

PERSONALITY

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

A stylized monogram of the initials 'RT' in a decorative, calligraphic font, centered on the cover.

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PERSONALITY

BY

SIR RABINDRANATH TAGORE

AUTHOR OF

"GITANJALI," "THE CRESCENT MOON," ETC.

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1917

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Set up and electrotyped. Published March, 1917.

Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.

TO
C. F. ANDREWS

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WHAT IS ART?

WHAT IS ART?

WE are face to face with this great world and our relations to it are manifold. One of these is the necessity we have to live, to till the soil, to gather food, to clothe ourselves, to get materials from nature. And we are always making things that will satisfy our need, and we come in touch with Nature in our efforts to meet these needs. We are always in touch with this great world through hunger and thirst and all our physical needs.

Then we have our mind; and mind seeks its own food. Mind has its necessity also. It must find out reason in things. It is faced with a multiplicity of facts, and is bewildered when it cannot find one unifying principle which simplifies the heterogeneity of things. Man's constitution is such that he must not only find facts, but also some laws which will lighten the burden of mere number and quantity.

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