

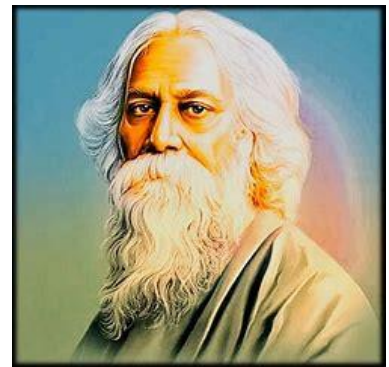


# INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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| <b>Class: VIII</b>      | <b>Department: ENGLISH</b>     | <b>Date of submission:<br/>October -2024</b>    |
| <b>Worksheet No: 16</b> | <b>Topic: THE LAST BARGAIN</b> | <b>Note: To be done in<br/>English notebook</b> |

## ❖ ABOUT THE POET:

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a Bengali poet, short-story writer, song composer, playwright, essayist, and painter. He was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of early 20th-century India. In 1913, he became the first Non-European to receive the Nobel Prize for literature. His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems- India's "Jana Gana Mana" and Bangladesh's "Amar Shonar Bangla."



## ❖ CENTRAL IDEA

"The Last Bargain" by Tagore is a sixteen lines poem composed in blank verse (unrhymed) conveying a strong message well needed for the materialistic world that no power, money or lust can make us happy. Simplicity and innocence are the most supreme of all.



## ❖ SUMMARY

"The Last Bargain" is a poem written by the famous and renowned Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. It is a poem about a person looking for a job. The speaker in the poem is searching for a job in which he does not have to lose his freedom. He receives the first proposal from a king. The king offers him power in return for his labor. But he refuses the king's offer.

He receives the second offer from a rich man. He offers the speaker lots of gold in return for his labor. But the speaker refuses his offer also. He receives the third offer from a beautiful girl. She

says that she will give him smiles in return for his labor. The speaker refuses her offer too. In the end, he finds a child playing on the seashore. The child says that he will offer him nothing in return for his services. The speaker accepts the child's offer as he can still be a free man.



❖ **Answer the following questions:**

1. Who is the speaker of the poem?

Ans. A daily wage earner who is looking for a job is the speaker of the poem.

2. Mark the appropriate item in the context of stanza 1.

“The king, sword in hand” suggests

(i) wealth

(ii) power

(iii) more power than wealth.

Ans. (ii) power

3. The old man offered the speaker a lot of money. Why did he turn down the offer?

Ans. The old man offered the speaker a bag of gold. From his words, it is evident that the speaker desired job satisfaction and happiness at work, which he felt wasn't possible if he offered his services to the old man who was busy counting his gold coins and weighing them one by one. Due to this reason, the speaker turned down the offer because he valued his freedom more than becoming a slave for money.

4. Find in the poem, lines that match the following. Read both one after another.

(i) I have nothing to give you except goodwill and cheer.

(ii) Her happiness was no more than sorrow in disguise.

(iii) The king's might was not worth much.

Ans 1. “I hire you with nothing.”

2. “Her smile paled and melted into tears.”

3. “But his power counted for naught.”

5. How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?

Ans. When the speaker met the child who was playing with sea shells near the beach, he talked with the little one. After talking with the child, the speaker realized that he might not earn a penny, but this made him extremely happy and free and gave him great satisfaction.

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