

## **Enamoured of Pristine Life in Nature Bibhutibhushan Witnessed their Manmade Ruins**

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Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyaya, a middle class educated school teacher of his time, living mostly in moffusil towns, visiting Kolkata from time to time or living sometimes at a stretch, was a Nature loving humanitarian who recorded life around him including his own, expressing them in unique intimate ways. The idea of conservation of Nature with deep and intense love for it oozed out of his works. Along with it he painted the genuine suffering of the poor indigenous people of his time, seeking the remedy in a writer's way, bringing the whole thing in the open. It seems that he as a writer had a purpose to live. Though not deliberately proclaimed, his message was grasped in due course. A friend of Nature and Man, Bibhutibhushan stands taller than many, deserving to be widely translated; at least some of his selected works need to be widely circulated. He wrote vividly what he saw and experienced with that literary touch which makes them long lasting "Human Documents" to be preserved as Nature Lover's Diary. It is interesting to learn how his life and literature were woven inextricably, how his life and works were intertwined.

Bibhutibhushan was born on 12 September 1894 in his maternal uncle's house at Muratpur village in the District of 24 Parganas, West Bengal. His father Mahananda Bandopadhyay Shastri was a scholar of Sanskrit and music; a kathakar or narrator of tales. He lived the life of a village bard, moving from place to place, retelling the stories of Puranas, Ramayana and Mahabharata, and lining them with songs. At long intervals he would reappear at home with some clothes, eatables and money he earned and gathered in the course of his travels. The son would accompany his father on occasions and enjoy meeting the village folk, observe their habits and enjoy the natural surroundings, besides the journeys. He cherished the idea of becoming a bard when grown up like his father. Indeed, throughout his life teacher Bibhutibhushan moved from place to place enjoying his journey and observing, learning about the new places and people. Even when he became a well known litterateur, presiding over or participating in literary conferences often and on, he took chance to travel around with infinite thirst in his heart to know the land and the people while he remaining a teacher to the last.

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