

# ONE HUNDRED POEMS OF KABIR



Translated by

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Assisted by

EVELYN UNDERHILL

On its original publication in 1915, this book provided for the first time in English, a selection from the songs of the poet Kabir, one of the most interesting personalities in the history of Indian mysticism. Born about the year 1440, he was a simple and unlettered weaver who early in life became a disciple of the celebrated Hindu ascetic Ramanandra, who brought a religious revival to Northern India. Kabir himself became a great religious reformer, being the founder of a sect to which nearly a million northern Hindus belong. Yet it is supremely as a mystical poet that Kabir is remembered today, mainly through his wonderful songs.

One hundred examples of these are contained in this present volume, and they illustrate nearly every aspect of Kabir; all the fluctuations of the mystic's emotion, the ecstasy, the despair, the still beatitude, the eager self-devotion, the flashes of wide illumination, and the moments of intimate love. Rabindranath Tagore's own mystical genius makes him a peculiarly sympathetic interpreter of Kabir's vision and thought, an interpretation backed by the profound knowledge and authority of Evelyn Underhill, who, apart from her collaboration in the poems, also contributed the long Introduction.

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Para Father M. Louis,  
Com muita alegria, gratidão  
e amizade em XTO, os  
melhores votos e o pedido  
de uma bênção, sempre.

Sr. Emmanuél cv

Petrópolis

Abril, 1964

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KABIR

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## KABIR'S POEMS

The Guru neither eats nor drinks,  
neither lives nor dies:

Neither has He form, line, colour, nor  
vesture.

He who has neither caste nor clan  
nor anything else—how may I  
describe His glory?

He has neither form nor formlessness,  
He has no name,

He has neither colour nor colourless-  
ness,

He has no dwelling-place.

## LXXXII

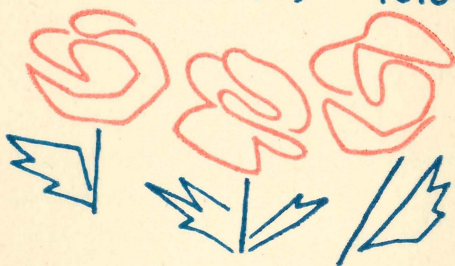
### III. 76. *kahaiṇ Kabīr vicār ke*

KABIR ponders and says: 'He who  
has neither caste nor country, who  
is formless and without quality,  
fills all space.'

The Creator brought into being the  
Game of Joy: and from the word  
Om the Creation sprang.

A mulher  
forte não é

a que colhe as  
rosas em seu  
caminho e sim  
a que as semeia



Campanha da Virgem - Petrópolis

## KABIR'S POEMS

The earth is His joy; His joy is the sky;

His joy is the flashing of the sun and the moon;

His joy is the beginning, the middle, and the end;

His joy is eyes, darkness, and light.

Oceans and waves are His joy: His joy the Sarasvati, the Jumna, and the Ganges.

The Guru is One: and life and death, union and separation, are all His plays of joy!

His play the land and water, the whole universe!

His play the earth and the sky!

In play is the Creation spread out, in play it is established. The whole world, says Kabir, rests in His play, yet still the Player remains unknown.

*Printed in Great Britain*

# Rabindranath Tagore

COLLECTED POEMS AND PLAYS



GITANJALI

Song Offerings

*With an Introduction by W. B. Yeats*



A TAGORE READER

*Edited by*

*Amiya Chakravarty*



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