(Translated from the original Bengali by manta Keemar Roy, author of "Rabin-anath Tagore: The M'm and His Poetry.") PURBA KRISTINA received his A. A B. degree and was returning home in a boat from Calcutta. The river was small. It had almost dried up by the end of Summer. But in the month of Straban It was full to the brim, so much so that it kissed the feet of the village hedges and the clumps of bamboo trees. The sun was smiling in a sky that for many days past had been enveloped in the darkness of rain and cloud. If we could but have a glance at the picture that lay latent in the heart of Apurba Krishna we could see that the ripples in the full to the brim stream of his mind were lit with the light of youth as they danced in merriment.

The boat was moored in proper place the village ghat. The roof of the Apurba's brick built mansion could be seen through the trees surrounding it. As the news of his homecoming was not known, there was no one in the ghat to receive him. A boatman was about to carry the hand bag, but Apurba asked him not to do so, and he himself took the bag in his hand and quickly got of the boat in great joy -the joy of homecoming.

The landing place was slippery, and as soon as Apurba's feet struck the ground he fell flat in the mud, bag in hand. And almost simultaneously ripa sweet and loud laughter startled the birds on the nearby asatha. tree. Apurba was embarrassed, but he soon regained his self-possession and looked around to see a girl seated on a heap of brick on the shore. She was laughing so heartly that it seemed as if her body would burst into a thousand pieces. Apurba at once knew her to be Mrinmayl, the daughter of their neighbors. They formerly lived by the large river at a distance, but on a count of the encroachments of the bolsterous river they had left their old home and built a new one in the village two or three years ago.

A good deal was heard about the naughtiness of the girl. The men of the village affectionately called her the "mad girl," but the village women were always fearful of the danger from her on account of her notoriously way-ward temperament. She was wont to play with the boys of the village, and had no use, rather had a positive hatred, for the girls of her age. In the children's world she was somewhat like a highway robber.

Mrinmayi was the favorite daughter of her father, and to this may be attributed the cause of her untamed

Mrinmayi's complexion was a shade lighter than olive. Her wavy hair just touched her back. Her face looked like that of a boy. Her large luminous black eyes were destitute of bashfulness or fear, and there was not to be found the least trace of coquetry. Her stature was tall in proportion to her age. Her physique was full, healthy, and strong. Her physical development was of such a nature that no one ever felt inclined to guess her age. If such a thought could ever enter into the minds of the villagers, they would have accused her parents of not having given her in marriage before this.

Heretofore, during holidays, Apurba times. This made him think of her at leisure, at times even when he was busy. We notice and are attracted by many faces, but some faces force their way into the innermost chambers of our hearts and occupy them outright. This is not due to phyisical attractive-There is something be- of the prothers of the bride was lookyond this which is not easy to explain. ing at the turban, watch chain, and the It is not necessary to say that, how- newly grown beard of the young man ever sweet the laughter of Mrinmayl who was about to be a member of their might have been to listen to, it was, family,

might have been to listen to, it was, nevertheless, somewhat painful to Apurba twisted his mustache for a Apurba. He handed ever the bag to the while and asked the prospective bride:

What do you study?" No reply was the hashful girl. As Apurba walked along the shady

road homeward he heard Mrinmayi girl faintly spoke in one breath: "Chalaugh continuously. He eventually rupat, Bengali grammar, geography. laugh continuously. He eventually runat, Bengali grammar, geog reached home with mud-beameared arithmetic, and history of India. clothes and the hand bag. His wid- Of a sudden there could be heard the owed mother was wild with joy to see thud of some approaching footstaps her son come home quite unexpectedly, outside, and in a moment Mrinmayl ran And she at once sent out servants far into the room panting and waving her and near to buy special things for din- hair. Ignoring Apurba altogether, she ner. The entire village soon was in a at once began to pull the bride's brothstate of commotion. After dinner Apurba's mother spoke hal was engrossed in looking at the

to her son of his marriage. He was groom, he refused to leave his seat. The perpared for this, for this question of maid began to rebuke Mrinmayi as marriage was of long standing. Apurba sharply as she could without sacrificdeferred it by refusing to marry before ing the modesty of her voice. Apurba "I shall never marry any girl but receiving his B. A. degree, as was wont mastered all the gravity at his com-of many of the younger generation mand, sat quite straight, and kept play-His mother had waited so long that it was useless to make excuses any the other hand, being disappointed in nger. her mission, siapped Rakhal hard on "Let us see the bride," said Apurba, his back, suddenly pulled off the vell

"and then we shall decide." "We have seen the bride," said the as fast as a storm. mother. "You won't have to think of

of the bride, and ran out of the room

The silent gathering soon ended and

the girl sighed a sigh of relief and

returned to the zenana, led by the maid.

Apurba was gravely twisting his thin

mustache and was about to come out

door he found his new pair of shoes

The host and the hostess were embar-

failed to locate the lost property, Apur-

But Apurba was quite willing to think of that himself and said: "I can't agree to marry without seeing the girl.

The mother was shocked and said: "I of the room. When he came near the have never heard a more absurd thing than this in my life." But she gave Apurba permission to see the prospec-

That night Apurba put our the light rassed and began to shower rebukes exceedingly discouraged. in his room, and as he lay down on the on the person who might have stolen bed the sweet laughter of the morning them. At last, when all endeavors tight in the back knot and by applicabegan to vibrate in his ears continu- failed to locate the lost property. Apur- tion of plenty of perfumed hair tonic ously. His mind was being racked as be put on a pair of old, loose-fitting Mrinmayi's hair might grow long and

began to vibrate in his ears continuthus cogitated: "I ought to rectify slippers of his host, and thus oddly dressed, he carefully walked along the the accident of the morning some way or other. The girl did not know that muddy village path. I was Apurba Krishna, an erudite scholar; that I had spent so many years the same continuous and intense laugh- give advice to the prospective bride rein Calcutta, that even though I fell in ter by a lonely pond on the waysids, the mud I was not an ordinary village. It seemed as if some sylvan deity could

to dress well. Instead of dhoti and The girl was about to run away, but A maid sat behind to cheer her up. One restless fountain, even so Apurba girl shrunk outright into the zenana conflict began, have shown marvelous as a matter of course.

Story, Breathing the Spirit of India and Reflecting Her Customs, by the Only Oriental Ever to Win the Nobel Prize for Literature.



Mrinmayi's soulful laughter began to reverberate in the sky like the music of dancing flature's ornaments. And Apurbakrishna reached home with measured steps and wrapped in intense thought.

All that day, under many pretenses, Apurba Krishna did not go in the zenana see his mother. He was invited out dinner, so he did not go in even for dinner. "How did you like the girl, Apu?"

inquired Apurba's mother, when her son entered the zenana in the evening. After repeated asking and coaxing, the "Yes, mother," said Apurba, rather embarrassed, "I have seen the girls and I like one of them."
"How many girls did you see?"

asked the mother, quite surprised. much discussion it became known that her son liked her neighdaughter, Mrinmayl. She shocked at the taste of her son, a university man.

At first Apurba felt rather bashful to discuss the matter. But when his mother began strenuously to object to the match Apurba lost all sense of that almost inanimate girl he went to ing with his gold chain. Mrinmayi, on see that morning the more he became disgusted with the idea of marriage.

After two days' fast, sleeplessness and discussions, Apurba was victorious, His mother consoled herself by thinking that Mrinmayi was a little girl. that her mother was not fit to give her proper education, and that after marriage, when Mrinmayi would be under her mother-in-law's control, the girl's character, by proper training. would undergo" a thorough change. And gradually she began to see that missing. A search was made for them, Mrinmayi's face was really pretty. But but they were nowhere to be found, at the next moment, when she thought of Mrinmayi's short hair, she became hoped, however, that by tying her hair

beautiful. On the final settlement of the match, Mrinmayi's mother and the elderly Apurba again heard the outburst of women of the neighborhood began to garding her future duties. They all

Mrinmay! that so much enhanced the thus spoke to her daughter-in-law, bolsterous heart."

beauty of her upturned face. And he with an elongated face: "Look here, The next day slowly loosened the grip and let the darling, you are no longer a baby; you letter from her face.

gravely and absorbingly looked upon of Apurba's mother. The mother-in- creet act, and he thought within him-

LOVES LABOR REWARDED by RABINDRANATH TAGORE. his heartfelt sorrow that he could not Apurba gently shook her by the ears be present at the wedding, and he by way of punishment. blessed the newly married couple most Our hero had a strong mind. He

> "I want to go to see my father," said Mrinmayi to her mother-in-law. Quite enraged at such an unusual request, the mother-in-law said, reproachfully: "Goodness knows where her father lives and yet she wants to go to see him. How absurd a request!" Mrinmayi went away without saying a word, entered her room, locked it from inside and began to speak, just as ut-terly helpless people pray to God: "Oh, father dear, do take me away; I have no one here whom I can call my own. I could not live if I were to stay here much longer."

> It rained outside that entire day, and things were equally unpleasant in the house. The next midnight Apurba gently woke up Mrinmayl and said: Mrinmayl, do you want to go to your

Mrinmayi clasped Apurba's hands with fervor and said startingly: "Yes,

I do; by all means, I do."
"Then," whispered Apurba, "let us: run away quietly. I have arranged for boat, and it is waiting for us at the

Mrinmayi gratefully looked at her husband's face. To assuage his mother's anxiety, Apurba left a note for her and then he left home with his wife. The night was dark and the village path was lonely. Mrinmayi for the first willingly and feelingly caught hold of her husband's hand. The un-

The boat reached Kushigunj the next evening. Ischanchandra was seated room, and around another bed. on a stool. A little oil lamp was burning in the room. The station be seen outside. No one could hear her master placed his leather-bound account book on a small desk, and was busy checking the accounts. The bride and the groom entered the room, and the former called, "Father." before did Ishan hear such a sound

Tears of joy began to trickle down the cheeks of Ichanchandra. He was row over the sad face of Apurba at at a loss to know what to say or what his departure. And again she felt extended to the looked down upon his dealingly sorry that her son, out of daughter ad son-in-law as a princess and a prince, and did not know as to mother.
how they could be accommodated in a One o afternoon she was nowhere to be found, heartily approved of the proposal.

over the village. But at last treach- to return home. Mrinwayl begged to altogether. Such a change but few can erous Rakhal discovered her in her hid- stay a few days longer, but her father experience. Great changes necessarily ing place. She was hiding herself in a asked her to please her husband in the broken and discarded car of Juggernaut matter.

Apurba's mother looked exceedingly one. But some unseen force, by some grave and spoke not a word. She cast unknown short method, caused her to reflection on their conduct her mother, mother-in-law, and all the which they might offer an explanation. Stood her mother-in-law and the benefactresses of the neighborhood. This silent reproach and unexpressed mother-in-law Mrinmayi. Just as a It was raining in torrents that night, disapproval of their conduct made it tree was indissolubly connected with his bride and whispered in her ears: Gradually this punishment became so the family reunion between the two unbearable that Apurba approached was complete.

wife:" Apurba was sad and said: "Why, rather indifferently.

creet act, and he thought within him- Apurba's sense of pride was hurt understand me? Why didn't you punself: "Anyhow, I have to conquer her and he said: "Yes, I shall do that." ish me? Why didn't you guide me as boisterous heart." Things were being made ready for the next day Mrinmayi received a their departure. The night before the Calcutta with you, naughty girl as I letter from her father. He expressed day of departure Apurba entered his was, why didn't you take me by force?

> to go to Calcutta with me?" "No," said Mrinmayi,

of metaphysical complications, it was impossible to expect any

"Yes," replied Mrinmayi unhesitat-

ingly. a kind of subtle and keen jealousy against the boy Rakhal, and said: "I shan't be able to come home soon. Mrinmayi kept slient. "Perhaps," continued Apurba, "two years would pass before I could return home, maybe

"When you come home," said Mrinmayl, "please bring a three-bladed knife for Rakhal." Apurba lifted his head a little from

his pillow and asked: "Then you want to stay here."

with my mother." "All right," said Apurba. ""You may stay here, but remember that as long with crooked lines and uneven letters, as you don't write to me to come back she at once wrote without even adshall never return. Are you sat-

Mrinmayi thought it superfluous to answer such a question and went to sleep. But Apurba could not sleep at all. He raised his pillow and sat quiet, leaning against it. Late at night the moon rose and bathed their bed with its silver rays. Apurba gazed on Mrinmayi's face by the moon-to me, and let me know how you are. light, and she looked as charming as a Come home soon. Mother is well. princess.

sald: "Mrinmamyi. It is about time for letter finished, she closed the envelope me to leave. Come, let me take you to and with a profound feeling of love your mother.'

gift. I have helped you many times in correct. more ways than one, and this morning. Mrinmayi did not know that she had at my departure, would you just re- to write anything beside her husband's

surprised. "Just give me a kiss, willingly and worthy maid.

lovingly."

her lips were about to touch those of that Apurba was still angry with her. his she simply could not print the kiss Mrinmay! thought that Apurba was on them, and broke into loud laughter, provoked at her. She then thought of She tried again to kiss him, but failed, the letter she wrote to him and felt At last she hid her face behind the exceedingly humiliated. She was restend of her sari and laughed heartily.

deemed it an act of self-abasement to force an act of kindness. Like a deity, he enjoyed getting voluntary offerings;

he was quite unwilling to take any-Mrimayi did not laugh any more. Apurba took her to her mother's home by the lonely path that was lit by the light of the dawn. On his return home he said to his mother: "After due consideration I have come to think that if I take Mrinmayi to Calcutta my studies may be disturbed, and she, too, has no female companions there. You don't want to keep her in this house, so I

have left her with her mother." The mother and son parted thinking

that each had wronged the other. This time Mrimayi did not like her paternal home at all. It seemed that everything in the house had changed. Time hung heavy on her hands. She did not know what to do, where to go, whom to meet. All of a sudden she felt as if there was not a single human being in the home or in the village. Even the sun seemed to refuse to shine for her. She was at a loss to make out from whence came this stubborn desire in her heart to go to Calcutta, and where did it lie hid the night before? She did not realize that her childhood had already undergone a transformation. And she most willingly cast aside her past life, as trees part with ripe

She could not look upon her old bed limited joy of her heart imparted an in her mother's home as her own, for the girl within her that lived there was no more. Her imagination began to rove in another's home, in another's room, and around another bed.

laugh, Rakhal was afraid to go near her, much less could be think of playing with her.
"Mother," said Mrinmayi, "please

take me back to my mother-in-law's home."

The mother-in-law's heart, on the

One of these days Mrimayi came back house so full of bales of jute. Then, with a vell over her face, and sorrowwhat to offer them to eat! The poor fully touched the feet of her mother-in-station master was wont to cook for law by way of salutation. The mother-himself simple meals of rice and curry. in-law immediately embraced her en-What was he to do on such a joyous dearingly and looked at her with eyes occasion? While he was thinking of bedewd with tears, In a moment both there just as she pleased she would such things Mrinmayi said: "Father, were reconciled. Apurba's mother was come let us all cook together." Apurba pleasantly surprised to look at the transformed face of her daughter-in-At last Apurba expressed his desire law. This was a different Mrinmayl

imply great force of character. The mother-in-law once thought of When the guilty pair returned home correcting Mrinmaysi's faults one by for be born anew. Mrinmayl now under uncomfortable for the young couple. Its branches as one organism, similarly

his mother and said: "Mother, my col- The deep, serene and vast feeling of lege has reopened. I must go to study her awakened womanhood most fully aw." permeated every fiber of her being, "What are you going to do with your and it caused her pain. Like the new Apurba's mother inquired, clouds of early Ashar, her heart was adifferently. "Why did you marry me?"

"Why did you marry me?"

It was really difficult for Apurba to offer an explanation for such an indiscreet act, and he thought within him-Things were being made ready for you liked? When I refused to go to oom to see Mrinmayi crying. He was Why did you do as I wanted you to do? instantly hurt in his heart and mourn- Why did you bear with my disobedifully said: "Mrinmayi, don't you want ence?"

Then she thought of that morning when on the lonely village path by the Don't you love me?" asked Apurba, pond Apurba captured her by the arms, but he received no answer to the ques-tion. At times an answer to the her face, and she remembered that question was easy, and at others, on path, that pond, the shade of those trees, that gentle touch of the rays of the morning sun, and above all she remembered that gaze of Apurba-a gaze "Are you feeling bad to have to that was saturated with the most ex-leave Rakhal behind?" asked Apurba. alted feeling of love. And she at once understood the meaning of it all. Then she thought of the kiss at Apurba's de-The wise young college graduate felt parture that did not reach its goal, kind of subtle and keep tealousy That unfinished klss now began repeatedly to haunt her memory like a bird in a desert that followed a mirage for a drink. Her thirst for a kiss be gan to increase as she thought of her mistakes. "Why didn't I do this way at that time? Why didn't I act differently at others? Why didn't I answer Apurba's questions differently! Then she remembered that Apurba

told her that he would never return

home until Mrinmayi asked him to do so. So she closed her door and sat stay here."
"Yes," said Mrinmayi, "I shall stay the gilt-edged letter paper that Apurba presented to her once and began to write. With great care, but dreseing him: "Why don't you write to me? How are you? Come home." She could not think out what more to add. All that she wanted to say had been said, but she felt, nevertheless, that in human society feelings should be expressed in a more superfluous So she added, after a way. So she of thinking: "Now be good and write Bishu and Puti are well. At dawn Apurba woke his wife and our black cow had a new calf." The and adoration wrote on it: When Mrinmayi left the bed and Krishna Roy." In spite of all her love, stood on the floor Apurba caught hold the lines were not straight, the letters of her hands and said: "I beg of you a were not even, nor was the spelling

ward me once for my many acts of name on the envelope. Lest her mother-in-law or other members of the "What is it?" asked Mrinmayi, quite household saw the letter she hurriedly sent it to be mailed through a trust-

It is useless to add that nothing Mrinmayi laughed at such a strange came of this letter. Apurba did not

request, and laughed all the more to come home.
see such a serious look on Apurba's Apurbas' college closed again. His

(Concluded on Page &)

Women Now the "Telegraph Messenger Boys" in Germany



Telegraph Messenger, Berlin.

the mud I was not an ordinary village it seemed as if some sylvan delty could succeeded in making married life ap-boy to be an object of her neglect." not resist her laughter at the inappro-pear to her as a terrible thing by for-The next morning Apurba was to go priate slippers. Apurba stood still in to see the bride, in the same village, embarrassment and immediately saw a laughter, conversation with boys and the war has made itself so much felt months ago. The messenger service not far from his home. He took pains guilty girl place his shoes before him. eating to satiety. Mrinmay: felt as if in the German Empire. The fleet work has remained well organized and the to dress well. Instead of dhots and The girl was about to run away, but she had been sentenced to 20 years that has heretofore been done by women, who perhaps could not do chadar he put on silk chapkan and Apurba quickly made a captive of her, rigorous imprisonment, and after the the German messenger men and boys, heavier work in the exigency of war, jobbs, a round turban, and a pair of Mrinmayi wiggled around to get expiration of that term she was to be so different from the lax work done have willingly fallen into this breach Jobba, a round turban, and a pair of Mrinmayi wisgled around to get expiration of that term she was to be so different from the lax work done have willingly fallen into this breach see such a serious look on Apurba's college closed again. His patent leather shoes. He walked to the away, but falled. The sun's rays from hanged from the gallows. So Mrinmayi, by the picturesque dime-novel-reading made when certain classes were called face. She suppressed her laughter and mother was sorry not to see her son bride's home, a silk umbrells in hand, behind the branches of the trees bathed like a naughty little pony, curled her messenger boy of a decade ago in to arms and other and older men were raised her head to kiss Apurba. When come home for the holiday. She felt There he was received with proper her face—a face that was lit up with neck, walked backward and said: "I America, has now fallen almost totally sent to the harvest field. The women honors, and soon the trembling bride a soulful smile and eacroached upon shall not marry at all."

on the shoulders of the women in Ger. messengers all wear badges to denote was brought before the groom dressed by locks of her wavy hair. Just as And yet Mrinmayi had to marry. Her many, especially in Berlin. The women for a day or so when the new arrange in this, as in other work they have ment was precipitated, but in a short sat bowed to her knees in bashfulness, at the bottom of a transparent and The entire world of the freedom-loving been forced to adopt since the crimson time the woman messenger was taken a mail sat behind to cheer her up. One restless fountain, even so Apurba siri shrunk outright into the zerona conflict bears, have shown parveleds as a matter of course.