

# JOINT SITTING OF HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

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## JOINT SITTING OF HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, May 9, 1961/Vaisakha 19,  
1883 (Saka)

*The Houses of Parliament met in joint sitting in the Central Hall of Parliament House at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### TRIBUTE TO MEMORY OF DR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

**Mr. Speaker:** Brother Members of Parliament the first day of the sitting of the Joint Session synchronised with the birthday centenary of the famous politician and statesman, Pandit Motilal Nehru. We paid our humble tribute to him and the whole country celebrated his birthday. Since we adjourned, yesterday happened to be the birthday centenary of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. We were not in session yesterday. I, therefore, thought it desirable and necessary that I should make a reference and pay our humble homage and tribute to the memory of the great personality who put India on the cultural map of the world.

We have the good fortune of having his portrait here. He was stately in spirit as he was stately in form. In an innate manner he combined in himself the rare talent of a scholar, a poet, a philosopher and an artist in music, dance, drama and painting. These qualities may be found in abundance in individuals but a happy synthesis and a harmonious blending of them appeared in this great personality.

He breathed the life of our ancient culture. He was the symbol of our art, culture and philosophy. His poems were characterised by the spirit of the Upanishads being breathed into them. He carried the message of the *Upanishads* throughout the modern world in addition to doing so throughout the length and breadth of this land. He interpreted life in an innate manner. Not only was he a philosopher and a poet, but he realised all that and showed that in his own life. In whatever he saw he found the immensity of the spirit. To him a single life was pervading the whole universe. Whether he looked at the stars or at the oceans, the rivers, the trees, the flowers or the leaves, he found the single life permeating the whole world and pulsating. He wanted to live a harmonious life between the past and the present and between the known and the unknown. Therefore he established the *Shanti Niketan*, which literally means the abode of peace. He was a peaceful person.

Having won freedom we are trying to give economic content to that freedom. But a man does not live by bread alone. We must revive our ancient culture the foundations of which are service and sacrifice in our country. We never worship wealth and power for their own sake. We give the top place to the *maharshis*. We live a simple life. May we on this occasion pay our humble homage to him and try to live his life to however small an extent! May his soul guide us from year to year and for all time!