

## Contrasting Visions: Tagore and Lalon Fakir's Metaphysical Perspectives

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### Abstract

The contrasting metaphysical perspectives of Rabindranath Tagore and Lalon Fakir, two iconic figures in Bengali spiritual thought. Tagore's metaphysics is deeply influenced by the Upanishadic tradition, emphasizing an idealistic monism where the divine is immanent in the world and the self. He envisions a harmonious relationship between the individual soul and the universal spirit, advocating for self-realization through love, nature, and artistic expression. In contrast, Lalon Fakir, a mystic and Baul saint, presents a more esoteric and experiential approach to metaphysics. Lalon rejects institutionalized religion, emphasizing the inner search for the divine within the self, expressed through the concept of "Moner Manush" (the man of the heart). His philosophy aligns with Sufi and Bhakti traditions, focusing on the transient nature of the material world and the importance of self-purification for spiritual liberation. While Tagore's vision is universal and outward-looking, celebrating the divine in the world, Lalon's approach is inward and mystical, urging a transcendence of worldly attachments to achieve spiritual enlightenment. This study highlights their divergent yet complementary views on the divine, the material world, and the path to liberation.

**Keywords:** Rabindranath Tagore, Lalon Fakir, metaphysics, Upanishads, Baul, spiritual liberation, self-realization, Moner Manush.