not be removed by the Tagore Society at the expiration or earlier termination of this License unless the County notifies the Tagore Society to remove the same. Other Improvements must be removed at the expiration or earlier termination of this License. Notwithstanding the above, no Improvements may be made to utility connections or utility service serving Tagore Grove without specific approval from the Commissioner.
- 4.4 The County agrees to give the Tagore Society no less than ten (10) days notice to (i) remove any Improvements or other property and (ii) repair any damages caused by the removal before the County exercises any rights available to it under this Agreement, except in the event of imminent danger or harm to the Park or County property, when no advance notice by the County will be required.
- 4.5 Other than fixing any damages caused by the removal, as indicated in 4.4(ii), the Tagore Society has no responsibility to restore the space to conditions that existed prior to the construction of the Tagore Grove
- 4.6 Any Improvements or other property not removed by the Tagore Society, pursuant to Section 4.3 above, may be removed and disposed of by the County at the sole cost, risk and expense of the Tagore Society.
- 4.7 The Tagore Society will furnish the following (pursuant to Texas Government Code §2253.021, as amended, for public works contracts) to the County, if applicable, prior to beginning work on any Improvements:
 - a. A payment bond if the installation or construction of Improvements involves a cost in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00); and
 - b. A performance bond and a payment bond if the installation or construction of Improvements involves a cost in excess of One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00).

V. Maintenance

- 5.1 The Tagore Society will keep and maintain in a safe, attractive and good state of repair and cleanliness, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, the Tagore Grove and all Improvements, regardless of ownership of any particular Improvement, including, without limitation, all seating, fencing, sidewalks, utility (i.e. water, electric) service lines, lighting, and electrical

outlets. The pedestrian base of Tagore Grove will not contain grass or landscaping without specific approval of the Commissioner.

- 5.2 The Tagore Society will provide, at its sole expense, all equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to perform the maintenance requirements described in Section 5.1 above. However, no (a) seed or chemical will be permitted to be planted or applied to any part of the Park by the Tagore Society or (b) vegetation, including trees, shrubs and gardens (other than those currently encircling Tagore Grove which will be removed pursuant to Exhibit "A") will be cut, disturbed or removed, without the prior written consent of the Commissioner..

VI. Liability and Indemnification

- 6.1 The Tagore Society will, at its sole expense, keep and maintain, during the Term of this Agreement, a general liability policy covering all of Tagore Grove and all activities upon or within Tagore Grove in an amount of not less than One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) for injuries or death to one person, and not less than Three Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$300,000.00) for injuries or death to more than one person in any one accident or occurrence, and not less than One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) for any single occurrence for injury to or destruction of property, or in the amounts of the County's maximum limitations of liability under the Texas Tort Claims Act, whichever is greater. The policy will name the County as an insured. Both Parties may be named as insureds, provided that the above policy limits are at least doubled. The Tagore Society will provide a copy of the policy to the County Auditor and the Precinct 3 Park Superintendent within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Agreement. No later than thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the policy, and any renewals thereof, the Tagore Society will furnish a copy of the renewal insurance policy to the Precinct 3 Park Superintendent.
- 6.2 THE TAGORE SOCIETY EXPRESSLY AGREES TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL LOSS, EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY FEES, INVESTIGATIVE COSTS, AND OTHER COSTS OF LITIGATION, IN ANY MANNER ARISING OUT OF THE ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE TAGORE SOCIETY AND AGENTS OF THE TAGORE SOCIETY, INCLUDING CONTRACTORS, REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS, GUESTS, INVITEES AND VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR USE OF TAGORE GROVE, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE COUNTY WAS CONCURRENTLY NEGLIGENT, BUT EXCEPTING WHERE THE INJURY OR DEATH WAS CAUSED BY THE SOLE NEGLIGENCE OF THE COUNTY.
- 6.3 The County makes no representation, warranty, or guarantee with respect to the condition of Tagore Grove, the presence or absence of pits or depressions in its surface, the type or condition of its soil or other material within the soil, and the presence of pipes or other objects in the soil. THE TAGORE SOCIETY ACCEPTS TAGORE GROVE AND ALL APPURTENANCES AND IMPROVEMENTS THERETO "AS IS", WHERE IS, AND WITH ALL FAULTS.
- 6.4 The Tagore Society will timely satisfy and discharge all debt for all material and labor for any Improvements or maintenance performed by the Tagore Society. If a lien for unpaid labor or materials is threatened or filed against Tagore Grove, the Tagore Society will promptly cause the lien to be released or the threat be removed. The filing of a such lien against Tagore Grove constitutes an injury to the County and is cause for immediate termination of this Agreement and the License created thereby. THE TAGORE SOCIETY WILL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FOR ALL DAMAGES AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES, FOR ALL DAMAGES AND

EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES, FOR OR ON ACCOUNT OF ANY NECESSARY LEGAL ACTION TO REMOVE THE THREAT OF THE FILING OF A LIEN OR THE REMOVAL OF ANY LIEN.

VII. Termination / Notice

- 7.1 Either Party may terminate this Agreement and the License created thereby, at any time, with or without cause, by providing at least thirty (30) days advance notice to the other Party.
- 7.2 Any notice given pursuant to this Agreement must be in writing and shall be duly served when it shall have been (a) delivered in person or (b) deposited, enclosed in a wrapper with the proper postage prepaid thereon, and duly registered or certified, return receipt requested, in a United States Post Office. If mailed, any notice or communication shall be deemed to be received three (3) days after the date of deposit in the United States Mail. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices shall be delivered to the following addresses:

To the County: Harris County – Administration Building
c/o: County Judge
1001 Preston, 9th Floor
Houston, TX 77002

To the Tagore Society: The Tagore Society of Houston
P.O. Box 629
Alief, TX 77411
Attn: Gopendu Chakrabarti and Mila Senguta

For Physical Deliveries:
42 Asbury Park Court
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Attn: Gopendu Chakrabarti and Mila Senguta

Either Party may, from time to time, change its respective address to another address within the United States by giving at least fifteen (15) days advance notice to the other Party.

VIII. Tagore Grove Management

- 8.1 The Tagore Society will not construct or place any signs in the Park without the prior written consent of the Commissioner. At no time will the Tagore Society place any signage in the Park that (a) is political or commercial in nature, or (b) implies, infers or states that Tagore Grove or any other portion of the Park is private property. All signage or displays containing text that are constructed or placed in the Park will be English only.
- 8.2 The Tagore Society acknowledges that artwork is subjectively interpreted and that all decisions of the Commissioner regarding the display of graphics, murals, monuments or other artwork in Tagore Grove will be final.
- 8.3 The Tagore Society will provide appropriate (a) supervision and control of all activities of the Tagore Society within Tagore Grove and (b) security personnel, consisting of certified and uniformed Texas peace officers, for any special events sponsored or conducted in Tagore Grove. At all times, the Tagore Society will comply, and require all visitors or others using Tagore Grove to comply, with all applicable laws and regulations, including the County's park rules, as may be promulgated from time to time. The current County park rules are incorporated herein by reference as if copied herein verbatim.

- 8.4 The Tagore Society will permit all persons to participate in the activities of the Tagore Society within Tagore Grove, without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- 8.5 The County or the Commissioner may establish hours when the Park is open to the public, and such hours will apply to the whole Park, including Tagore Grove. Tagore Grove will at all times (excepting times when construction or hazardous work is being performed thereon) remain open to the public. While the Park is open to the public, the Tagore Society may access and use Tagore Grove. Notwithstanding the above, the County may, with or without notice, prohibit entry into and use of the Park whenever it is necessary, as determined by the Commissioner, in the Commissioner's sole discretion. The County will not be held liable for damages of any kind or character to the Tagore Society, its successors and assigns, for closing or restricting the use of the Park, or for any other reason, at any time.
- 8.6 At no time will the Tagore Society charge a fee for entrance to Tagore Grove or participation of any activities conducted therein.

IX. Miscellaneous

- 9.1 Article and Section captions or headings in this Agreement are merely descriptive and do not add to or detract from the Agreement's content.
- 9.2 If the County hires an attorney to protect its interest in Tagore Grove or the Park or to pursue remedies it may have against the Tagore Society, the Tagore Society will reimburse the County for all attorney fees and costs of litigation.
- 9.3 Any oral representations or modifications concerning this Agreement are of no force or effect; and this Agreement may only be modified or changed by order of the Commissioners Court.
- 9.4 The Tagore Society will provide the County with current names, addresses and phone numbers of its president, chief acting officer, vice-president and each member of its board.
- 9.5 This Agreement is governed by Texas Law and will be performed entirely in Harris County, Texas.
- 9.6 This Agreement and the License granted thereby may not be assigned or transferred by the Tagore Society for any reason and any attempt to do so will be of no effect.
- 9.7 The persons signing this Agreement on behalf of the Tagore Society represent that they are authorized by the Tagore Society's board to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Tagore Society.

Signatures Follow on Next Page

THE TAGORE SOCIETY:

By: Gopendu Chakrabarti.

Print Name: GOPENDU CHAKRABARTI

Title: PRESIDENT

Date: 08/23/2021

By: Suvabrata Biswas.

Print Name: SUVABRATA BISWAS

Title: TREASURER

Date: 8/22/21

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CHRISTIAN D. MENEFEY, COUNTY
ATTORNEY

HARRIS COUNTY:

By: Randy Keenan

RANDY KEENAN

Assistant County Attorney

CA File No.: 20GEN0396

By: _____

LINA HIDALGO

County Judge

EXHIBIT "A"
Tagore Improvement Drawings

Backgroun

Rabindranath Tagore was born in 1861 in Calcutta, India, then under British rule. He was home-schooled and self-taught. From an early age, influenced partly by his father, Maharishi Debendranath Tagore, an eminent Hindu philosopher, Rabindranath developed a deep spiritual understanding of ancient Vedic philosophy and a love of nature. The Tagore family as such were already well known in society as prominent philosophers and religious reformers during this time of Bengal Renaissance.

*"I was born in Kolkata of a forgotten era...in an atmosphere of aspiration,
aspiration for the expansion of the human spirit..."*

*"I had a deep sense, almost from infancy, of the beauty of nature, an intimate
feeling of companionship with the trees and the clouds, and felt in tune with the
musical touch of the seasons in the air. All these craved expression, and
naturally I wanted to give them my own expression."*

*"I felt a larger meaning of my own self when the barrier vanished between me
and what was beyond myself"*

Tagore became a fiercely independent thinker, a Universal Man, who through his early spiritual experience, saw Humanity as a borderless Universal Spirit, Love as the Universal Unifying Principle, and Service as the highest human goal.

*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy,
I awoke and found the life was Service
I acted and found that Service was Joy"*

In 1913, Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for the exquisite beauty of his poetic thoughts.

On his 70th birthday, Tagore wrote: "the only thing of which I feel certain is that I am a poet"

"Tagore's childhood memoir tells us much about the man who would later reshape Bengali literature and music" - Amartya Sen, Winner of Nobel Prize Economic Sciences in 1998.

Nobel Prize

On November 13, 1913, Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for "Gitanjali, Song Offerings," a collection of mystical poems, becoming the first non-European to receive this prize. The exquisite beauty of these poems startled readers all around the world.

The Prize Proclamation stated in part: *"because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, by which, with consummate skill, he has made his poetic thought, expressed in his own English words, a part of the literature of the West."*

Gitanjali Lyric no. 1

(as translated by Tagore)

*Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure.
This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again
and fillest it ever with fresh life.*

*This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales and hast breathed through its
melodies eternally new.*

*At the immortal touch of thy hands
my little heart loses its limits in joy
and gives birth to utterance ineffable.*

*Thy infinite gifts come to me
only on these very small hands of mine.
Ages pass, and still thou pourest
and still there is room to fill.*

Gitanjali Lost & Found: Tagore had begun to translate Gitanjali into English in anticipation of a visit to Europe. He carried the notebooks of his translations with him in 1912 on the journey by ship. Unfortunately Tagore lost the manuscripts on the London Tube a few days after his arrival. In an extraordinary twist of fate, the manuscripts were found and deposited in the 'Left Luggage' office from which they were recovered.

Songs

***"To the birds you gave songs, the birds gave you songs in return.
You gave me only a voice, yet asked for more, thus I sing"***

Tagore wrote almost 2,200 songs with complete notation, in addition to his other prodigious literary and artistic output. His songs, in fact lyricised poetry, reflect the ethos and experience of every human soul, and reverence towards every aspect of creation. Due to their distinctive creative genius, they are collectively called **Rabindra Sangeet (Rabindra Songs)**.

"The world speaks to me in colors, my soul answers in music"

"Music fills the infinite between two souls"

Rabindra Sangeet transformed Bengali music by the way it expressed the murmurings of every soul. They are routinely sung all over Bengal. Patriots have mounted the gallows with his songs on their lips, as also young lovers when they are unable to express the depth of their feelings.

"The speech of my heart will be carried on in murmurings of a song"

Tagore is the only poet to have composed the National Anthems of two countries: India and Bangladesh. The National Anthem of Sri Lanka is also influenced by Tagore's songs.

National Anthem of India

Originally written in 1911, **Jana Gana Mana** was officially adopted as the Indian National Anthem on January 24, 1950. Each of the word in this song pays tribute to the motherland and celebrates the unity in diversity of the country.

National Anthem of Bangladesh

Tagore wrote the poem **Amar Sonar Bangla** in 1905 as an ode to undivided Bengal on the eve of its partition of Bengal into two states. Later this song was adopted as Bangladesh National Anthem after securing freedom from Pakistan in 1971.

Educator and Painter

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence. {and} can give us real freedom, the highest that is claimed for man, his freedom of moral communion in the human world"

In 1901, Tagore established an experimental outdoor school for children in Santiniketan or "*the abode of peace*", in West Bengal, India. Here students are taught in a natural environment, in the tradition of ancient hermitage schools of India.

In 1921, Tagore established Visva Bharati, also in Santiniketan, as an International University for higher education with the motto "Where the world makes a home in a single nest".

Tagore said about Visva Bharati:

"Visva-Bharati represents India where she has her wealth of mind which is for all. {It} acknowledges India's obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture and India's right to accept from others their best "

From its inception, Visva Bharati attracted global students and has produced some of the world's foremost thinkers and Nobel-Laureates.

In 1922, Tagore also established a school for rural reconstruction in Sriniketan, in close proximity to Visva Bharati, to make neighbouring villages autonomous.

*"Open your eyes and see your God is not before you!
He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground
and where the path maker is breaking stones.
He is with them in sun and in shower, and his garment is covered with dust"*

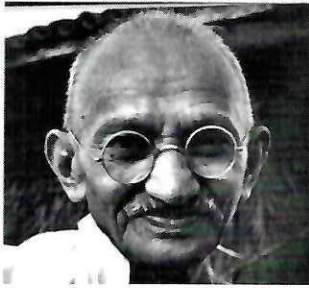


Relatively late in his career, in his sixties, Tagore began painting. He painted over 2,000 beautiful artworks.

In 1930, Tagore was the first Indian artist to exhibit his works worldwide. His unique painting style has inspired many modern Indian artists



World Luminaries



Mahatma Gandhi

Tagore and Gandhi were two pillars of the Indian independence movement. Tagore admired Gandhi as a political leader but was critical of some of Gandhi's strategies. Even so, Tagore called Gandhi a 'Mahatma', a Great Soul. Gandhi in turn called Tagore a "Gurudev", divine teacher. He wrote, "I regard the poet as a Great Sentinel warning us against the approaching enemies called bigotry, lethargy, intolerance."

Albert Einstein, Nobel Prize in Physics 1921

Tagore met Einstein in 1930, which The New York Times summarized in an article headlined "Einstein and Tagore Plumb the Truth." The essence of their discussions can be summarized in these exchanges:

Einstein: Truth, then, or Beauty is not independent of Man?

Tagore: No

Einstein: Then I am more religious than you are

Tagore: My religion is in the reconciliation of the Super-personal Man, the universal human spirit, in my own individual being



Romain Rolland, Nobel Prize in Literature 1915

Romain Rolland paid tribute to Tagore & Gandhi as "two great river-like souls, overflowing with divine spirit". On Tagore's 70th birthday, he sponsored a commemorative volume called the Golden Book of Tagore. He described Tagore as "the living symbol of the spirit of light and harmony soaring as a great and free bird, in the midst of storms"

Pearl S. Buck, Nobel Prize in Literature 1938

A profound sense of beauty pervades Tagore's works, ennobles it and makes it understandable to every (human) heart. His eyes are fixed upon the Culture of Mankind In this troubled world, it is good to remember him and to recall again the beauty in his message.



Octavio Paz, Nobel Prize in Literature 1990

Paz wrote: "Tagore was ... a great artist. His work, as well as he himself, was a bridge between India and the world. Admired by the greatest in Europe ... in the Hispanic countries he also had numerous and fervent readers {and} a long love affair with {his} poetry and thinking. The one and only reason behind his...popularity is the magic of his Poetry.

Worldwide Interactions

"Man has taken centuries to discuss the question of his own true nature and has not yet come to a conclusion. He has been building up elaborate religions to convince himself, against his natural inclinations, of the paradox that he is not what he is but something greater"

Tagore spoke tirelessly about the borderless mind and universal spirit, for which he was honored by many world leaders and common people. The following homage was offered by the residents of Rangoon in the last week of March 1924, when Tagore stopped at the Burmese capital en route to China. Five thousand people turned out to hear him speak.

"We greet you in the name of that universal culture which you have promoted with admirable devotion and singleness of aim. We greet you in the name of Human Brotherhood, inculcation of which in East and West has been with you a consuming passion. We greet you as a votary of Truth sensed through Beauty. We greet you as one representing the rebirth of Asia, and as one who had thrown across [a] chasm of ignorance and misunderstanding a bridge of future comprehension between Asia and Europe-America....".

Besides travelling to the Far East, Europe and the US, Tagore also travelled to countries in South America. His deep influence can be seen in Peru, Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, where many of works have been translated. He developed a deep friendship with Victoria Ocampo of Argentina, to whom he dedicated a book of poems. Notable South American literary figures such as Octavio Paz, Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral, all Nobel Laureates, have been avid proponents of his poetry.

"Man's abiding happiness is not in getting anything but in giving himself up to what is greater than himself, to ideas which are larger than his individual life, the idea of his country, of humanity, of God"

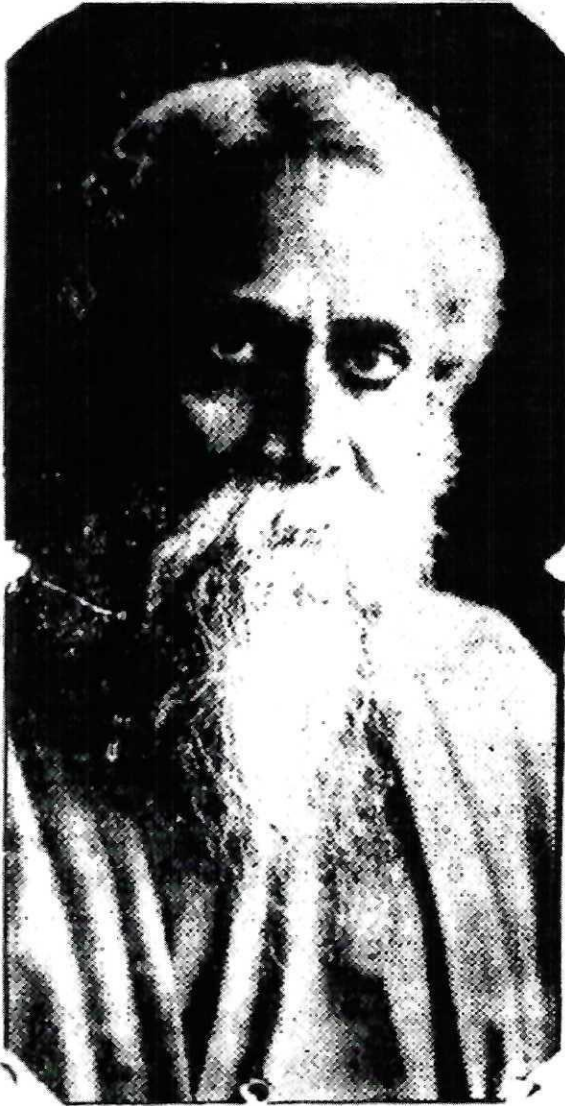
Even today, as we witness discrimination across the globe based on color, race, gender and religion, we can take refuge in Tagore's words. His eternal message is that all human beings are connected by a common borderless Humanity and a loving Universal Spirit.

"Essentially man is not a slave either of himself or of the world; but he is a lover. His freedom and fulfilment is in love, which is another name for perfect comprehension"

"This longing for the perfect expression of his self is more deeply inherent in man than his hunger, thirst for bodily sustenance, or his lust for wealth and distinction"

"Buddha's teaching speaks of Nirvana as the highest end. To understand its real character, we have to know the path of its attainment, which is not merely through the negation of evil thoughts and deeds but through the elimination of all limits to love"

U.S. Visits



**RABINDRANATH
TAGORE SPEAKS
HERE FEB. 13TH**

On February 13, 1921, Tagore visited Houston and spoke at the Rice University, drawing a crowd of 7,000 people. His speech was proclaimed on the front page of the Rice Thrasher, the campus newspaper, proclaiming Tagore as a Genius.

Between 1912 -1930, Tagore made several trips to the United States. During these trips he visited and lectured in various American cities and university campuses, being heralded both as a mystic and a world-renowned Nobel Laureate poet.

The central theme of his lectures were on Man's innate universalism and warnings against materialism and colonialism:

"Man's cry is to reach his fullest expression. It is this desire for self-expression that leads him to seek wealth and power...But he has to discover that accumulation is not realisation ---

*It is the inner light that reveals him,
not outer things"*

"True enjoyment can never be had through the satisfaction of greed, but only through the surrender of our individual self to the Universal Self"

"The traveler has to knock at every alien door to come to his own, and one has to wander through all the outer worlds to reach the innermost shrine at the end"

Colonialism and Imperialism

Two poems, "Ode to Africa" and "The Sunset of the Century," exemplify how Tagore continuously spoke out against injustice, oppression, blind patriotism, and the choking effects of colonialism.

Ode to Africa

(Written on January 12, 1936)

*In the restless tides of that primordial dawn
When the creator himself despaired of
crafting you
And struck angrily at the fresh clay again
and again,
In that hour of impatience and rage
The arms of the brave seas
Plucked you from the clasp of the lands of
the East
Removing you far from them all,
Africa, To bind you within cages of great
trees standing guard.*

*Those whose pride blinds them, their hearts
darker than your sunless forests.
The naked hunger of the civilized
Stripping them down to their inner
shameless brutality.*

*When today on the western horizon
Sunset holds its breath in fear of a new
storm,
When the beasts ride out of secret caves....
And sounds of ill omen declare the
beginning of day's end,
Come forth, Oh poet of change
Stand by the last ray of this evening's sun
Where this unfortunate woman waits....
And say, 'Forgive me!'
In the midst of fierce delirium,
Let that be the final reparation made by your
civilization.*

The Sunset of the Century

(Written on the last day of 1900)

*THE LAST SUN of the century sets amidst the
blood-red clouds of the West and the whirlwind
of hatred.*

*The naked passion of self-love of Nations, in
its drunken delirium of greed, is
dancing to the clash of steel and the howling
verses of vengeance*

.....

*The crimson glow of light on the horizon is not
the light of thy dawn of peace, my Motherland.
It is the glimmer of the funeral pyre burning to
ashes the vast flesh, - the self-love of the
Nation, - dead under its own excess.*

*Thy morning waits behind the patient dark of
the East, Meek and silent.*

Keep watch, India

.....

*Be not ashamed, my brothers, to stand before
the proud and the powerful*

With your white robe of simpleness.

*Let your crown be of humility, your freedom the
freedom of the soul.*

*Build God's throne daily upon the ample
bareness of your poverty*

*And know that what is huge is not great and
pride is not everlasting.*

I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times...

In life after life, in age after age, forever.
My spellbound heart has made and remade the necklace of songs,
That you take as a gift, wear round your neck in your many forms,
In life after life, in age after age, forever.

Whenever I hear old chronicles of love, its age-old pain,
Its ancient tale of being apart or together.
As I stare on and on into the past, in the end you emerge,
Clad in the light of a pole-star piercing the darkness of time:
You become an image of what is remembered forever.

You and I have floated here on the stream that brings from the fount.

At the heart of time, love of one for another.
We have played alongside millions of lovers, shared in the same
Shy sweetness of meeting, the same distressful tears of farewell-
Old love but in shapes that renew and renew forever.

Today it is heaped at your feet, it has found its end in you
The love of all man's days both past and forever:
Universal joy, universal sorrow, universal life.
The memories of all loves merging with this one love of ours –
And the songs of every poet past and forever.

Where the mind is without fear

And the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up

Into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way

Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee

Into ever-widening thought and action;

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,

Let my country awake.

Power said to the world, "You are mine."
The world kept it prisoner on her throne.
Love said to the world, "I am thine."
The world gave it the freedom of her house.



I felt a larger meaning of my own self when the barrier
vanished between me and what was beyond myself.



The one who plants trees, knowing that he
will never sit in their shade, has at least
started to understand the meaning of life.



Depth of friendship does not depend on length of acquaintance.



You smiled and talked to me of nothing and I
felt that for this I had been waiting long.

I have spent many days stringing and unstringing my instrument
while the song I came to sing remains unsung.



We cross infinity with every step; we meet eternity in every second.



Man's cry is to reach his fullest expression.

It is this desire for self-expression that leads him to seek
wealth and power.

But he has to discover that accumulation is not realisation.

It is the inner light that reveals him, not outer things.



In Art the person in us is sending its answers to the
Supreme Person, who reveals Himself to us in a world of
endless beauty across the lightless world of facts.



By plucking her petals you do not gather the beauty of the flower.

If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life,
your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars.



The roots below the earth claim no rewards for
making the branches fruitful.



You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.



It is very simple to be happy, but it is very difficult to be simple.



Every child comes with the message that
God is not yet discouraged of man.

A hundred years from today who are you ...
reading a poem of mine under curiosity's sway
a hundred years from today?



The highest education is that which does not merely give us
information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.



We long for things not because they are great in themselves, but
because our greed exaggerates them and makes them appear great.



True enjoyment can never be had through the satisfaction of greed, but
only through the surrender of our individual self to the Universal Self.



You smiled and talked to me of nothing
and I felt that for this I had been waiting long.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and found the life was service.
I acted and found that service was joy.



Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure.
This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again
and fillest it ever with fresh life.

This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and
dales and hast breathed through its melodies eternally new.

At the immortal touch of thy hands
my little heart loses its limits in joy
and gives birth to utterance ineffable.

Thy infinite gifts come to me
only on these very small hands of mine.
Ages pass, and still thou pourest
and still there is room to fill.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.



Patriotism cannot be our final spiritual shelter; my refuge is humanity.
I will not buy glass for the price of diamonds, and I will never allow
patriotism to triumph over humanity as long as I live.



Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time.



Reach high, for stars lie hidden in you.
Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.

ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT

Authorizing execution of Agreement

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on _____, 2021 with all members present except _____.

A quorum was present. Among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HARRIS COUNTY AND THE TAGORE SOCIETY OF HOUSTON

Commissioner _____ introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner _____ seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

Vote of the Court	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Judge Hidalgo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Cagle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and law-fully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

IT IS ORDERED that County Judge Lina Hidalgo be, and she is hereby, authorized to execute for and on behalf of Harris County, the Agreement with The Tagore Society of Houston to provide a non-exclusive license to use and make improvements, to be approved by the Precinct 3 Commissioner or his delegated representative, to a designated section of Ray Miller Park in Precinct 3 of Harris County. The Agreement is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes as though fully set forth word for word.

All Harris County officials and employees are authorized to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the purpose of this Order.