

AB25. Culinary Confluences in Tagore's Home: A Cultural Melting Pot

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Language and location outlining to some degree the standpoint and role of the creative artist equivocally proclaims Tagore as one of the early proponents of today's buzzwords: *natural (organic) farming* (at

Santiniketan), *slow cooking* and *fusion-food making*. Narrative accounts, literary compositions steadfastly recollect Tagore's love of meat-based dishes; others note his move to vegetarianism with the occasional serving of fish. Still others speak of his penchant for diet trends struck by mentions of health benefits. However, to unravel the diverse threads that shape Tagore's food experiences, this paper undertakes a cultural and historical analysis of the social, ethical, and aesthetic factors that animated their emergence. Building on this framework, the paper critiques Tagore's felicitous fusion of palatable global cuisines to reveal food as a vital extension of his cosmopolitan cultural vision. Primarily, considering the accounts of his grandfather Dwarkanath, his father Debendranath, the women of the Thakur Bari (Tagore homestead), and the Bard's own negotiations between West and East help us to delineate the palatable causes for the culinary fusion of his times. Tagore's fondness for gourmet food comes to emphasis only when, as an adult, he travelled the world and wanted to replicate in his home the food he ate abroad. In due course, his family cuisine evolved into a cultural melting pot, bridging the realms of home and world beyond geographical boundaries and extending the scope of culinary expression and cultural exchange.

Keywords: Food studies, Tagore studies, topographical boundary, socio-historical backdrop, cultural confluence, cosmopolitanism.

Bio-Note:

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