



Tagore's *Kabuliwallah* and the 'Credit Cosmopolis' in 19th Century Bengal



*Dr. Sanjukta Chatterjee,
Associate Professor,
Department of English,
Raiganj University.*

[Email : sanjuktachatterjeesengupta@gmail.com](mailto:sanjuktachatterjeesengupta@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Tagore's critique of nationalism stresses on the necessity to focus on the higher instincts that are inherent in the individual. In his famous short story 'Kabuliwallah', Tagore brings to note the necessity of understanding the need to look beyond the political walls of nation towards the greater goals of humanity, compassion and brotherhood-in short towards his idea of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam.'" The article tries to show how Tagore intended to present the economic condition of Bengal during the turn of the

century and the Indo-afghan relationship through the bond between a Bengali Family and an Afghan moneylender. Thus "Kabuliwallah", that has repeatedly been read as a narrative of pain and separation demands to be re-read as a document of the failing economic condition of 19th c Bengal and the role of the Afghan money lending networks that thrive even to this day.

KEYWORDS

Atmiya, Afghan, Antahpur, Money lending, Empathy, Tyag, 19th c Bengal