

Ashis Saha

The Home and the World: A Study of Human Values

By human values in India we generally understand patience and tolerance, respect for the seniors and affection for the juniors, valuing others' opinions, showing respect to other religions, castes, and creeds; love, unity in diversity, helping the down trodden and the oppressed, remaining refrained from bigotry, fanaticism and intoxicating others, showing reverence for womanhood, not getting indulged in destructive and violent activities, not tyrannising over others to meet personal goals, maintaining communal harmony, and such like.

Rabindranath Tagore's *The Home and the World* is written in the context of the outbreak of the Swadeshi Movement, the first consciously felt patriotic and anti-British revolt in India. It blasted upon Bengal between 1905 and 1908. The immediate stimulus for such a wide-spread movement originated in Lord Curzon's shrewd attempts to enact forcibly the cynical imperial policy — Divide and Rule.