

Q. Describe how did Gandhi react to the anxiety of the poets in one of his letters to R N Tagore.

Ans :-Our history is full with the great personalities, who can never be forgotten as they had contributed a lot in their life period. Among them are M K Gandhi and R N Tagore, who had a great involvement in world history. Both of them were born in last quarter of the 19th century. Tagore in 1861 and Gandhi in 1869 and lived up to the India got independence from the colonial rule. Although both of them were close friends of each other throughout their lives, but there was difference in their intellectual understanding

Rabindranath Tagore openly criticizes Gandhi's noncooperation, calling it as political harshness. He argued that instead of non-cooperation, India should stand on cooperation of all people of the world. Tagore further wrote that non-cooperation hurts the truth. Love is the ultimate truth of soul in meeting the east and west.

Gandhi respected the criticism of Tagore and gave answer to the poet in an essay called "The Poet's Anxiety". In this essay, Gandhi praised the works of Tagore and said that the poet of Asia has rendered his service to India by his poetic interpretation. Gandhi argues that the poet is anxious that India takes false steps and poet should not fear that it is a step of separation, exclusiveness, narrowness. It is only a doctrine of negation and despair. According to the text. "He thinks that non-cooperation is like Chinese wall between India and west. Non-cooperation is based on voluntary and mutual respect and trust. Non-cooperation is a protest against an unwitting and unwilling participation in evils".

The poet was also anxious that the students leave schools and joined in the non-cooperation that is not good for the development of India. Tagore firmly criticized Gandhi that the students should not be called upon to leave the governments schools. Gandhi answered him that he was sure that the government schools unmannered us, rendered us. They filled our hearts with discontent and intended to become clerks and interpreters and take their own benefits. They are keeping us as slaves. Gandhi argues that it becomes sinful to send our children to government schools. For Gandhi, non-cooperation is a kind of invitation to government to cooperate with their own terms and it is right of every nation and it is duty of every government.

The above debate of Gandhi and Tagore was published in two newspapers like *Modern Review* and *Young India* and we read the arguments behind non cooperation movement given by Gandhi in the poet's anxiety. Gandhi believed that India is growing poorer and poorer and if we don't look towards it, India will collapse together. Gandhi called Tagore as undisputed master of the world as he lived in the world of his own creations, own ideas and he as a slave of somebody else creation the spinning wheel. The poet is an inventor and he creates, destroys and recreates and Gandhi as an explorer discover a thing. Gandhi considered it as a sin to wear foreign clothes or to eat American wheat and he even allows his neighbor's grain dealer starve for customers.

By summarizing the whole debate between Gandhi and Tagore, we come to the conclusion that both Gandhi and Tagore were close friends and intellectually opponent in nature. Their arguments were not based on learning, knowledge, understanding and emotions. Both gave names to each other like Tagore gave the name Mahatma to Gandhi and Gandhi gave him the title Gurudev. Both of them played a great role in Indian freedom struggle. The poet was an imaginative thinker, while Gandhi was a reflective thinker. Both were the worshippers of Satyam, Shivam and Sundram. Gandhi's reaction to the poet's anxiety was not on any rivalry but on mutual understanding as both sailed the same boats for the sovereignty of their soil.